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# Newsletter—November 2020

## Pastor's Pen:

### Secondary



Everywhere I go the same two subjects consistently come up – COVID-19 and the election. It seems that we are having a hard time *not* talking about both of them. It's understandable, these are current issues, in the news every day, and seen by many as of critical importance. It is kept in front of us that either of these could kill us, physically if we catch COVID-19, and nationally, if the wrong candidate wins the election.

Perhaps this is why Mark 12: 29-31 stuck in my head this morning. A scribe had asked Jesus which commandment is the most important. "Jesus answered, 'The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; <sup>30</sup> AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOUR-SELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31, NASB).

A commandment is something God commands us to do, it is an imperative, a must do. The foremost means before, or more than, anything else. It struck me that the things that make me angry, or frustrate me, that I worry about, or even simply would like to see happen, are of secondary importance. This is not to say that those things aren't important, or have no value, but that they should be of secondary importance to me. Jesus' words say that I need to focus on what's most important and not let other things rise to top priority. As I think about this, I'm pretty confident that if I keep "loving God" as the most important thing, the other things will naturally become secondary, and I will be less given to anger, frustration, worry, etc.

How do we love God with our whole being? Are we just supposed to muster up strong feelings? To truly love God is to live in proper relation to Him. A proper relation to God is one with reverence, and gratitude, and desire for Him, and His will to come first. That's hard. It's too hard, unless I am in a growing relationship with Him through Christ Jesus. A growing relationship is more than obeying and serving God, and more than learning more facts about God, even though learning more about Him helps. It is when learning those truths, guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, draw me into an awareness of His presence and the grandeur of who He is. When I know God in this manner, I am first humbled by His greatness, sobered by His holiness, then captured by His love. Loving Him in return, then becomes a more easy and natural response .

What difference will it make in my response to COVID-19 or the election if my top priority is to love God with all my being? The importance of people doing what I think they need to do loses its importance. The more I know and love God the easier it is to leave things in His hands, knowing that He will help me through whatever I must face until He takes me home. I'm reminded that this world is no longer my all in all, He is.

What do I do in response to these issues? Quite simply keep loving God as my top priority. Do the great commission of helping make disciples, for that reflects loving God. And do everything in a way that is respectful toward others, for that is the second commandment.

Striving to Love God More,  
Pastor Dan



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# Newsletter—November 2020

HAPPY  
*Wedding*  
ANNIVERSARY


6 *Randy & Gloria Ringhand*  
7 *Jacob & Karen Brunner*  
*Craig & Tracy Signer*  
10 *Mark & Flaimide McNett*



17 *Eric & Tonya Reed*  
22 *Josh & April Kuenzi*  
26 *John & Kristi Hudson*



## November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm	2 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	3 Election Day	4 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T— 6:15 pm	5 Women's Group—1:30 pm, Library (NC)  Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	6 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	7 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
8 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 3 9am, LL #100 Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm	9 Women's Group— 10:30 am, Library (NC)  Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102  Elder Board Mtg.—6:30 pm, LL #106	10 10 am Deadline: Pleasant View cup- cakes, cards, BINGO prizes  Fusion works Care Net Pregnancy Center Fundraiser, 5- 10 pm	11 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T— 6:15 pm	12 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	13 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	14 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
15 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm	16 Deadline: Operation Christmas Child shoe- boxes  Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	17 Women's Group— 6:00 pm, Library (NC)  Board of Deacons Mtg—6:00 pm, LL #106	18 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T— 6:15 pm	19 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	20 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	21 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—6:00pm, NC
22 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm	23 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	24	25 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  No Awana	26  <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	27 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	28 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
29 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm	30 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	31				



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# Newsletter—November 2020



1 Donna O'Connor  
2 Oliver Brunner  
3 Everly Bade  
Lola Bade  
Chuck Chladil  
4 Jora Reed  
5 Adam Brunner  
7 Patricia Harder  
Coleen Soddy  
Josh Swenson  
8 Eric Reed  
Emma Richardson

