

Presby Press

RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND THIS MONTH: CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING IN FAITH

This Thanksgiving season, let's connect to the concept of thanksgiving that we see exemplified in the scriptures and in the Christian tradition. Here are six ways to celebrate Thanksgiving from a biblical perspective:

- 1. Give yourself time to explore Thanksgiving in Scripture.** First Thessalonians 5:18 reminds to give thanks in ALL circumstances! All circumstances. That can be difficult but you will see your life change when you approach every situation with God-inspired thankfulness. Here are some other verses/passages to explore concerning thanksgiving: Philippians 4:6, Psalm 7:17, Psalm 100:1-5, Psalm 107:1, Ephesians 5:20, James 1:17, Matthew 6:25-34, and Isaiah 12:1-6. There are many more, too!
- 2. Prayers of Thanksgiving.** Each day set aside time in prayer to focus on one thing in the life of Jesus and His Church that you are thankful for this month. You will be amazed at how this focuses your heart and day on the glory of Jesus.
- 3. Live and serve from abundance.** Second Corinthians 9:6-15 tells us to live generously out of the many blessings we have received and is a reminder that we will continue to be blessed into the future — blessing from God is not in limited supply! God wants to bless us. So let's live out of the abundance of the blessing we have been given and will be given. Look for ways to live abundantly. This newsletter is chalk full of ways to serve!
- 4. Be a part of our community Thanksgiving worship.** We will gather together as the faithful people of Linden to worship God with other area churches on Sunday, November 22 at 7:00pm at the Free Methodist Church. Let's demonstrate that we are thankful for our brothers and sisters! This is also where we take up a key offering for the Linden Ministerial Association Emergency Fund.
- 5. Fridge of Thanksgiving.** Throughout the month of November, I encourage you to fill the front of your refrigerator with notes and photographs of blessings that you are thankful for so that you can be reminded of God's blessings.
- 6. Give people your thanks.** If you do number four, you may see people on there that you need to reach out to and personally thank. It could be a phone call or a note or a conversation — but take the risk to let those people know you are thankful for them.

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SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

COFFEE HOUR Carla Juarez Nancy Robare

Would you like to be the face of hospitality for our congregation on Sunday morning? Helping with coffee hour is a good way to extend loving fellowship to our worshippers. If you'd like to help or want more information, call the office at 810.735.5755

USHERS	9:00AM	10:30AM
November 1	Joel & Lisa Harden, Deanna Harden	The Chapin Family
November 8	Cindy Brandt, Deb & Ben Brindle	Deb Wasylyshyn & Sue Chapel
November 15	Jesse & Sharon Foster, Gary Childs & Nettie Holtlander	Don & Paula Sweitzer, The Collins Family
November 22	Richard & Geri Geske, Leatha Cudworth	The Zysk Family
November 29	David Brownlee Dave & Cindy Shane	The Amendola Family

LITURGISTS

November 1	Jim Mars	Melissa Dugan
November 8	Liz Knuth	Kathy Selden
November 15	Doug Spalding	Trevor CeKander
November 22	Mary Leitkam	Sue Chapel
November 29	Doug Spalding	Andy Zysk

COMMUNION SERVERS

November 1st

9:00AM

Cindy Brandt, Deanna Harden,
Sharon Donaldson, and Dennis
Manner

10:30AM

Lisa Chapin and Sue Chapel

November 15th

10:30AM

Kim Herbert and Kathy Selden

If you would like to be a
communion server, please
contact Sue Eaton.

IN WORSHIP

If you would like to serve in
our worship services, please
contact Cindy Shane at
(810)750-8674.



