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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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## FROM THE PASTOR...

**A big dog walks into a butcher shop** carrying a purse in its mouth. He puts the purse down and sits in front of the meat case. The butcher laughs and asks, "What is it, boy? Want to buy some meat?" "Woof!" barks the dog. "Hmm," says the butcher. "What kind? Liver, bacon, steak ..." "Woof!" barks the dog. "And how much steak? Half a pound, one pound ..." "Woof!" The amazed butcher wraps the meat and finds the money in the dog's purse. As the dog leaves, the butcher decides to follow. The dog goes into an apartment house, climbs the stairs up to the third floor and starts scratching at a door. The door opens and an angry man starts shouting at the dog. The butcher yells, "Stop! That dog is the most intelligent animal I've ever seen!" The man laughs, "Intelligent? This is the third time this week he's forgotten his key." He wasn't thankful.

Pastor Andy Cook tells this story: Pam worked in downtown Chicago. Every morning, she walked by a middle-aged woman in a shabby coat standing in front of a church asking people for spare change. The woman greeted everyone with a smile and a "Good morning." Pam always gave her something. But one day the woman in the shabby coat disappeared. Pam wondered what happened to her. Then, one day, she was in front of the church again, still wearing the same shabby coat. Pam reached into her purse, but the woman stopped her. "Thank you for helping me all those days. You won't see me again because I've got a job." With that, she reached into a bag and handed Pam a wrapped package. She had been standing at her old spot waiting, not for a handout, but for the people she recognized so she could give each of them a doughnut. She was thankful.

Having a thankful spirit isn't easy. Someone said, "Even though we can't have all we want, we ought to be thankful we don't get what we deserve." Will Rogers has some helpful advice: "Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for." An attitude of gratitude can be hard to cultivate. One day 10 lepers ran into Jesus as he was traveling to Jerusalem to die on the cross. And even though the ten of them are together in their suffering, one of them stood apart from the rest. This

surprised Jesus. Not that this healed leper returned with joy and thanksgiving, but that the other nine didn't even think of it. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

All disease is bad, but leprosy just might be the worst. Leprosy literally rots away the body. Sores, missing fingers, missing toes, damaged limbs; oozing sores; horrible stench of rotting flesh. The disease can bring pain and suffering for years. But the emotional pain can be just as bad. Lepers were cut off from their families and communities. They could have no contact, none, with their spouses, children, or grandchildren. They were immediately removed from society; no kiss goodbye, no embrace. The only community left were other lepers. So, they tended to roam together, looking for food, begging for assistance: always standing at a distance and shouting; warning people to stay away. What was it like from friends and family for a lifetime; forced to warn everyone to stay away from you?

Ten poor suffering souls come upon Jesus one day "Master have mercy on us!" But instead of throwing them some coins or giving them a sandwich Jesus says a most unusual thing. "Go and show yourselves to the priest." And amazingly, they all go. I say that because Jesus doesn't come right out and tell them he would heal them. Still all ten lepers believed Jesus could heal them if he wanted.

Without any questions, all ten head off to the priest. And on their way, they were healed. Overcome with the sweet madness of unspeakable joy, they run to pick up their lives maybe scarcely believing the nightmare was finally over. But only one returns to Jesus and gives thanks. Maybe that seems strange to us. Christian

writer G.K. Chesterton said, "When we were children, we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not



grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?" At the very least we figure if you can't be content with what you have received, be thankful for what you have escaped. And those lepers escaped an awful lot.

One thing setting this unlikely thanker apart from his nine friends is he doesn't confuse gratitude with other emotions. All ten recognized Jesus was someone who could heal them physically; someone who had the power and authority to do something about their sickness. They stood at a respectful distance and called him master. All ten believed Jesus could do something for them; all ten recognized there was something special about Jesus. But nine fell short of gratitude.

And so it goes! How human it is to forget to be thankful. We see Jesus as a source of help or healing or comfort but fail to grow beyond that to gratitude. Sickness, fear, loneliness attack and we're quick to turn to Jesus but once the crisis is past, old habits return and we forget the hand of God that carried us through. I've seen it a lot. Someone has a health scare and is in the hospital, he gets out and is in church every single Sunday for a couple of months. Then I'll see him maybe once a month, then it's back to his twice a year pattern. Having a thankful spirit isn't easy. An attitude of gratitude is hard to cultivate.