9 Craig Roth  
10 Ellis Holverson  
Scott Turkelson  
13 Kate Haworth  
Kailyn Ringhand  
Molly Swenson  
14 Lynne Hardy  
15 Kim Markham  
16 Celia Keen  
Colleen Ostenson  
19 Katie Elgin

19 Declan Geiwitz  
Drake Geiwitz  
21 Jesse Beernink  
Mia Kelley  
Connor Nafzger  
23 Malayna Beernink  
28 Ezekiel Beernink  
Jenn Chladil  
30 Keith Geisler  
Clara Kuenzi  
Carol Larson

## Save the Date: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

**ALL NEW: Winter Retreat at  
Living Waters Bible Camp in  
Westby, WI**

**Who:** Monroe Bible Church Fusion &  
Ignite & Lena EFC Youth Groups.

**Ages:** Middle School & High School

**When:** January 8-10, 2021

Friday 4pm-Sunday (afternoon return)

**What will we do?** A full weekend of Worship meetings with Lena Free Youth Group, small groups, Broomball: large ice-covered pond, Winter Tubing under the lights, cross country skiing, building friendships and more.

**Cost:** \$85 per person. **Deadline to sign up:** December 27th.

**Permissions Slips at the Welcome Center.**



## NEXT STEPS

Step 3 "Our Commitments"  
(1 session)

Sunday, November 8th  
At 9:00 am, LL #100

*\*Steps 2 & 3 are required for  
membership*

Sign up on our church  
website or use the  
Chromebook at the  
Welcome Center!



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# Newsletter—November 2020

Some people may ask if prayer is relevant for today. God's Word says that prayer is relevant. Prayer has been defined as a spiritual transaction with the Maker of the universe. Prayer is being in God's presence. Listen to God's voice through His Word. Do we slow down enough to hear what God is saying to us through His Word? Have you developed a personal relationship with God? Begin your day with God and continue throughout the day. Set aside time for prayer daily.

Prayer is not just giving God our shopping list. We should include worship, confession of sin, thanksgiving, and then intercession in prayer time. Pray specifically. There will be times when we send an emergency prayer to pray Scripture. Not sure what to pray? The Holy Spirit will help us with our prayers. We must also trust God's timing in answering prayer. Remember that you are praying to the King of the universe, God. He loves us and wants to communicate with us. Pray according to His will. We can align ourselves with His will by reading and applying God's Word. Base your prayers on Scripture. Yes, you can. Many of these thoughts were gleaned from a talk given by Anne Graham Lotz. She has written a book called "In the Light of His Presence".



Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

## Pipeline - New Study "Runaway" a Prodigal Story

Parenting a Runaway? Are you a Prodigal yourself? Have you been running from God for a while?

Sometimes the struggle of parenting reveals to us how little we actually have control over. We cannot do God's part, our child's part, or our spouse's part - we can only do our part. At times parents may get angry or childish when we can't control things, sometimes allowing our child to live sinfully in our home because of fear of the consequences we may face if we let them go. Before we try to deal with our children's issues we have to be right with God ourselves. Where are you with God right now?

In this 5-week RightNow Media video-based study we will look at the Prodigal(s) in the story and the loving Father. We will find ourselves in the story, our children, and our grandchildren as well. If you know someone who is running from the Father, join us at Pipeline each Sunday beginning Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. We meet at 9am in the Nehemiah Center.

See you there!

Troy Watson  
Pastor of Family Ministries



### Healthy Relationships Women's Recovery Workshops

On-Going Group Workshops  
formed throughout the year.

Groups are anonymous & confidential and  
follow Celebrate Recovery Guidelines.

