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Newsletter—November 2024

A Thanksgiving November



When you think of November, what comes to mind? Thanksgiving, right? That's probably it, unless you have a birthday in November, or you have the deer-hunting bug! I've been reading about the importance of thankfulness in a book called "Joyful Journey." In it the authors note that research shows many health benefits when a person is in a state of thankfulness. None the least of which is improvement in a person's interpersonal relationship capacity. The spiritual significance is that being in a state of thankfulness opens the way for a better relationship with the Lord. This shouldn't be surprising since we see so many exhortations to be thankful in the Bible.

The book encourages taking time each day to express your gratitude to God. It's kind of embarrassing to tell you that I'm not very good at expressing thankfulness. I'm always looking ahead for what's next or how I/we can do something better. I'm terrible about looking back, whether it's the end of a year or a day, and reflecting on the good things that have happened, things I could be grateful for. I'm not even good at looking around and being thankful for the good things I see around me! In stopping to think about this I realized that it shouldn't be hard to identify one new thing each day to be grateful for, for I'm VERY blessed!

A few weeks ago, as pastors, we worked out a rough outline for what the upcoming sermon series will be the next several months. We thought it would be good to spend three weeks on being thankful. Easy, right? Well, I started looking for some Bible passages that talk about why, how, when, where, etc. we give thanks. It's not hard to find random verses on thankfulness, or the, "I thank God for you," in Paul's letters, or the "O give thanks to the Lord," in several Psalms. Three weeks of what the Bible says about thankfulness suddenly became a very difficult task.

As I pondered this, three lessons surfaced: 1) Thankfulness helps me remember that God is the source of all good things. That's the doctrine called the providence of God; what the Bible tells us God has provided for us. Wondering how to incorporate thankfulness into your daily routine? Think about the good things God has provided, none of which we deserve!

2) Thankfulness protects me from spiritually destructive thinking. We know that thoughts and attitudes that reflect pride, worry, discontent, worldly ambition, etc. in the heart will undermine our walk with God. They are the antithesis of the attributes we are encouraged to embrace, and undoubtedly our adversary loves to get us entangled in that kind of thinking. It clouds our true identity in Christ. Remove gratitude and the door to a whole host of wrong thinking opens, the very things Christ died to set us free from.


3) Thankfulness cultivates spiritually constructive thinking. When we maintain a thankful attitude our relationship with God is better aligned. Think about it, when you're in a thankful frame of mind are you not more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind – get the point, the fruit of the Spirit. Just like the absence of gratitude opens the door to a host of negative thoughts, the presence of gratitude opens the door to a host of good thoughts, the kind God wants us to have.

Now about the next sermon series...Maybe I have it!

Thankful,
Pastor Dan

P.S. I intentionally left Scripture out of this letter, you'll have to come Sundays in November for that!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8 AM—4 PM & Fridays 8 AM—Noon					1 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:45 pm Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Spiritual Warfare 201 class—6:15 pm, NC	2 Men's Breakfast—8-10 am, NC/K Men's Fire Pit Forum—4:30-7:30 PM, Fire Pit north lawn
3 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Next Steps Step 2 (s. 1)—9 am, Library Directory Photos—10:15 am-1:05 pm, LL #106 Security Ministry Meeting—Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm, NC Fusion—6-8 pm, NC	4 Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102	5 Missions Ministry Meeting—5:00 pm, LL #102	6 Sr. Growth Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:15 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Women's Study - 6:15 pm, LL #106	7 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, NC No MBC Worship Practice	8 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:45 pm Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Spiritual Warfare 201 class—6:15 pm, NC	9 Women's Brunch - 10:00 am—1:00 pm, NC/K
10 Gideon Guest Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Next Steps Step 2 (s.2)—9 am, Library Directory Photos—10:15 am-1:05 pm, LL #106 Leader Development Class—1-3 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite Rake 'n Run & Bonfire—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm, NC	11 Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #106 Deacon Board Meeting—6:00 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7:00 pm, S	12 Pleasant View Birthday Party—2:00 pm @ Pleasant View Nursing Home	13 Sr. Growth Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:15 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Women's Study - 6:15 pm, LL #106	14 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7:00 pm, S	15 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:45 pm Primitimers Pizza Hut Lunch—11:30 am, Pizza Hut, Monroe Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Spiritual Warfare 201 class—6:15 pm, NC	16 MBC Kitchen in use—9:00 am-2:00 pm
17 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 3—9 am, Library Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm, NC Fusion—6-8 pm, NC	18 Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102	19	20 Sr. Growth Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:15 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Women's Study - 6:15 pm, LL #106	21 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S	22 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:45 pm Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Spiritual Warfare 201 class—6:15 pm, NC	23 Craft & Vendor Event—9 am—3 pm, 18 & 8th
24 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm, NC Fusion—6-8 pm, NC	25 Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7:00 pm, NC	26	27 No Growth Group No Awana No Women's Study	28 	29 No Homeschool Co-op Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S No Spiritual Warfare class	30 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6:00-7:30 pm, NC



Happy Birthday!

