

# Word of Hope

MOUNT HOPE  
United Methodist Church



## Pastor McGill Writes. . .

### *200th Anniversary Sunday Celebration a Success*

By the time you read this, the 200th Anniversary Sunday celebration will be in the past. However, what a celebration! It is hard to imagine we have been here 200 years and counting and you and I had the privilege of marking this historic time in our history. We only pass this way once, and what we do for the Lord today is what counts.

What a privilege to have Bishop Matthews with us to praise the Lord and recognize the Methodist movement in this area. Francis Asbury, our first Bishop, visited the home of Aaron Mattson on Red Hill Road and preached

there several times. This led to Mr. Mattson giving an acre of ground to the Mount Chapel congregation for construction of a new place of worship. This was in 1807, and we stand to bear witness to the faithfulness of this church body for 200 years of service to our Lord. Hallelujah!

We are so blessed with so many who have been members 25—49 years (201) and 41 with 50 or more years of membership. What a blessing and even better to be able to have you in membership for all these years and to be present for this special time in the history of Mount Hope

Church. May God bless you!

We pause to give special thanks to Mrs. Jan Duryea and the Anniversary Committee for their leadership and hard work in making all of the events of this year a wonderful celebration of 200 Years of Hope. Thank you!

Also, thank you to all of you who worked behind the scenes to make this year a wonderful celebration! We will have our 200th Christmas praise to climax this year and to celebrate NEW Birth and life as we move forward in Hope!

Pastor McGill

## *November Is Tithing Month*

### ***Catch the Vision!***

November is Tithing Month at Mount Hope Church. Each member in the Church Family is asked to join together in giving at a rate of 10% of their income for the four Sundays in November. This means that, if you are not giving a 10% tithe, you will give an additional amount above your regular giving that

will bring you to a goal of 10%.

If you have been to worship, you know that on September 23 I gave a challenge for the Church Family to join with me as servants of Christ to reverse the giving trend in the church. I said that I personally am increasing my giving by \$57.70 more per week till the end of the year.

Won't you join me? If you presently give above \$57.70 per week will you join me in giving an additional \$57.70 per week? If you are giving below \$57.70 per week, will you begin to give at that level now? If 279 giving families will join with me, we can close out this year with a blessing.

Why 279 families?

(continued on page 2)

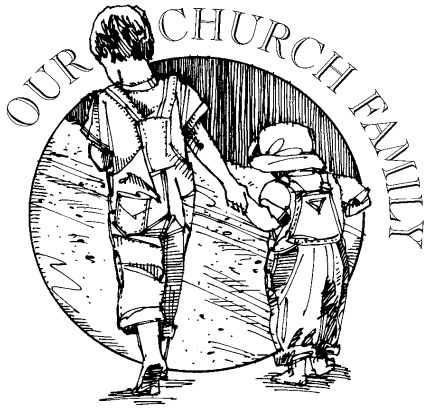
November 2007

### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

- ◆ *3rd: set your clocks back before you go to bed*
- ◆ *Sunday, 4th: Communion, All Saints Sunday*
- ◆ *Wednesdays: Devo Dessert*
- ◆ *Sunday, 11th: Youth Sunday, Baptism*
- ◆ *Sunday, 18th: Harvest Home, Volunteer Appreciation, Baptism; 7 pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Timothy's Lutheran*
- ◆ *22nd: Thanksgiving*
- ◆ *25th: Christ the King Sunday*



**BAPTISM**

*Bryant Matthew Culp*, son of Matthew & Jennifer Culp, October 10

**DEATHS**

*Harold Moyer*, October 1

**TRANSFER**

*Scott, Denise, Julia and Kelly St. Germain* To Elam UM Church

*Memorials*

Contributions in memory of the following members purchase the new choir chairs in the sanctuary:

- Andrew Alessi
- Josephine Ashworth
- Robert Atkinson
- Sherrill Farrell
- Margaret Mielke
- Aileen Singley

The Food Pantry was given monies in memory of Clara Stuart.

The Memorials Committee



To Homebound member  
*Jessie Oppenheim*  
November 11th

• If you have information about Jessie's address, please call the church office.

*Community Thanksgiving Service*

All are invited to attend the Aston Community Thanksgiving service at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Pennell and Lamppost Roads. The

service will be on Sunday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. Our Sanctuary Choir and the Bells of Hope will be participating, as will other church choirs. Pastor Phil Ealy will

bring the message. Plan to come and join in giving thanks and praise to the Lord!