A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Gracious God, I come before you to praise and adore Your Holy Name this day for the gift of _____ in Your Church Universal and here at Linden Presbyterian. I ask for your blessings upon _____ this day and in the coming year, that s/he may come to a deeper knowledge of Your love, grace, and peace in mind, heart, and spirit. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

November

1	Anna Marie Hurst	15	John Ingamells
3	Samantha Baldwin	27	Skye Collins
5	Richard Childs	28	Pamela Brownlee
6	Brian Hawkins Abbey Hetes Ana Montague	29	Don Neuville Jan Brinch Melissa Dugan
10	Chuck Chapel	30	Emily March
11	Dustin Hochkins		
12	Alissa Collins		
14	Carol Haller Jennifer Mann		

CONTACTS

Pastor

Reverend Seth A. Normington
pastorseth@lindenpres.com

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Melissa Dugan lpcoffice@lindenpres.com

Youth Ministry Intern

Jake Kirk 810.730.3783

Organist/Choir Director

Ed Arter 810.735.5755

Praise Band

Johnathan & Melissa Dugan

Jarrod Montague lpcoffice@lindenpres.com

MISSIONAL CONNECTIONS

Hello Friends in Christ!

Thank you to everyone who has given their time, talents, and resources to LPC's mission initiatives this month! We are truly blessed to work alongside such a generous congregation with a true heart for mission.

The first load of Packing with Pride suitcases was delivered last week. Your donations filled the back of a pickup truck! We will continue to collect suitcases throughout the month of November. After November, please see Kristen Garmyn if you would like information about where to drop your donations off. This is an ongoing initiative and Carol is always collecting. It was so awesome to see God working through her. Thank you, again, for your donations!

Socktober wrapped up in October! Thank you for your generous donations of socks, underwear, and other cozy items! They will be donated to local foster children. Your kindness and generosity is moving and we know that God brought Socktober to us so we could help those in need right here in our community.

Thank you to everyone who served at the Food Bank and Carriage Town in October. We are so blessed to continue these partnerships. It is awesome to see how excited this congregation is about these two service opportunities!

The Coat Drive is being held Saturday, November 7th from 11:00am-3:00pm. If you would like to volunteer during the drive, please join us in Whitney Hall! Behind the scenes, we have some very dedicated volunteers collecting, laundering, and sorting coats. This is a BIG JOB! Thank you to everyone involved in this very successful mission! It would not be possible without you! If you would like to help with the Coat Drive, please contact Leatha Cudworth.

Cereal Sunday is November 15th! If you are able, please bring in unopened boxes of cereal to donate to the FISH Pantry. Cereal is our Featured Food in November. Thank you, in advance, for your donations of this high-frequency item!

Lastly, this year an exciting opportunity to serve local families has presented itself! Do you have Thanksgiving traditions? Does your grandma make a traditional turkey dinner for your whole family? Maybe your dad roasts the turkey all day while you spend time preparing the yams and cranberries? We are very fortunate and have so much for which to be thankful. For some families, however, traditions like this are financially out of reach. Are you able to sponsor a local family's Thanksgiving dinner? For \$30, you can buy an entire Thanksgiving meal for a family in need. Our FISH Pantry, in partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, needs to purchase a minimum of 50 dinners to get this amazing rate (and have them delivered). The FISH Pantry needs YOUR help this year to make that dream a reality! Please see Kristen Garmyn, Fred Lewis, or Laura Huston if you feel called to help us help a local family this year.

If you have a heart for mission, please join our team! We meet at 7:00pm in Whitney Hall on the second Wednesday of every month. We'd love to have you!

Deacon on Duty

Carla Juarez

810.964.4934

In the event you have a pastoral care emergency after office hours, the Deacon on Duty is available to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They will be able to notify the proper people and provide you the care you need.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Dear Disciples of Christ,

Our 2016 stewardship campaign is under way! During the next few weeks you will be asked to make a commitment of your time, talents and resources towards our church's missions, programs and operational expenses for the upcoming year.

"How do I decide what God wants me to give?"

Six Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Will I give based on reason or by revelation?