2 Oliver Brunner

4 Sandy Barrett

Jora Reed

7 Patricia Harder

Colleen Soddy

Josh Swenson

8 Eric Reed

9 Louis Piskur

Craig Roth

10 Ellis Holverson

12 Isabella Olmstead

13 Ivy Borke

Kate Haworth

Christina Hunsberger

Molly Swenson

14 Lynne Kleven

15 Kim Markham

16 Celia Keen

Colleen Ostenson

19 Kaitlyn Andersen

Benjamin Clark

Declan Geiwitz

Drake Geiwitz

21 Emily Chiquito

Mia Kelley

Jerry Matranga

22 James Smith

24 Kim Wheeler

28 Stella Grossmann

30 Clara Kuenzi

Carol Larson

Happy Anniversary

2 Tony & Cynthia Kitchell

6 Randy & Gloria Ringhand

7 Jacob & Karen Brunner

7 Craig & Tracy Signer

12 CJ & Tasha Erdmann

17 Eric & Tonya Reed

29 Reuben & Margarite Kawinzi

Photo Shoot for Church Directory



We want to update our online church directory. Mike Newberg will begin taking pictures Sunday, November 3rd, starting at 10:15 AM and ending at 1:00 PM in the lower-level room #106. Several dates are available to get your photos taken. We have a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center to schedule your 10-minute time slot. Choose the date and time that works best for you and your family. **No excuses!** We want to see all of your bright and shining faces in our directory!



It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Jake & Emily Hunsberger on the birth of their son, Matthias Luke Hunsberger.

Matthias was born on Sunday, October 20th. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. & was 20" long. Matthias joins his big sister Christina at home.



Children are a gift from the Lord!



Newsletter—November 2024

MISSIONS

Thank you to all who donated to the Missionary Christmas offering and who worked so hard to make Harvest Weekend a blessing. For those who picked up the new missions booklet, please note that there is a different address for the Haglunds. Mail sent to the old address will not be forwarded to them. Their current address is N398 Twin Grove Road, Monroe, WI. Please make this change in your booklet. Booklets printed from now on will have the correct address. Trevor shared his need for more monthly support, so if this is something you feel led to help with, he can be reached at the email address in your booklet. Another thing to note is the message from Tim and Nicole Wilcox. They will be leaving their YWAM position in Baltimore as they feel led by God to shift out of ministry into something new back in Wisconsin. Please read their message in your missions booklet for more details.

Elise Morris is once again coordinating the Pleasant View Birthday Party scheduled for November 12th at 2 PM. Bingo prizes, birthday cards, cupcakes, and volunteers for the party are all ways we can serve these precious senior citizens. Each month residents look forward to this party to celebrate birthdays, so let's do what we can to brighten their day and share God's love for them. Suggestions for Bingo prizes are nut-free individually wrapped fun sized candy bars, diabetic or sugar free candies, individual serving size cookies, crackers, or chips, jewelry (no post earrings please), cologne, perfume, word search and other age appropriate puzzle books, and other small items they might like.

The missions ministry will soon be announcing the Short Term Mission Trip for 2025. Now is the time to start praying about the command to go, and whether you might be called to venture out beyond your usual day to day life by participating in a mission trip. You may recall Randy Haglund's comment during his Harvest Sunday sermon that "peering in gives you an opinion, going in gives you a testimony."



Do you have a friend? If you are married, your spouse is your best friend, except for the Lord Jesus Christ. Proverbs 17:17 tells us a friend loves at all times, and Proverbs 19:24

tells us there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

If you are a believer in Jesus, you should communicate with Him through prayer regularly and often. You should read God's Word daily and ask Him to speak to you through His Word.

Be a friend to other believers by praying with them and for them. Share how God is speaking to you through His Word. Share answers to prayer. This will be a great encouragement to other believers.

Pray for God's grace and mercy on America. Confess the sins of America as Nehemiah did in his prayer, he confessed the sins of his people. Prayer for honesty and integrity in the coming election with no voter fraud. If you need resources to help you know where a candidate stands on Biblical issues consult IVoterguide.com, Decisionmagazine.com, and the resources at the church welcome center. Ask God for wisdom in who to pray for. Consider the party platform of the candidate, not the personality. Pray that America will seek God and return to Him.



Get
your
tickets
today!

the DAREN STREBLOW comedy show

AN EVENING WITH DAREN STREBLOW

**\$15-general; \$25-VIP/Q&A;
\$12-group sales (10+)**

**DECEMBER 6, 2024 @
6:30PM
18TH AND 8TH EVENT CENTER
1802 8TH ST. MONROE, WI 53566**

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Newsletter—November 2024



Pizza Hut Lunch

Friday,
November 15th
11:30 AM

Monroe Pizza Hut

Contact Carol Hasselmann with
questions at 815-505-3324

With Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to these families

Chris & Laura Holverson and their family.
Laura's dad, James DeVoe, passed away
Monday, September 23.

