

November 2017 Newsletter

The Discipleship Chat

The whole concept of Thanksgiving (giving of thanks) is one of response. *Thanks* is not an initial action; it is a response to a previous action. Something has taken place, for which we not only feel but demonstrate extreme gratitude.

The Christian life is a response to God's *grace*.

We initiate nothing; apart from faith, which is God's free gift to us, we are dead in trespasses and sins (Eph 2). But God makes us **alive in Christ** (and not apart from Christ).

The Bible says that this gift of love and grace should trigger a response. Indeed, God wants us to respond to His love; the whole Christian life is a response.

The cross is the event, and the magnet. Jesus said, "when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself." Then He was lifted up on the cross ... and raised up from the dead – for us.

Because of God's Grace and love, because God has saved us and given us the gift of faith, we respond. 2 Cor 5:14-15 says, "*For **Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all ... and he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.***"

In response to this, we love Jesus, and cherish our salvation and our relationship with Him. We wish to take the love, care and forgiveness that He gives us and share it with those around us. We do this, not to earn anything from God, but out of our gratitude for His Grace, love and salvation. God wants us simply to receive the grace He gives us. And He wants our motivation for serving Him to be that of gratitude and thankfulness. Hence, Thanksgiving.

"O give thanks unto the Lord, **for He is good.**"

Thanksgiving – the Great Motivator.

Pastor Dave

Thanksgiving Eve worship – Wed Nov 22 @ 7 pm



Ray Zavada, Development Director for our Michigan District (LCMS) will be with us on Sun Nov 5 to explain a little about the Here We Stand Program the District has been running the past year. He also will be sharing a short DVD with us, so if you can, please try to sit in the middle sections of the church. We'll have a large screen set up in front of the altar (which will come down after the DVD).

Upcoming Events

Time change for this Sunday, November 5th. Fall Back.

Baby Shower for Laura Osminski after the service this coming Sunday, Nov 5th.

It's Here! Wednesday is the third class of "As the Sun Sets". Join us in the classroom.

Harvest Dinner is next week! Sign up sheet is on the Kiosk. Dinner is Sunday, November 12th after the church service.

As part of the presentation by Ray Zavada, from our Michigan District office, a DVD will be shown. Please try to sit in the middle, or towards the side aisles so that you can see the screen. Thank you in advance.

FALL CLEANUP DAY NOVEMBER 11TH starting at 8:30am. See you there! Come as you can, stay as you can. We appreciate all your help getting the church ready for fall!

November Council Meeting November 11th



Grace Alone

Growing in the Grace of Giving (Back)

Jesus said some pretty interesting things about giving. In Luke 6:38, He said, “

“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

That, in itself, is an incredible teaching – that we determine the measure by which God blesses us. How we give to God is how He gives to us. It doesn’t deny our faith, but it confirms our trust. We trust Him and His promises **this** much.

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-12, St Paul says that the key in Christian Giving is to *give ourselves to the Lord first*, before we give any other gifts. Then, Scripture gives us the encouragement to *“excel in this grace of giving”* and teaching proportionate giving, giving back to God a percentage of what He gives to us.

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has.”

The third key Scripture also builds on the promise that God blesses what we give:

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

God promises to bless our gifts, and to enlarge the ***“harvest of our righteousness.”*** All this is part of our discipleship, because God claimed us as His children

through His free gift of grace. By grace, we are saved, through faith in Jesus for the forgiveness (removal) of our sin. We have become God’s children, heirs of eternal life with Him. Jesus said, “Follow me.” Stewardship is learning to follow Jesus. His way.

May God bless the **harvest** of your righteousness.

Pastor Dave

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Writing a Will Won't Jinx You!

According to a recent survey done by Michigan State University for the Planned Giving Roundtable of Southeast Michigan, less than half of Michigan adults have written a Will or Revocable Living Trust. A 2016 Gallup poll showed 1/3 of people 65 or older don't have a Will or Trust. Are you included in the statistics? What is your reason for putting it off? Many people don't like facing their own mortality by planning for their future. Writing your Will doesn't mean you'll die – tomorrow!

If not for you, consider writing your Estate Plan, including a Will or Trust, for your family. Your written plan can help avoid arguments, reduce potential taxes and legal fees. A well thought out Will or Trust gives you control. Without a Will or Revocable Living Trust, the Probate Court will decide how your estate is handled. Probate Court will decide your Personal Rep, Guardians of Minor Children and how your Estate Assets will be distributed.

There are several things needed as you prepare to write your planning documents. The attorney may want proof of ownership of "Real Property", like your home. That could be a deed or bill of sale. Also bring a list of bank or investment accounts along with any debts owed to banks, insurance companies, the IRS or individuals.

Pray about who you want to be given authority for the various positions in your plan. Who do you want as Personal Representative or Successor Trustee? Who do you wish to be Guardians of your minor children if something happens to both of you? How will you decide who becomes Durable Power of Attorney or Healthcare Power of Attorney? For all of these positions of responsibility you may want to list a Successor in case the person isn't able to fulfill the duties if called upon.

Many people also include a Christian Preamble. The Preamble can be a source of comfort for the family but may also be some encouragement for them in their faith. Most attorneys won't have Christian Preamble

language as part of their typical planning verbiage but are happy to include it if you ask and show them what you want included.

You may have specific personal property you want given to specific people. Instead of using "sticky notes", include a memo that states your wishes to give the ring or necklace to your daughter or the wood crafting tools to your son. Who do want to have that special keepsake? This Personal Property Memo may save the arguments from happening when you are gone.

The other important item to designate is any Estate Gift you wish to give to Ministry. Probate law doesn't allow any Charitable Gifts from your estate unless they are designated during your life. Take the time now to update the beneficiaries of your IRA or a Life Insurance Policy to include your most beloved ministries or designate a Charitable Gift to be made from your Estate as part of your Planning Documents.

Michigan District Church extension Fund (CEF)