Is my gift just what I think I can afford or is it what God wants to give through me? *"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."* Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

2. Does this amount really stretch my faith?

Do I truly believe God will provide for my needs? *"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."* 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

3. Does it show I value my hope of eternal reward more than material things on earth?

Do I live only for today, without regard to my eternal future? *"Put your hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Do good, be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share. In this way you will lay up treasure for yourselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that you may take hold of the life that is truly life."* 1 Timothy 6: 17-19 (NIV)

4. Will this amount demonstrate how much I love Christ and his church family?

Do I live my life for Christ's glory and thereby contribute help to those in need? *"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need."* Acts 2:44-45 (NIV)

5. Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice?

Am I willing to offer myself as a living sacrifice for all Christ has sacrificed for me? *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* John 3:16 (NIV)

6. Does this amount express the level of thanksgiving I have for how Christ has blessed my life and family?

Do my gifts truly express how grateful I am for all I have been given? *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights."* James 1:17 (NIV)

Prayerfully meditate on these questions and ask God to lead you as you and your family make your stewardship decision.

Blessings to you, Finance and Stewardship Committee

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Linden Presbyterian Church Stewardship Commitment 2016

We are all called to be stewards of the resources God has given us. . We may also provide stewardship by committing our time and talents towards the needs of the Church. I understand I may change my commitment at any time by contacting the finance secretary Laura Huston.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

YES, I/we will support our church financially with an annual gift of \$ _____,

which I/we would like to pay weekly, monthly, quarterly, other _____

will be paid by: Check/Cash Automatic debit (if new to ACH, please provide a voided check)

Would you like numbered envelopes for the year beginning January 1, 2016? Yes No

I would also like to show support with my time and talents in these areas:

Finance Committee Christian Education Youth Support Missions Building & Grounds Music & Worship

Permission is hereby granted to photocopy this page for use with the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program.

WEEKLY INCOME	BEYOND A TITHE		TITHE	UPPER RANGE GIVING			MIDDLE RANGE GIVING			LOWER RANGE GIVING		
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$ 200	30.00	24.00	20.00	18.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
\$ 300	45.00	36.00	30.00	27.00	24.00	21.00	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00
\$ 400	60.00	48.00	40.00	36.00	32.00	28.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00
\$ 500	75.00	60.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
\$ 600	90.00	72.00	60.00	54.00	48.00	42.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	18.00	12.00	6.00
\$ 700	105.00	84.00	70.00	63.00	56.00	49.00	42.00	35.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	7.00
\$ 800	120.00	96.00	80.00	72.00	64.00	56.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	24.00	16.00	8.00
\$ 900	135.00	108.00	90.00	81.00	72.00	63.00	54.00	45.00	36.00	27.00	18.00	9.00
\$1,000	150.00	120.00	100.00	90.00	80.00	70.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00
\$1,100	165.00	132.00	110.00	99.00	88.00	77.00	66.00	55.00	44.00	33.00	22.00	11.00
\$2,000	300.00	240.00	200.00	180.00	160.00	140.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	60.00	40.00	20.00
\$3,000	450.00	360.00	300.00	270.00	240.00	210.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	90.00	60.00	30.00

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE % would be for you.

YOUTH NEWSLETTER

November 1st – Middle School 6-7pm. High School 7:30-8:30pm. At the church.

November 8th – Middle School 6-7pm. High School 7:30-8:30pm. At the church.

November 15th – NO YOUTH GROUP! Fall Weekend for high school.

November 22nd – Progressive Thanksgiving Dinner. Meet at the church at 5pm.

November 29th – Middle School 6-7pm. High School 7:30-8:30pm. At the church.

Fall Weekend – November 13-15th at Timberwolf Lake YoungLife camp. All 9-12th graders welcome, a fun filled weekend, forms in Whitney Hall!

Winter Weekend – February 5 – 7th at Timberwolf Lake YoungLife camp. All 6-8th graders welcome, Fun weekend at a beautiful camp. Forms in Whitney Hall.