To find out more & when groups start, contact  
Tracy Signer: 214-4976 or [tracysnh7@gmail.com](mailto:tracysnh7@gmail.com)

### Join Us! Women's Group

Meets in the Library/Nehemiah Center

Thursday, Nov. 5th, 1:30 pm

Monday, Nov. 9th, 10:00 am

Tuesday, Nov. 17th, 6:00 pm







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What a blessing it was to have Kevin Phillips from Shepherds College along with Alex Pashkovets from Slavic Gospel Association join us for Harvest Weekend! If you were unable to attend, perhaps you would like to read one of several books donated to the library by Alex on behalf of SGA. The new 2020-2021 Missions booklets can be picked up at the Welcome Center as well. Thank you to all who helped and for your monetary donations for Christmas gifts for our missionaries.

Monroe Bible Church joins with 11 other churches in the area to sponsor a monthly birthday party for residents of Pleasant View. It is our turn November 10th. The party will need to be a bit different this year to comply with coronavirus precautions. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center for those who would like to donate purchased cupcakes (sorry, no homemade cupcakes can be accepted this year). There is also a box near the Welcome Center for Bingo prize donations which may include individually wrapped fun size candy bars, cookies, crackers, or chips, diabetic candy, LifeSavers, tissues, jewelry (no post earrings please), perfume, cologne, and word search books. All donations must be nut free and age appropriate. This year we also will collect signed birthday cards which the staff will divide among residents with November birthdays. Feel free to share a Bible verse or note of encouragement in your card (handmade cards are welcome). The cupcakes, Bingo prizes, and cards will be delivered to Pleasant View where the staff will "throw the party". This year we are not allowed to physically attend the festivities. Be sure to have all items to MBC by 10 am on November 10th.

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Green County is one of the missions supported by MBC. This has been a challenging year for them financially, as several of their fundraisers couldn't be held due to coronavirus restrictions. Their annual fundraising banquet is planned for Tuesday, November 10th at Turner Hall. Call 325-5051 for information. If you cannot attend the banquet but would like to donate to the Center, checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 13, Monroe, WI. Their ministry to babies and families is even more vital now with problems caused by the pandemic. May others find the hope we have in Jesus through the love and care experienced at the Center.

It's time to start planning for the 2021 Guatemala mission trip. We hope to construct the playground with *Kids Around the World* which was planned for 2020 but cancelled. Watch for more information soon and begin praying about whether God might be calling you to join this year's team. The requirements to go are:

- \*Currently in high school or older
- \*Attend one informational meeting
- \*Submit a completed application to the church office no later than Dec. 31, 2020
- \*Attend #5 Next Steps class - "On Mission" ( 2 sessions held in June)
- \*Physically able to participate in the installation

Contact: Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader



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## Vigilant Soul Concert

*Vigilant Soul is a Contemporary Christian rock band from Monroe, Wisconsin. They perform songs ranging from simple sweet soulful worship to energy infused praise rock. Featuring today's top songs and favorites from the past that tell His story, Vigilant Soul has been performing individually for decades and together for years including opening for Jason Gray, a well-known national Christian singer and songwriter.*

*Vigilant Soul supports area Christian events and organizations and strives to reach out to anyone who would listen to the good news of Jesus Christ through a dynamic quality musical experience.*

Check out their website at: [vigilantsoul.com](http://vigilantsoul.com)

*Mark your Calendars!*

The band will be playing at 18 & 8th on Saturday, December 5th.  
Doors will open at 6 pm & the concert will begin at 7 pm.

Seating will be limited, so stay tuned for more information to come!

VOCALS  
**TRACY**  
ACOUSTIC  
**BILL**  
BASS  
**DAVE**  
ELECTRIC  
**KEVIN**  
DRUMS  
**JEFF**  
KEYS  
**JOSH**  
SOUND  
**CRAIG**

**Backpack  
BUDDIES**

*Because hunger doesn't end on Friday.*

We are in desperate need of over 200 canned goods each month (any brand). If you'd like to contribute, pop-top lids are needed on the 15-16 oz. cans. Place donations in the Backpack Buddies tub in the foyer. Contact Sharon Kubly with questions, 608-558-4003.