*Sundays in November*

**November 4th: All Saints Sunday, Communion**

We'll remember those who have past over into Glory! We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**November 11th:**

**Youth Sunday**

Our Youth Fellowship and their counselors will have an uplifting time of worship for one and all. You will not want to miss

this Sunday and the enthusiasm our young people have for the Lord!

**November 18th: Thanksgiving Sunday, Harvest Home and Volunteer Appreciation**

Pastor McGill will be preaching at all services (8:15, 9:30 and 11:00). His message: "Let Us Give Thanks." The Sunday school classes bring their

gifts of food items to the sanctuary. Even if you're not in a Sunday school class, feel free to bring in your food contributions. Early in the week, Thanksgiving "baskets" will be given to area families in need.

**November 25th: Surprise Sunday**

You'll just have to come and see!

*Harvest Home*

November 18th is Harvest Home. Please bring your contributions of food items to the Sanctuary. Each year the Food Pantry Committee, (Marian Titter, Sue Keeley and Peggy Stuart) put together Thanksgiving "baskets" for area families in need. Each family is given far more than a basket could

hold: a turkey, all the fixing's for a delicious Thanksgiving meal and several grocery bags more, to tide them over a few more days.

Your cash contributions enable the committee to purchase fresh produce and turkeys. Or if you want to donate a turkey, just put it in the Habbersett Hall kitchen

freezer and let Sue or the office know it's there. If you have coupons for a free turkey and won't need it for your own family, we gratefully accept them.

Last year we aided 19 families.

Thank you for your kindness to those who have fallen on hard times.

*November is Tithing Month (continued from Page 1)*

In Mount Hope Church we have 720 giving families, which includes our shut-ins and youth. Of those 720 giving families, we can reasonably expect that 279 have an earned income of \$30,000 or more.

\$57.70 per week is a tithe on an annual income of \$30,000. If your income is below that amount, you can still give a tithe on it

and rejoice. If you have already accepted the \$57.70 challenge I gave during worship and in the "November Is Tithing Month" letter, calculate a tithe on your income and set that as your goal to work toward. If you are already giving above a tithe, praise the Lord!

Begin now by accepting the Lord's challenge in Malachi 3:10 during the four Sun-

days in November, and give a tenth—a tithe—of your income to the Lord. The Lord promises such a blessing in return that "there shall not be room enough to receive it!"

Throughout the Sundays of November, members who have taken the challenge will be witnessing of the Lord's faithfulness. Come and hear them and join the challenge!

Pastor McGill



## Note'able Notes

You can still make a 'NOTE'able Difference! In fact, we need you to.

It's very exciting that the organ console is installed and the pipes are well underway to being fitted into the chambers above the altar. Our hope was that it would debut on Anniversary Sunday, but unfortunately illness prevented that from happening.

But funds are still

needed to finish paying for this beautiful instrument that will grace the church for many years to come. We still need to raise the balance of \$24,600. You can do so by "sponsoring" a note with your donation of \$100 or more, \$50 or \$25, or in any amount that you want to give.

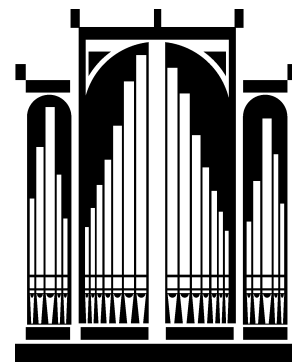
On the 200th Anniversary of Mount Hope Church, the 3-manual organ

is a lasting legacy for the future of those worshipping here.

Let's pray that it's at least another 200 Years of Hope!

Watch *The Sunday Messenger* for announcements of the time and date Walsh Organ Co. will give us a tour of the organ, an informative question and answer session and a concert.

You won't want to



## New Members Class

If you would like to unite with Mount Hope Church in full membership, you're invited to attend the New Members' Class on Saturday, November 10th from 9:00 to

11:30 a.m. in the Lounge. The class is open to anyone who is 18 years or older, has been worshipping here and believes they have found their nurturing church home.

Please call the church office (610.459.0248) to sign up so we're sure to provide enough materials for all participants.

## A Thanksgiving Prayer

Father,  
At this Thanksgiving season  
We come in praise to You,  
To thank You for earth's bounty,  
For love and friendship, too.

