

Holy Crossings

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

▶ **"Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good; because His mercy endureth forever." Psalm 118:1**

During the month of November, our thoughts turn to that traditional American festival known as "Thanksgiving" which will be celebrated on the ? of this month. The concept of "Thanksgiving" is a thoroughly biblical and God-pleasing activity. Giving thanks to God is most closely related to the second commandment and the proper use of God's name among His children. Martin Luther comments in his meaning of the second commandment and its proper use among Christians, that we are to, "call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and **give thanks**".

Luther, in his Large Catechism states, "..., in the Second Commandment we are told to fear God and not to take His name in vain by cursing, lying, deceiving, and other kinds of corruption and wickedness, but to use His name properly by calling upon him in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which spring from that love and trust which the First Commandment requires".

In Psalm 118, (which is quoted above) that we are to give thanks to God for two specific reasons. First, because **"He is Good"** and secondly, because **"His mercy endures forever"**.

God is indeed **good**, in that He has shown love and mercy to undeserving sinners like ourselves. We do not deserve, on account of our sin, to stand before a perfect, good and holy God. Verse 22 of the same Psalm says, **"the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief**

cornerstone". Jesus spoke this verse Himself in Matthew 22:42 and indicated that He was the chief cornerstone that was rejected. Christ was rejected up to the point of death. Verse 27 of the same psalm states, **"God is the Lord, and has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar"**. God's goodness and love shown to use was made evident in that His son was bound to the altar of the cross in order to pay with His life, the penalty our sin deserved, namely death. Through that wonderful exchange, His perfect and innocent life for ours, we have been granted the forgiveness of all our sins, we were given His righteousness and the assurance of life everlasting.

We give thanks to God not only that as our dear Heavenly Father He continues to provide for all our physical needs in a harvest of good gifts, but as verse 14 of Psalm 118 says, **"The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation"**. Through His Son, God has given us the greatest gift of all for which we give Him the greatest thanks of all.

Yes, we are to give God thanks that His mercy endures forever so that in the age to come, we, who through God's grace and mercy were called to be His children, will live eternally in God's presence as resurrected and living proof of the great mercy of our Lord.

(continued on next page)

FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

The Art of Thanksgiving

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

The art of Thanksgiving is ThanksLiving. It is gratitude in action.

It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly yet in humility.

It is thanking God for your talents and abilities by accepting them as privileges that are to be invested for the common good.

It is thanking God for the creative ideas that enrich life by adding your own creative contributions for the lives of those around you.

It is thanking God for life by giving hands and arms, legs and feet, ear and voice to your thankful spirit.

It is adding to your prayers of thanksgiving, a request for courage to share the Good News in acts of thanksgiving.



As a community of faith, we are called to lift each other up in prayer and support. We invite you to share your prayer requests with us so that we can pray together as a church family. Whether you have personal concerns, joys, or challenges weighing on your heart, we are here to pray with you. Your requests can be submitted confidentially through email at megan@holycross-pl.org or given to Pastor Gade. Let us join in prayer, knowing that together, we can make a difference through the power of prayer.

NOVEMBER

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 3 - All Saints Day

"Hope beyond all other hope"
Revelation 21:1-5

NOVEMBER 10 - Pentecost 25B

"Looking but not Seeing what God Sees"
Mark 12:38-44

NOVEMBER 17 - Pentecost 26B

"Being Faithful to the End"
Mark 13:1-13

NOVEMBER 24 - Last Sunday

"Home Not Just for the Holidays"
2 Peter 3:13

NOVEMBER 27 - Thanksgiving

"Wonderfully Made"
Psalm 136:1; 139:13,14

COFFEE SERVERS

- November 3** Rich & Rostina Vannett
- November 10** Buffy Mobroten
- November 17** Robert & Bonnie Nowak
- November 24** Pam Hunter

If you are not able to serve on your assigned day, please find an alternate to fill in, and make the notation on the serving list on the bulletin board. Thanks!



Happenings

Please submit all articles for the Happenings by Wednesdays at 10 am. We also need some new and fresh content for the Happenings, so if you have any great ideas, please send them over to megan@holycross-pl.org.

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Worship For Shut-Ins is a 30 min television service that is distinctly Lutheran. It is a



traditional weekly service that includes the assigned readings for the day, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, sermon, and traditional hymns sung by choirs. The messages, shared by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors, are designed for individuals who do not go to church because they are not able or choose not. You can view this program on DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am, or you can go to their website at www.worshipforshutins.org.