John Hudson's family. John passed away on
Saturday, October 5th, 2024.

May God comfort each of you and
bless you with His peace.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



Pack your shoebox, make your payment
online or include **\$10** with each shoebox to
cover project and shipping costs (checks
payable to Samaritans Purse), and return
your shoebox to MBC
by **Sunday, November 17th!**

If you want to track your shoebox,
you need to make the \$10 payment online,
not in the shoebox.

Affix the QR coded label to your shoebox,
make the payment online by scanning the
code on your label with your smart phone,
or by manually entering the 9 to 15-digit
code from the label to track your shoebox.

Men's Ministry Events

Fire Pit Forum

Saturday, November 2, 4:30 to 7:30 pm
MBC Fire Pit

Life is full of hard questions. Many of us do not have a
good place to talk about real and challenging things.

The Men's Ministry Leadership team invites all men
and boys of the church to an open-forum fire pit
conversation. Come for food and respectful discussion
about hard issues. RSVP at the Welcome Center
to make sure everyone gets fed.

Food and beverages will be provided.

Bring a chair and your Bible

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 2, 8:00-10:00 am
Nehemiah Center

Contact Pastor Kevin with questions



Women's Brunch

Women of all ages—join us on
Saturday, November 9th
from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
in the Nehemiah Center.





Newsletter—November 2024

Growth Group News:

"I know why they call them Growth Groups. I have grown so much in the last month." – Joe Phillips

The purpose of our Growth Groups is to foster authentic Christ-centered relationships in the church.

Everyone is invited to join a Growth Group where you will experience connection with other believers, applicable sermon-based discussion, prayer and support in your walk with Christ.

The next session of Growth Groups will be starting on December 1st and running through February 22nd (taking two weeks off for Christmas and New Year's). Sign-ups for Growth Groups will be open 11/10 through 12/1 at the Welcome Center.

Contact Pastor Kevin with any questions.



Clarity House Update:

Back in May of this year, the Elders decided to use the services of Clarity House, an EFCA-recommended organization, to guide us through an 8-month process of discernment about how we, as a church, can move forward as the disciple-making body we are called to be.

The Clarity House Team was then formed: Pastor Dan, Pastor Kevin, Loren Bruehlman, Amy Haworth and Amanda Ohlrich. Our work began in September, and as a team, we have attended one in-person training and two live online trainings. We have also met three times to work on assignments between sessions.

Some key take-aways for me so far have been:

- Many churches operate under the "functional Great Commission of today" which is to "Go into all the world and make more worship attenders, baptizing them in the name of small groups and teaching them to serve a few times per month." This model of church, also known as "Attend-Connect-Serve," is inadequate for making disciples that make disciples.

- We need to be hero-makers. Leaders should not be the heroes of ministry in the church but should be equipping and empowering everyone in the church to be heroes themselves. This is begun by helping everyone recognize their "Crowd Cloud" (sphere of influence) and a "Person of Peace" with whom they can intentionally develop a relationship in order to share the Gospel.

If you have thoughts or questions about anything related to Clarity House, please don't hesitate to ask one of the team members listed above. We are excited about what God is doing in and through Monroe Bible Church!

In Christ,

Pastor Kevin

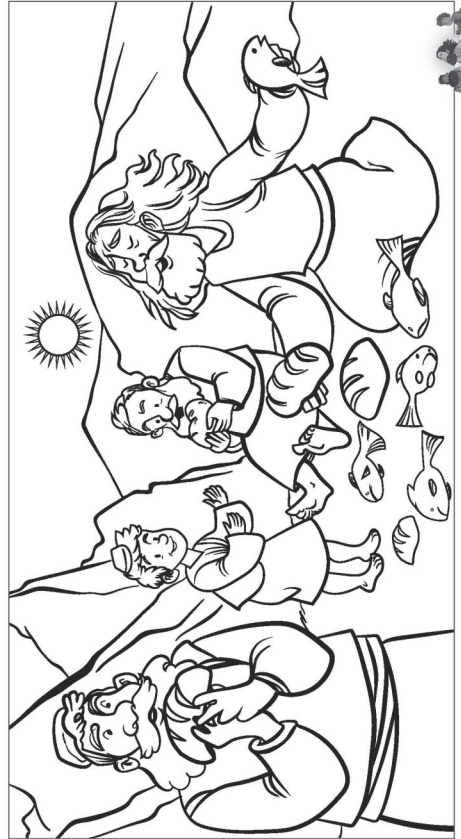


Activities Page

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

JESUS GIVES THANKS

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



Lead the Nomad to civilization.