We're grateful for the freedom  
To come and go at will,  
To worship You each Lord's Day  
Our hungry souls to fill.

We're thankful for the Bible  
Which shows us right from wrong  
And for Your holy presence  
Which fills our lives with song.

We're grateful for so much, Lord,  
Yet, grant us one request—  
To live each day with thankful hearts,  
That others might be blest.

~Chris Ahlemann

*God, grant me the  
Serenity to accept  
the people I can-  
not change, the  
Courage to change  
the one I can, and  
the Wisdom to  
know it's me.*

## Upcoming Christmas Events

### Family of God Christmas Tree

This anniversary year, our Christmas tree in the sanctuary will be called the Family of God Tree. Begin taking your family pictures now for the tree. Put your names on the back of your photos.

After Christmas the photos will be made into a collage and the name of each person listed so that each one can be identified.

This will be an historic

occasion and the collage will be kept as a part of the Mount Hope Church archives for future generations to see.

### Living Nativity

Scheduled for Saturday, December 15 from 6:30—8:30 p.m. We will need actors, sound people, animal helper...etc. If you are interested in participating please see Pastor Phil. Christmas is coming, let's make this year a special one!

### Messiah

As part of our Advent and Christmas festivities this year, the Sanctuary Choir will perform Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 23rd at the morning worship services.

Be sure to note your calendar to include this wonderful way to enhance your celebration of the Christmas season.

Word of Hope

*Our Life Is Written in Actions*

One thing we can say about our Lord is that He was an activist who got things done. No Gospel writer brings that out more clearly than St. Mark. Read just the first chapter of the Gospel and you will find that, again and again, Jesus is described as doing something "immediately." For example, when He saw the fishermen, James and John, mending their nets, something about them impressed Him.

So, Mark tells us, He "immediately" called them to follow him as fisher of men. (Mark 1:20)

Jesus is invariably pictured as doing things "immediately". Clearly we see Jesus as a doer, an activist, going from one place to another preaching, teaching, healing, encouraging, blessing. ...

What about His followers? If we are to truly represent Him, our work is cut out for us. Shouldn't we show forth the light

of Christ in this dark world? Each of us can develop our own ministry somewhere in this world. Maybe it is as undramatic as visiting the elderly or working with underprivileged youth.

Every church needs activists who will give their time and talent to help out. The main thing is to do it, and to do it, not sometime in the future, but beginning now. Today!

*Children's Center News*

Our November Bible Verse: "Always give thanks." Psalms 136:1

Our morning prayer always begins with acknowledgment of all we are thankful about here at the Children's Center! The children will learn to appreciate everything they have and about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving.

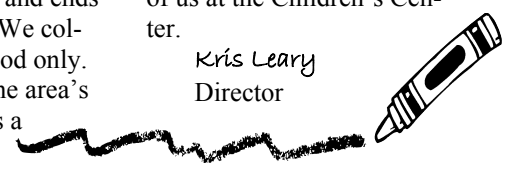
Our fruit of the Spirit this month is "Peace", and chapel will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM.

Our annual food drive starts November 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on November 16<sup>th</sup>. We collect cans and dry food only. The food benefits the area's less fortunate and is a wonderful way to

teach the children how important it is to help others and share.

Have a blessed and bountiful Thanksgiving from all of us at the Children's Center.

Kris Leary  
Director



*What's In a Billion?*

The next time you hear a politician use the word "billion," think about whether you want the politician spending your tax money! A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising

agency did a good job of putting that figure into perspective ... A billion seconds ago it was 1959.....A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.....A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.....

A billion days ago no one walked on two feet on earth. A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate our government spends it! ~from the internet

*What's New In the Library*

Pastor Tom has acquired a DVD series for the library titled, *21 Ways To Defuse Anger and Calm People Down*. It teaches peace-keeping skills you'll use to prevent blowups, mediate disputes, and foster teamwork.

We also have Max Lucado's newest, *3:16, The Numbers of Hope*. He says it isn't possible to know too well, or ponder

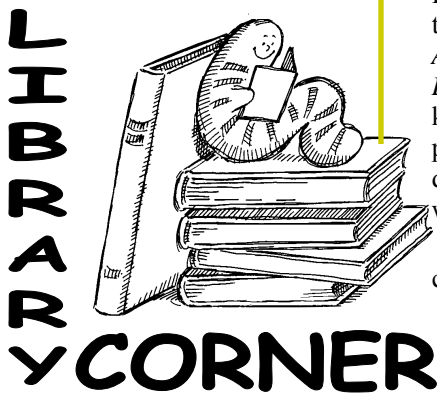
how much God loves us. Read about it again in Max's unique interpretation. Then check out *Respectable Sins*, by Jerry Bridges. He gives examples of "acceptable" sins as jealousy, anger, pride, unthankfulness, and judgmentalism, and asks if Christians have become so preoccupied with the major sins of our society, that we have lost sight of our need to deal with our own more subtle sins.