FALL MISSION FEST

TICKETS \$15 (under 12 free)

SPEAKERS MINI AUCTION THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 16 | 5:00 - 8:00 pm

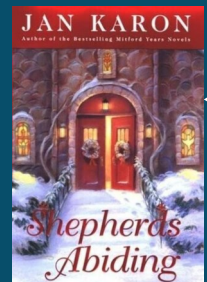
We are excited to tell you about our Missionfest event for this year! We will have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner followed by speakers from the mission field of a few of the outreach programs we support. Tickets are \$15.00 per person (kids under 12 are free) and are available for purchase now. Make plans for a time of fun and fellowship; and reserve your seat now. May God bless your continued support!

Here is the schedule:

Happy Hour	5:00	Mini Auction	6:30
Dinner	5:30	Speakers	6:45

BIBLE BOOKENDERS

If you are someone who likes to plan ahead, get a copy of Jan Karon's book, *Shepherds Abiding*. It would be a great read for the first snowstorm, and it is the selection of Bible Bookenders book for **January 28th**. The story centers around a nativity set that Father Tim finds. It is in poor condition, and even though he isn't the artist in the family, he decides to paint and repair the pieces himself. The story, of course, includes the Mitford characters we all love. This is the eighth book in the Mitford series and a nod to Karon's 30th anniversary this year. Any questions may be directed to Michele Lein or Bonnie Nowak.



- Kathy Gillespie November 5
- Heidi Cordell November 13
- Becky Lepley November 16
- Jacob Oak November 27
- Shannon Busse November 29
- Doug Albrecht November 30
- Greg Albrecht November 30

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Tuesday morning for Bible Study from **8:00-9:00 am**. All are welcome!



CHURCH COUNCIL



The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, November 11 at 7:00 pm**. All members of the boards are invited and

encouraged to attend these meetings.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NOVEMBER 2024

The consequences of shallow thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or

following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship

WOMEN'S EVENT

The Have you heard of
Global Health Ministries?
Do you know what they do?

Join us **Saturday,
November 9th,** 9:00 am



Registration, 9:30 am program at Holy Cross to learn about Global Health Ministries and help assemble Newborn Kits. Their goal is 10,000 kits assembled in 2024. We will use Thrivent Action cards for these kits as well as toward the catered lunch. Anyone having a Thrivent policy can apply; let Pam Hunter know if you are willing to apply for an Action card. **We will also be collecting items for the Newborn Kits.**

They are:

- 1 bath towel (approx. 52" long)
- 1 bath-size white Ivory soap (in original wrapping)
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt or "onesie" sz 0-3 or newborn
- 1 newborn stocking hat – sz small, knit or crocheted
- 1 baby receiving blanket (approx. 30" x 30"), cotton or light flannel, can be knit or crocheted
- 2 cloth diapers
- 2 diaper pins

The congregation is invited to donate baby items as well. A bin is located in the commons. This list will also be posted on the LWML bulletin board. Enjoy a morning ~ learning, participating in a servant event, fellowshiping with other Sisters-in-Christ, and a delicious lunch at Holy Cross. Tickets (\$12) are available from Pam Hunter or Joy Anderson through **Monday, November 4th.**

CHRISTMAS WITH DIGNITY

Hospitality House Youth Development (HHYD) will host Christmas with Dignity this year on December 13th. Last year, Holy Cross was amazing with the amount of gifts donated! So that HHYD can prepare for the many donations of items collected, our deadline for collecting is Sunday Dec. 1st. A list of gift ideas will be posted in October or, for those who may wish to shop early, go to hhyd.org/christmas and Christmas with Dignity will pop up.



THE LUTHERAN HOUR



The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

November 3

"Working the System"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God's Law--a "system" that keeps the world from flying apart while it also shows us we need the Savior Who came to live, suffer, and rise for us. (Genesis 33:8)

November 10

"My Name Is Now Yours"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
God comes to renew us with His forgiving love, rename us in Baptism, and remain with us through His Word. (Genesis 35:10-11)

November 17

"Album-Worthy"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
If everything you've ever thought or done was captured in a photo, how many of them would you save for all to see? Hear how God redeems all our snapshots--even those that don't seem "album-worthy." (Genesis 35:3)

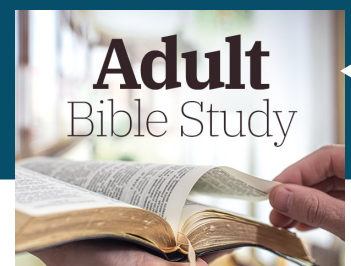
November 24

"Jesus Sees What's in the Heart"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe
Jesus sees what's in our hearts. What's in His heart? God saw that we needed a Savior. (Mark 12:41-44)

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Sunday
at 10:15 am after the
service.



