



The Elim Waterfall

November - December 2022

From the Pastor:

So...what's in your wallet? That's the tagline of a very popular advertising campaign for Capital One. Of course, the message it communicates is obvious. If you don't have their credit card in your wallet, you're missing out! You've got a good reason to complain! On the other hand, if you do have their credit card in your wallet, you are most blessed and should be most grateful! In that same vein, I might ask you, what's in your freezer? If you have some Rib Eye steaks in there, you are most blessed and should be most grateful! On the other hand, if all you have in there are tube steaks, you have every right to complain! Or, as a police officer might say during an arrest, "you have the right to remain silent!"

I don't know about you, but I'm often guilty of comparison gratitude. If I have more than others, I can easily count my blessings and offer thanks. However, if I see others with more than I have, I can just as easily count my complaints!

Henri Nouwen once said, *"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and 'thine', and claims the truth that we are all blessed! Blessed because we are all God's children, loved and redeemed!"*

Needless to say, November is the month when we take special care to count our blessings and give God thanks. As we do, it might be helpful to remember that the roots of Thanksgiving have always been in times of want rather than in times of plenty. The pilgrims celebrated that first Thanksgiving after a long, brutal winter that claimed many lives. Abraham Lincoln in 1863, proclaimed Thanksgiving as a national holiday WHILE THEY WERE STILL in the middle of the Civil War! The Apostle Paul said it well, *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*" You see Paul knows that our blessings have less to do with the "things" that we have in our lives, and more to do with the "who" we have in our lives...the Savior we have in our lives! That's where Thanksgiving intersects with Christmas. Thanks to Immanuel, God with us, we can find blessing even in pain, and gratitude even in adversity.

Mary embodies this spirit, when she sings a song of thanksgiving even in the middle of an unexpected pregnancy, a dazed and disturbed fiancé, and a community that will certainly be buzzing with gossip in the near future. Yet she sings: *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed."* (Luke 1:46-48). Her world has been turned upside down, but she views herself as blessed and gives God all the thanks and praise.

Moral of the story? Let's do our best to base our gratitude, not on comparison shopping, but on God's abiding presence and the salvation He has come to bring. Let's remember the words of the Psalmist (116:12-13), *"What shall I return to the Lord for all His goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord!"*

GREAT ARE YOU LORD AND GRATEFUL ARE WE!

Worship SCHEDULE

November 6, "They're Grrreat!: Love" Matthew 25:35-40

November 13, "They're Grrreat!: Go" Matthew 28:16-20

November 20, "Thanksgiving & Family Feuds" Genesis 4:3-7

November 27, "Christmas Has Me Stumped: Jesse is Too!" Isaiah 11:1

December 4, "Christmas Has Me Stumped: Matching DNA" Matthew 1:1,6,16

December 11, "Christmas Has Me Stumped: Called by God" 1 Samuel 16:7-13

December 18, "Christmas Has Me Stumped: Guided by His Light"

1 Samuel 23:6, 9-13

December 24, "Christmas Has Me Stumped: No Crib for a Bed" Luke 2:1-7

December 25, "Christmas Has Me Stumped: Celebrating God's Presence"

2 Samuel 6:1-16

During the month of November, we will be collecting food and taking monetary donations to go to the **Rochelle Christian Food Pantry**. Look for the marked donation box in the sanctuary.

Some specific needs are:

- Refried Beans
- Cereal
- Dried Potato Packages
- Paper Goods
- Hygiene Products

For every \$1.00 donation they are able to purchase about \$8.00 in food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank.



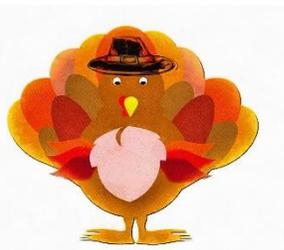
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

We will celebrate Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 20. After our 10:00 service of praise and gratitude, we invite everyone to join us for a **THANKSGIVING POTLUCK**.

Check the bulletin for more details as the date draws closer!!

End of Year Reports from church committees are due on Thursday, December 1. Please turn them into the office or email them to fhayenga@aol.com. Report packets should be available on December 4.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, December 11 following worship. Budgets will be reviewed and approved for 2023. We will also vote to approve Rodney Hayenga to the office of Elder and Bob Alderks to the office of Deacon for three-year terms (2023-2025).



dates to Remember

November

- 6 – DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS: *turn clocks back 1 hour*
** Consistory following worship service in church office
- 11 – VETERANS DAY
- 20 – THANKSGIVING POTLUCK following worship service
- 24 – THANKSGIVING DAY



December

- 1 – **End Of Year Financial Reports DUE!!**
- 11 – Annual Congregational Meeting following worship service
- 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service at 4 p.m.
- 25 – CHRISTMAS Service at 10:00 a.m.
(No Bible Study at the Hayenga's nor Coffee & Fellowship afterwards)
- 28 – Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (A)

November

- 2 David Alderks
- 3 Norma Swanson
- 4 Hunter Bee
- 19 Luke Calbeck
- 20 Gary Nefstead
- 22 Deb Maas
Gerry Dykstra
- 27 Denny & Sharon Alderks (A)

December

- 7 Marilyn Remmers
- 9 Mairin Meyers
- 13 Jamie Alderks
- 15 Tricia Mueller
- 17 Audrey Brink
- 18 Cary & Betsy Winn (A)
- 19 Cary Winn
- 28 Bob & Jan Maas (A)
- 31 John Swanson



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6