*Thank You  
for Your  
Donations!*

### Suggested Shopping List Items:

SpaghettiOs with meatballs  
Ravioli with meat or meatballs  
Spaghetti and Meatballs  
Macaroni and Beef

## Outdoor Library Box

Would you be interested in building a **Little Outdoor Library Box** next to our driveway for our church to share Christian books with our community? This is a free book-sharing box where anyone can "take a book/return a book". This website <https://littlefreelibrary.org/build/> offers some ideas, plans, and blueprints on how to build one.

If you would like to build this box, contact the church office and submit your building plan for Deacon approval.



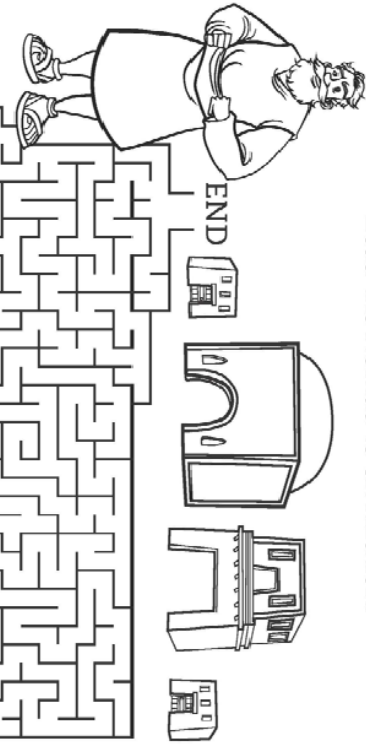
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# Newsletter—November 2020

## Kid's Page

### SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Lead the Nomad to civilization.



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### SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

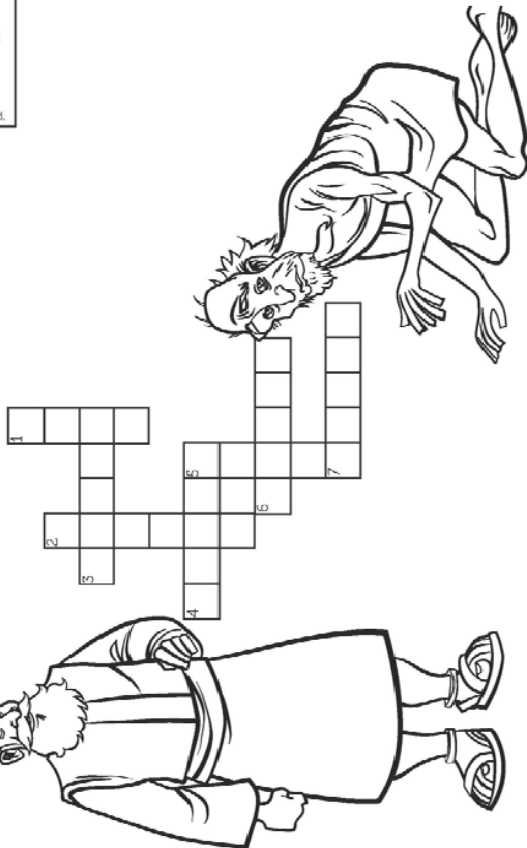
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!



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### SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1-43



- Across**
- God's \_\_\_\_\_ broke through the darkness.
  - God saved the sick from the very \_\_\_\_\_ of death.
  - People who have been \_\_\_\_\_ by God should tell their stories of deliverance and victory.
  - God rejects the \_\_\_\_\_ and arrogant.
- Down**
- God led the nomads straight to a \_\_\_\_\_ where they could find food, water, and shelter.
  - Sailors witnessed God's \_\_\_\_\_ power during massive storms at sea.
  - God has the power to turn a desert into a \_\_\_\_\_.



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### ANSWERS KEY

- Across**
- Light
  - Sailors
  - Stories
  - Wicked
- Down**
- Desert
  - Power
  - Food