2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



A WEEKDAY 2-MINUTE DEVOTION THAT HELPS YOU SEE JESUS AT WORK IN YOUR WORLD

Anticipation

The men in the family recently started planning a hike for Christmas week. Wrestling with questions like "How far away?" "How high of a peak?" "Do we bring one of the younger 'men' along?" Kicking the tires on Guadalupe Peak. But I know a group that tackled it a few years back and the weather changed quickly, catching them by surprise. Hmmmm. We'll probably say closer to sea level. Wherever we go, the anticipation is already creating incredible energy and excitement. Trash-talking is just around the corner.

When a fun destination is in your future... When a vacation you're looking forward to is certain of becoming a reality... When an event with family or friends forms on the horizon... The future joy inhabits the present. Tomorrow's excitement energizes today's doldrums. Hopeless days become hope-filled. All because of the certainty of a future promise. Future hope fills Christianity and all who claim it.

Such is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Presence of Jesus in us guaranteeing our future inheritance. A treasure that doesn't spoil or fade. Or disappoint. An eternity with the One who in love created us. An eternity with the One who in love rescued us. An eternity filled with adventure and joy found only in spending time with those you love and who love you in return.

No arguments. No misunderstandings. No boring going-through-the-motions. Just a mountain peak trip in perfect weather. With perfect people.

Anticipate that. That's the journey we're all on. That's the destination God's got prepared for us.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network



Sign up to receive the *2 Minute Multiplier* emailed to you! www.fivetwo.com/2mm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOV 5 Election Day
- NOV 5 Elder's Meeting
- NOV 9 LWML Fall Rally
- NOV 11 Council Meeting
- NOV 16 Fall Missionfest
- NOV 19 Operation Christmas Child Deadline
- NOV 27 Thanksgiving Worship
- DEC 3 Elder's Meeting
- DEC 4 Advent Midweek 1
- DEC 9 Council Meeting
- DEC 11 Advent Midweek 2
- DEC 18 Advent Midweek 3
- DEC 24 Christmas Eve Worship
- DEC 25 Christmas Day Worship



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Join us every Sunday at 10:15 am after the service. All children are welcome!

PASTOR CALL ACCEPTED!

We rejoice that Rev. Marc Engelhardt has accepted the Pastoral Call to be our pastor at Holy Cross!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



The Operation Christmas Child display is in the commons with plenty of boxes available! Please consider taking one (or more) to fill and bless a child this Christmas. You can scan the QR code or visit <https://sampur.se/4dldVDH> to build a shoebox-online. Also, if you have a Thrivent policy you can use an Action Grant to purchase items for a box or to build one online. If you have questions on how to do that, talk to Pam. Our deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 19th.

TIME OF GRACE

The mission of **Time of Grace** is to connect people to God. Using a variety of media, we teach tough topics in an approachable and relatable way, accessible in multiple languages, making the Bible clear and understandable for those who do not know God. www.timeofgrace.org



"READERS" FOR HAITI

A mission group will be heading to Cap-Haitian, Haiti in January and are asking for donations of reading glasses, in plus 1's, 2's and 3's. The Dollar store is a good resource.



Also, EYE DROPS are an enormous relief for them. A collection bin is located in the Commons area.

*MOST Ministries are supplying them with glasses for distance so we are not collecting those. Keith and Kim Waller had, in the past, been affiliated with HLMS. They now have their own Haiti ministry. They have continued to go to Haiti, focusing on the Cap-Haitian area which is on the north coast of Haiti.



Saturday, November 2, 2024

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Redemption Lutheran Church

927 East Old Shakopee Road

Bloomington

Handmade Crafts, Holiday Décor & Gifts, Bake Sale, Holiday Cookie Trays, Fresh Lefse, English Toffee
FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP!

HOLIDAY VENDOR FESTIVAL

8TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY
One Stop Shop Vendor
Festival

HOLIDAY
CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

November 9, 2024

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church Fish Lake

NOVEMBER 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
All Saints' Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	8:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		9:00 am LWML Women's Event
					8	9
25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC 7:00 pm Church Council	8:00 am Bible Study	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		5:00 pm Missionfest
					15	16
					22	23
26th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	8:00 am Bible Study	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Worship	7:00 pm Choir Practice		
					29	30
Last Sunday of The Church Year 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	8:00 am Bible Study	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		