There are several new

fiction series, more than I can describe here -- check the Word Wagon, and new book shelf in the library!

Speaking of the Word Wagon. . .please don't forget to sign the card in the back of the book and drop it in the box on the top of the shelf. We like to know who are books are visiting.

Lynn Ward  
Librarian





## Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class begins Saturday, January 5th for youth 13 or older, who want

to joint Mount Hope Church in full membership. Class will meet from 10

a.m. to Noon in the Lounge. Call Pastor Phil or the office to sign up.

## What the Church Is to Us

The church is many things. It is weddings and holy vows spoken in love and reverence. It is funerals and the promise of life. It is babies being baptized. It is comfort and hope for a better tomorrow. It is Easter lilies. It is worn hymn books. It is work and sacrifice and holy communion. It is confirmation and rededication.

The church is little children singing, "Jesus Loves Me." It is robed choirs singing anthems of praise. It is

Christmas carols and boys in robes being wisemen and shepherds, little girls in gowns portraying angels. It is bell ringers proclaiming joyous music for the Master.

The church is stained glass windows. It is an altar, a pulpit and God's Word in a big leather book. It is fellowship dinners and foreign missions. It lifts the spirit. It is the sound of chairs scraping the floor in the Sunday school rooms. It is chimes ringing clear on a crisp, still morning.

It is an organ's deep tones. It is heads bowed in prayer, a warm, friendly handclasp, a solemn whispered benediction. It is Bible study groups throughout the week. It is a youth retreat. It is people working together on a Work Day at the church.

The church is giving and receiving. It is budgets and figures. It is wood and bricks and stone. It is goodness and mercy. It is a manger bed, a star and a cross. It is a way of life.

## Boost or Boot?

*Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the Word of God to you.*

*Hebrews 13:7*

I read of a church in Mississippi that wanted to encourage its pastor by placing a special article in the church newsletter. The author of the paragraph titled it "Boost the Pastor a Bit." The article was sent to a print shop, and a typesetter went to work on it. When it appeared in the weekly church paper, however, the headline read, "Boot the Pastor a Bit." Although we smile at this, some

people may feel that way about their minister.

Most pastors take their calling seriously. They recognize that they are charged with the awesome responsibility of feeding the flock of God and overseeing its spiritual welfare. Often, however, the immensity of their task goes unappreciated. Although they are not looking for praise, they need the encouragement of those who are helped by their ministry. The assurance of prayer, a word of commendation, an expression of love—what a reinforcement

these can give them!

Stop and think for a minute of all the holy influences that have touched your life. Probably high on the list of those who have contributed to your spiritual benefit would be a godly pastor.

Does your minister need encouragement? Look for ways to give him a boost—not a boot!

*We often take for granted  
The servants of the Lord,  
Forgetting that God called them  
To teach and preach His Word.*

## Thanksgiving Has Two Parts

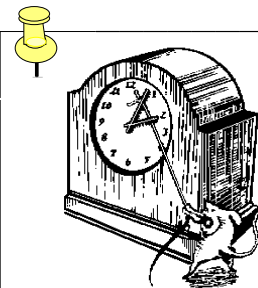
Thanksgiving has two parts—gratitude and generosity: Gratitude for the blessings of God, and generosity for others.

That is the way it was on the first Thanksgiving Day. Despite incredible hardships the Pilgrims celebrated

their first harvest in 1621 by setting aside a day for Thanksgiving. They worshipped God in a service of gratitude...and they shared generously with the native American Indians in joyful feasting. Provisions were

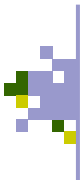
meager...generosity was abundant. That is the genesis of our national holiday. It is a holy day as well—when properly celebrated. Thanks...and giving. Thanks to God... giving to others.