Those nine ex-lepers can teach us something. Somewhere on the trip they experience healing. Nine are so focused on their own lives they can't make room for thanksgiving or Jesus. One realizes the deeper significance of what happened to him. He perceives. He gets it. We can reverence Jesus; we can recognize the truth about Jesus; we can even respond with obedience; but we can also fall short of gratitude to him. So then, what is gratitude? Let's leave the nine and focus on the one: that unlikely thanker who returned and gave thanks. What made that guy different from the others? What did the one have the others lacked?

Luke writes, "One of them, when he saw he was healed," in Greek the word "healed" is "hi-a-tha," which means to mend, to repair. It's like a broken bone finally mending. Then after that Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed?" This word "cleansed" is a different word than hi-a-tha. This is "kath-a-ri-dzo," the root word for our "catheter." It also is a medical word meaning "remove the impurities." Then after this, Jesus says to this very thankful man, "your faith has made you well." "Well . . ." that's a different word. It's not a medical word. This is the word, "so-so," which means, "saved." The Greeks used it for people who escaped dangerous situations. Matthew says the angel told Joseph to name the Christ child "Jesus," because that name

meant he would "save people from their sins." He would "so-dzo" the people. And Jesus says to this very thankful man willing to follow God before his condition changed and returning to worship God even before picking up the pieces of his life - Jesus says your faith has sodzo you (saved you). Jesus pronounces a complete healing, a wellness that passes all other wellness terms. This man, Jesus says, has real perception. This man truly understands.

"Go, your faith has made you well." The one had a living faith while the other nine only had a faith of convenience. The one showed real perception. He didn't just see that Jesus healed; he saw and understood Jesus healed HIM. He really perceived what God had done; not just to him, but for him. He saw.

If you want to be this kind of a thankful person, you must understand thanksgiving isn't so much about what has happened to you as much as it is how you see what has happened to you. This leper could really perceive. The word "perceive" means become aware or conscious of (something); come to realize or understand. To discern; to understand the difference between things.

One person looks at the cross and sees God's love and the forgiveness. Another looks at the same cross and sees and understands God's love there is for him and the forgiveness of his sins. If you want to be the unlikely thanker, stop and discern what God has done then go farther: stop and PERCEIVE what God has done, God has done FOR YOU.

James writes, "Faith without works is dead." And "I will show you my faith by what I do." Faith not tied to life; faith without impacting action; is no living faith at all. Unlike the other nine, the thankful ex-leper put his faith in action. What began with perception, ended with worship. The man returned praising God and falling at his feet. Nine others didn't come back to thank Jesus, but I don't think it was because they didn't appreciate it. No, I think they were so selfishly absorbed in their own world they forgot God just touched them in a very personal and powerful way. Nine forgot, but one man sensed God's presence in his life so deeply he fell at Jesus' feet, recognizing a debt he could never repay. Jesus brought this ex-leper face-to-face with God-in-action and showed him in no uncertain terms God's love is personal. It is FOR HIM. "Go, your faith has made you well." Why would Jesus say that when all ten were healed? Ten were physically healed, but only one was fully healed. Only one was saved. ✪

...Pastor Steve Eckert

## REGULAR WORSHIP RESUMES

Sunday - November 3

Worship Services-8:15 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School/Bible Study - 9:30 AM



Nov 03	8:15 am	Comm. Svc.
Nov 03	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study
Nov 03	10:45 am	Comm. Svc.
Nov 07	7:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Nov 10	8:15 am	Praise Svc.
Nov 10	8:30 am	SS/Bible Study
Nov 10	10:45 am	Praise Svc.
Nov 11	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Men's Club
<b>Nov 15</b>		<b>November Ministry Schedule Due</b>
Nov 17	8:15 am	Comm. Svc.
Nov 17	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study
Nov 17	10:45 am	Comm. Svc.
Nov 19	9:30 am	Tabitha Quilting Group
<b>Nov 20</b>		<b>November Newsletter Deadline</b>
Nov 21	7:00 pm	Council Mtg.
Nov 24	8:15 am	Worship Svc.
Nov 24	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study
Nov 24	10:45 am	Worship Svc.
<b>Nov 28</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Worship</b>

## NOVEMBER SUNDAYS

- Nov 03 – Christian Education Board
- Nov 10 – Wobrock Family
- Nov 17 – Foley Brothers
- Nov 24 – Anita Lange



## LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION



### MITE BOX – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY

The Mite Box will be available on November 3 outside church. Once again, you will have the opportunity of supporting many worthwhile Lutheran mission activities.



