



ALC Connections November 2015

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

The Discipleship Chat

Thankful for Opportunity

Somehow, Thanksgiving is usually linked to the Pilgrims, with the story of the first Thanksgiving which the Pilgrims celebrated with the Indians/Native Americans that helped them through the rough winter.

As the Pilgrims and Mayflower crew travelled the Atlantic en route to the New World, they passed through several storms. During one such storm, a young indentured servant named John Howland was washed overboard. He just managed to grab onto some rope lines which were trailing in the water behind the boat. The ship's cooper, named John Alden fished Howland out of the water, with some help. You might say that John Howland was very, very grateful.

My wife is descended from both Howland and Alden (and their wives, who also came over on the Mayflower), so we have a special interest in these stories.

John Howland has great reason to be Thankful. He was thankful that the halyard, the rope used to raise and lower the upper sail, was trailing behind in the water. He stared death in the face and was rescued. His life was saved. He was a recipient of acts of mercy. He simply received. And was grateful!

John Alden was also Thankful. He was thankful that he happened to come up on board at the exact time that Howland was washed overboard. He was thankful that he was in a position to help save Howland's life. Alden was thankful for Opportunity.

So often, we focus on being thankful for things received. Let us also be grateful for opportunities; opportunities to use our abilities, our talents, and opportunities to help others, and to serve and honor God.

Together, as God's Thankful people, let us explore for new opportunities to serve Him, to serve each other and others, and to help spread the love of Jesus to those around us.

For the opportunity to serve our gracious and loving God, let us be truly Thankful.

Pastor Dave

PRAYER CHAPEL – The Chapel is open for Prayer on the first Saturday of the month from 10:30 am until noon. It will be open Sat Nov 7.

Lutheran Movie Preview – On Sat Nov 14th at 2 pm, the movie "The First Rosa" will be previewed at Faith Lutheran Church, Troy. Rose Parks was a black pioneer missionary for the LCMS in the south. Let Pastor Dave know if there is any interest in going to Troy for this.

Also:

access the Michigan In Touch:

http://michiganintouch.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/MIT_Dec13_web.pdf

What about the Leftovers?

What happens to your "leftovers"? Are they remembered too late, in the back of the refrigerator in some storage container and discarded or do you plan ahead to include them as part of another

nourishing meal? When Jesus fed the 5000, He had His disciples collect more than 12 baskets of leftovers. God wants us to use every morsel, including leftovers. We all know what God expects and desires of us regarding our income. He asks us to give according to how we have received, with a cheerful attitude. But God has blessed all Christians with leftovers! We just can't take them with us when we pass through the gates of Heaven. What plan have you made to take care of your leftovers?

We are the caretakers of all the gifts God has given us. As we consider the assets and possessions God allows us to care for and use, how can we be the most effective steward of these gifts, when we receive the best gift, eternal life in Heaven? All we leave behind will go to one of three beneficiaries: our family, our government or our Lord, through ministries you can choose. Do we pass it all to our children? Do they really need the

entire estate? How much is enough? Will we leave it in a lump sum, an installment distribution or an income stream? IRAs and other tax-deferred retirement accounts passed to children will have income taxes due when withdrawals are made from these accounts. Ministry can benefit "tax free" when gifts are given from these tax-deferred accounts. Where do you want your gifts to go?

Using legal, ethical and God-pleasing methods to transfer our residual gifts to our children and our Lord makes good Christian stewardship sense. Solid Christian estate planning gives you peace of mind while blessing your family, making a wonderful impact on your favorite ministries and can reduce the amount you pass along to Uncle Sam.

How does your estate plan reflect your current desires?



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Many plans come up short! Does it include a Christian Preamble and the right communication pieces? Do you have the right people in place as Personal Representative, Successor Trustee, Durable Power of Attorney or Medical Power of Attorney? Now is the time to act, get your plan in place or look at your current documents to insure they still do what you intended.

-Bill Burmeister, CEF

Pure by God for God-Youth Purity Gathering. Our Savior, Lansing is hosting a youth purity gathering for students grades 7-12 and their parents on Sunday, November 8th. Guests include; Rev. Bill Yonker, Rev. David P. E. Maier, and the Michael Maher Band. Doors open at 3pm. Cost is \$5/person before November 2nd, when the cost goes up to \$7/person. Teens will be challenged to guard themselves physically and spiritually. They will hear of God's desire that they delay sex until marriage-saving themselves for their spouse. They will be encouraged in their faith journey. Dr. Maier will speak to parents, sharing practical and relevant parent skills. For more information, contact Family Life Director, David Wright at dwright@oursaviorchurch.org

Mike W. has his retirement party on Sunday, November 8th at the American Legion Post 412 at 5480 Clark Road, Bath. The time is from 2 until 5. All are welcome to come and celebrate with Mike and the family.

Thank you to *Art and Bonnie G.* for their donation of five office chairs for the office lounge. They are very appreciated! Thank you!

All Saints Day is the yearly remembrance of those whom the Lord has called home during the previous year. Ironically, we are accustomed to referring to those who have died as "saints" - the ones whom the bible refers to as 'saints' are the live Christians. But all are alive in Christ, as Jesus proclaimed when He said that God was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, ancestors and patriarchs who passed away long ago, but were very much alive in God's presence, as are all others who have died IN HIM.

As we remember those whom the Lord has called home, we gratefully thank God for giving them to us, and for the evidence of Christian faith that they left behind. May our memories of our loved ones in Christ encourage us to greater trust and faithfulness to our Lord Jesus.

Conversation Partner- One of the ministries of The Friendship House is to find volunteers to meet with International students (or spouses), simply to talk and help them work on their English. We have a special need for a woman to be a conversation partner with an International woman living near Ascension. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Dave, or call the church office.

Social Services is conducting our next project--a food drive for the Greater Lansing Food Bank. They have been in the news several times recently and are having difficulties meeting the demand for food. Since 28% of the people served are children under 18 you could bring Macaroni and Cheese, peanut butter and jelly, raviolis, snack crackers and trail mix. You could also pick up doubles of any non-perishable sale items on your grocery list and bring the extra one to church. Above the collection box is the list provided on their website (greaterlansingfoodbank.org). Items will be collected until November 15.



The Women's Venue will be on Thursday, November 19th at Smokey Bones Restaurant, Eastwood Towne Center at 6 pm.

Men's Venue November 10th at Spagnololas on Grand River and Van Atta Rd. 6pm

Sign up Sheet on the kiosk for hosting coffee on Sunday's after the service. Please indicate if you would like to host by yourself, with someone else, or with a committee.

Sign up Sheets also for the **Harvest Dinner** next Sunday are on the kiosk, bulletin boards and elsewhere. Today is the last day to sign up for which food you are bringing.

Plan to join us after worship for annual **Harvest Dinner** in next week. (Nov 8). Sign up sheets are posted throughout the building; please sign up to bring your best dish! Last week to sign up!

Mark Thursday, November 5 and 12 on your calendar. After today's Evaluation Report, we have scheduled these two evenings as planning events to set goals for Ascension's future.