~ Richard Halverson



**OK, so you CAN turn you clocks back now! The Energy Policy Act of 2005 determined that Daylight Savings Time now ends on the first Sunday in November.**

**A PASTOR  
CAN'T LEAD  
UNLESS HIS  
PEOPLE ARE  
BEHIND HIM.**



# Holiday Candle

On Thanksgiving, we share a special meal with family and friends. Make this holiday candle as a festive centerpiece for your table.

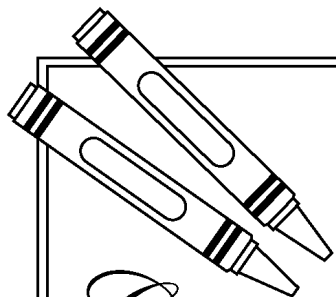
### What you need:

- Paper towel
- One 8-oz. clear plastic cup
- Petroleum jelly (Vaseline)
- Paper or plastic disposable bowl
- About 8 oz. of a variety of dried beans, peas, corn, etc.
- Bottle of white glue
- Plastic spoon
- An 8- to 10-inch taper or dinner candle
- Adult to help



### What you do:

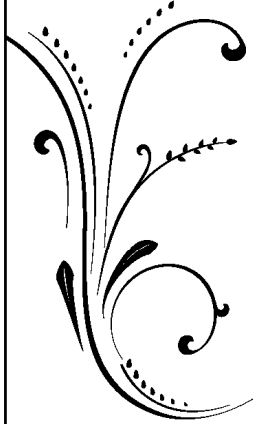
1. Using the paper towel, rub a generous amount of petroleum jelly on the inside of the cup (bottom and sides).
2. In a bowl, pour the dried-bean mixture.
3. Squeeze enough glue into the bean mixture to generously coat it. Stir the mixture with the spoon.
4. Spoon about half of the bean mixture into the greased cup. Then place the candle, with any plastic wrapping removed, into the center of the mixture. Next, fill the cup with the rest of the mixture. Smooth the top to make it flat, making sure the candle stays straight.
5. Squeeze extra glue around the hole made by the candle. Let the bean mixture dry completely, which could take a day or longer.
6. When the bean mixture is dry, gently pull the candle. Both the candle and beans should come out as one. (If they don't, pour more glue and wait another day.)
7. Place your candle on a small plate for a festive Thanksgiving centerpiece.



# Just for KIDS

## Counting Our Blessings

THANKSGIVING IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO "COUNT OUR BLESSINGS." GOD BLESSES EACH OF US DAILY IN SO MANY WAYS. SOLVE THE FOLLOWING MATH PROBLEMS. THEN WRITE THE WORDS ON THE NUMBERED LINES BELOW TO COMPLETE EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV.



- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ____ Father    | 10 + 15 = ____ in        |
| 10 + 9 = ____ heavenly  | 6 - 3 = ____ to          |
| 10 + 5 = ____ blessed   | 12 - 6 = ____ and        |
| 2 - 1 = ____ Praise     | 6 + 6 = ____ Christ      |
| 7 + 7 = ____ has        | 18 - 9 = ____ our        |
| 11 + 11 = ____ every    | 22 - 11 = ____ Jesus     |
| 12 + 12 = ____ blessing | 1 + 1 = ____ be          |
| 10 + 10 = ____ realms   | 7 + 6 = ____ who         |
| 13 + 13 = ____ Christ   | 2 + 2 = ____ the         |
| 8 + 8 = ____ us         | 10 - 5 = ____ God        |
| 8 + 9 = ____ in         | 4 + 4 = ____ of          |
| 5 + 5 = ____ Lord       | 9 + 9 = ____ the         |
| 10 + 11 = ____ with     | 10 + 13 = ____ spiritual |

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 23 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_ ”

### EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

This Update Printed Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<p><b>Every Sunday:</b> Worship at 8:15, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages</p>			<p><b>Community Events:</b> <b>Sundays</b> - 6:00 p.m. Cub Den 1 (101) <b>Alt. Mondays</b>— 6:00 pm Cub Den 2 (FH) <b>Tuesdays</b> – 7:00 p.m. Daisy Troop (101) 8:30 pm Alcoholics Anony- mous (FH) <b>First Wednesday</b> – 7:00 p.m. Barix Support (FH) <b>Thursdays</b> – 6:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) <b>Alt Thurs.</b> 6:45 pm Brownie Trp 53312 (101)</p>			<p><b>1</b> <b>All Saints Day</b> 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00 AM Library open</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>4</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> <b>Communion</b> Daylight Savings--set back 1 hour Library open after worship 9:15 AM &amp; Noon - Blood Pressure Screening (HH) 6:30 PMKFCJrs(FH) 6:30 PMYF (S,2,6, HH)</p>	<p><b>5</b> 1:00 PMBblStdy (Longhurst) 7:30 PMSelah Bible Study (DePrinzio)</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Election Day</b> <b>MHCC Closed</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:15 PMGenes is Bels (104) <b>6:30 PMDevo Dessert</b> (HH) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) <b>7:00 PM Trustees (Cem</b> 7:00 PMBels of Hope (104)</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>11:00 AM Busy Beavers</b> (Kit) <b>4:00 PM WOH D ea dline</b> (Ofc) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216) 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Girls Bbl Stdy (6) 7:30 PM Muddy Boots Young Men's BS (L)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:00 AM New Members class (L)</p>		
<p><b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> <b>Baptism</b> <b>Youth Sunday</b> Library open after worship 6:30 PMKFCJrs(FH) 6:30 PMYF (S,2,6, HH)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:00 PM Messiah instru reh (S) 7:00 PMMen's Felwshp (L)</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9:00 AM Library Open <b>7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)</b> 7:00 PMKeliGirls BS (home)</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:15 PMGenes is Bels (104) <b>6:30 PMDevo Dessert</b> (HH) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PMBels of Hope (104) 7:15 PMJ.O.Y. Singers (HH)</p>	<p><b>15</b> 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:00 AM Library open 6:00 PM Denig Crockett wed reh (S)</p>	<p><b>17</b> 3:00 PM Denig Crockett wed (S)</p>		
<p><b>18</b> <b>Harvest Home</b> <b>Baptism</b> <b>Volunteer Appreciation</b> Library open after worship 6:30 PMKFCJrs(FH) 6:30 PMYF (S,2,6, HH) <b>7:00 PM Thanksgiving</b> <b>Community Serv (St.</b> <b>Timothy's Lutheran)</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 1:00 PMBblStdy (Longhurst) 7:30 PMSelah Bible Study (DePrinzio)</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>8:30 AM WOH Mailing (HH)</b> 9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:15 PMGenes is Bels (104) <b>6:30 PMDevo Dessert</b> (HH) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PMBels of Hope (104)</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>		
<p><b>25</b> <b>Laity Sunday</b> <b>Christ the King Sunday</b> <b>UM Student Day</b> Library open after worship No YF</p>	<p><b>26</b> Bishop's Advent Day Apart (Aldersgate) 7:00 PM Messiah instru reh (S) 7:00 PMMen's Felwshp (L)</p>	<p><b>27</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PMKeliGirls BS (home) <b>7:00 PM Worship Com</b> (L)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:15 PMGenes is Bels (104) <b>6:30 PMDevo Dessert</b> (HH) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) <b>7:00 PM Finance (L)</b> 7:00 PMBels of Hope (104)</p>	<p><b>29</b> 9:00 AM Library open 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>			



## Thankfulness

We as Americans like the idea of the self-made person. Our rugged individualism has done great damage to the art of appreciating others. It is difficult for some people to accept gifts or acts of kindness. "I do not take charity", I have heard more than once in my ministry.

When we accept a gift from others it is a humbling experience. It does not matter if it be a card in the mail or a meal in a desperate time. Large or small, a gift is something that we did not earn.

Generally when someone has been overtly kind to us, we will go out of our way to thank them. We either thank them personally, or in a card. Every bride and gradu-

ate knows the long hours that are spent writing thank you notes. It is necessary and important to demonstrate our thankful hearts to people for their kindness.

All of this makes me wonder how much time is spent in our being thankful to God? Do we daily thank Him for the things He has given us? Perhaps it goes back to our rugged individualism. Are we so bold that somehow we think that we deserve the things we get from God? Do we think that in some way we had anything to do with our salvation other than yielding to God's grace?

As we approach the Thanksgiving time of year I encourage you to count your

blessings. Try to think of all that God has given you. Some of you might even want to write that list down to see all of what we can be thankful for. A thankful heart is a soft heart. It is a heart that gives God all the glory.

My life verse is Hebrews 12:28 "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be *thankful*, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,"

My prayer is that we all lift up our thanks to God this harvest time of year. He has given us so much, and the Kingdom we will receive will never be shaken. Thank you God.

Pastor Phil

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