## MOWING IN NOVEMBER

- Nov 02 - Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting
- Nov 16 - Mark Hathaway, Terry Morgan, Dick Scholar
- Nov 30 - Corey Maddison, Harold Oliver



Nov 10	Edda Bevilacqua
Nov 13	Dena Maddison
Nov 14	Xavier Vargas
Nov 16	Kelli Zamudio
Nov 22	Gerry Wagner
Nov 25	Lily Vargas
Nov 29	Rebecca Foley



Nov 22	Noel & Clara Rowe
Nov 26	Floyd & Ellen Olson, Randy & Crystal Shaffer
Nov 28	Bruce & Heidi Summers

## INTRODUCING GIVEPLUS CHURCH

We have a new church-giving app! We are excited to share with you a new way to give to the church—GivePlus Church is a mobile-giving app that enables you to make one-time or recurring gifts from your smartphone. Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download the app for free and start donating today! ✨



**Thursday – November 28**  
**9:00 AM**

## ELDER'S CORNER

### THINK ABOUT THIS:

If there ever was a time when nothing existed, nothing could ever exist.

*We can't be sinless but we can sin less.*

Whatever we prioritize, we idolize. Whatever we idolize, we prioritize.

Don't be walking around with guilt and shame that Jesus already paid for on the Cross.

God is always trying to give us good things, but our hands are too full to receive them.

Don't get so caught up with the gift that you forget the Giver.

Feeding people without sharing Jesus is just sending people to hell with a full stomach.

Don't look within yourself for the answers—that is where the problems are.

Death is just another phase of life for Christians.

Life is like a coin—you can spend it anyway you like, but you can only spend it once.

Cling to God in your pain; it might not help the pain, but it will teach you to cling to God.

In a court of law would there be enough evidence to convict you of being a Christian?

God doesn't mind if we have good stuff. God doesn't want our stuff to have us.

There are only two kinds of people: sinful people who are forgiven or sinful people who are not forgiven.

If our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit; why not build a Cathedral?

Some of us watch sports and scream ourselves hoarse, but won't even move our lips to tell others about Jesus.

I am on my knees for there is no place else to go.

There are only two kinds people: The Saints and the "Aints".

In the physical realm we eat and are satisfied. In the spiritual realm the more we eat the hungrier we get. The more of the Word we consume the more we want. The longer we go without eating (God's Word) the less our appetite becomes.

Anything minus love equals nothing.

Exercise your faith to develop spiritual muscle.

One has to trample over the Cross to get to Hell.

Thank God we receive mercy rather than justice. ✨

May God richly bless you all,

...Rudy Stowell



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

#### November's Featured Items – School Supplies

**Shoebox Fillers:** All items listed in the October newsletter have been received and are no longer needed. The following is the latest list of items required to complete our shoeboxes:

**66 stuffed animals/plush toys**

**24 size small 2-4 flip-flops**

**3 size large 10-14 flip-flops**

**25 activity books**

**toys, toys, toys!!**

**Please complete and turn in backpacks**

**Packing Party:** Everyone, young and old, is invited on **Sunday, November 3**, after late service for our annual packing party. We will fill 200 boxes. A light lunch will be provided prior to packing.

Thank you for your generous response.

**Contact Persons: Kathy Lee (530-263-0479)  
Anita Lange (805-680-8522)**



# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



**GRATITUDE game**

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

**What you need:**

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

**Red:** a need God has provided for  
**Orange:** a gift you've received  
**Yellow:** something you've recently learned  
**Green:** something in nature  
**Blue:** a special memory  
**Brown:** someone you love

**What you do:**

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!



## A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



*Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.*

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philipians 1:3	Hannah
"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47	David
"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2	Mary
"My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1	Paul
"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30	Moses

Answers: Philipians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

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#### **Our Mission**

"Responding to God's love, Lutheran Church of Our Savior desires to reach more people for Christ by proclaiming Him, by growing in faith, and by caring for all people."



#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE (effective November 3, 2019)**

**Sunday Worship – 8:15 AM & 10:45 AM  
Sunday School and Bible Class - 9:30 AM**

*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*