Campaigners – Every Friday morning there is school at 6am at Kim and Kevin Whisman home located at 521 South St. Linden. Food and a message before school!

December Newsletter Deadline

Communication is key to a vital congregation!

Please send all submissions to lpcoffice@lindenpres.com by

Monday, November 16th at 5:00pm

A MINUTE ON FAITH

Faith is about taking the first step.

What should you do when you know something is God's will but you're scared to death to do it? Do it anyway. Faith is about taking the first step.

You may be thinking, "But I'm waiting for God to do something?" Has it ever occurred to you that God may be waiting on you?

Throughout the Bible we see this important truth: The Holy Spirit releases his power the moment you take a step of faith. When God told Joshua to cross the Jordan River, it was at a flood stage. It was only after Joshua stepped into the river, that the waters stopped flowing and the whole nation of Israel crossed on dry ground.

God waits for you to act first. Move ahead, and do what God tells you to do regardless of your fears and feelings. In 2 Corinthians 5, the Bible says, "For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight". This is how you cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

What is God asking you to do that you haven't done yet? Take that step of Daring Faith today.

How do you get God's dream for your life? You do three things:

First, dare to ask God for it. The Bible says, "Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of..." Ephesians 3:20 (TLB). If you want God's dream for your life, you must dare to ask him what he wants you to do. Then ask yourself, "What would I attempt for God if I knew I couldn't fail?" Let that expand your vision.

Second, believe God's promises. Never let an impossible situation intimidate you. Let it motivate you to pray more, believe more, trust more, experience more, learn more, and grow more. Faith always works in the realm of the impossible.

Third, dream big. Let the size of your God determine the size of your goal. You haven't really believed God until you've attempted something that cannot be done in the power of the flesh. God's dream for your life can only be accomplished, as Ephesians 3:20 says, "By his mighty power at work within you." If you can do it in your own strength, then it's not a God-sized dream. But the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:24, "the one who calls you is faithful and he will do it!"

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

1 ST	JAKE KIRK, YOUTH MINISTRY, PREACHING	16 TH	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
3 RD	BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING	18 TH	SESSION
6 TH -7 TH	SYNOD METTING IN TOLEDO	19 TH	RED CROSS BLOOM DRIVE 12-5:30
7 TH	COAT DRIVE/BOY SCOUTS RAKING LEAVES	22 ND	COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER
8 TH	MEMBER/MEMORIAL RECOGNITION	23 RD	MAGAZINE DEADLINE
10 TH	YOUTH SUPPORT TEAM MEETING	25 TH	OFFICE CLOSED
11 TH	COMMITTEE/TEAM MEETINGS	29 TH	ELDER KIM WHISMAN, PREACHING
15 TH	MILITARY CARE KITS AND CEREAL SUNDAY	30 TH	OFFICE REOPENS

*WE WILL BE DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 3RD AT 9:30. ALL HELP IS WELCOME!

*CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT 7:00PM. ONE SERVICE ON DECEMBER 27TH – LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAYS	6:30PM MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH / 7:30PM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
MONDAYS	7PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY / 8PM AA
WEDNESDAYS	10AM QUILTERS
THURSDAYS	6:30PM CHOIR / 8PM BELLS
FRIDAYS	6AM CAMPAIGNERS

Financial Snapshot

The finances through September 2015:

	Income	Expenses	
Budget	\$155,937	\$154,405	
Actual	<u>\$162,505</u>	<u>\$156,047</u>	
Difference	\$ 6,568	\$ (1,641)	Total difference \$8,209

The income slipped this month with commitments coming in below budget; however the total year to date income still remains above budget projections. Payments for our building insurance and a per capita payment put our expenses over budget for September and year to date. Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship!

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(See Genesis 6-8)

07-24-2015

WELL BOYS, I HAVE TO SAY IT'S BEEN
NICE HAVING THREE DOGS THESE PAST
YEARS ... BUT NOT SO MUCH TODAY

Linden Presbyterian Church

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