

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Helen Township, Minnesota
(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)
Dennis Reichow, Pastor (320) 864-3093

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THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 24, 2011
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WELCOME! *"I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips."* (Psalm 34:1) *Welcome to all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us worship him with songs of praise and thanksgiving for he is our salvation. If you are visiting with us today, we would enjoy the opportunity to get to know you. Please sign our guest book.*

Today's Theme: "Thank the Lord at all times"

Thoughts for a Prayer Before Worship: The Lord repeatedly supplies abundant spiritual food for the souls of all people. Thank him, for he has graciously provided for your eternal well-being.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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It's Time To Thank The Lord

Pre Service: "We Gather Together"

"This Is My Father's World / For the Beauty of the Earth"

OPENING HYMN: 609 "We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer"
(stand for verse 3)

- P:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- C:** **And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.** (Gen 1:1, 31)
- P:** Where morning dawns and evening fades
- C:** **You call forth songs of joy.**
- P:** You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.
- C:** **The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.**

- P:** You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.
- C:** **The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.**
- P:** The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;
- C:** **they shout for joy and sing.** (Psalm 65:1-13)
- P:** He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth:
- C:** **wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.** (Psalm 104:10-15)
- P:** How many are your works, O LORD!
- C:** **In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**
- P:** These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time.
- C:** **When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.** (Psalm 104:24-30)
- P:** Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men,
- C:** **for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.** (Psalm 107:8,9)
- P:** "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.
- C:** **But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good.**
- ALL:** "Salvation comes from the LORD." (Jonah 2:8, 9)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

- P:** Yet, we know that we have not always honored our Lord as he deserves, therefore we come before him in repentance and seeking his mercy: For humble hearts that acknowledge everything we have as a gift of your grace and for wisdom to use the blessings you give us according to your holy will, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C:** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** For the forgiveness of our sins, sins of complaining and unthankfulness, and for strength to overcome our lack of trust in you and our failure to consider you our greatest treasure, we pray to you, O Christ.
- C:** **Christ, have mercy.**

P: For the joy that comes from your promise of salvation, for your Spirit that sustains our lives, for the contentment that comes with knowing your love, and for hearts that overflow with thanksgiving in response to your grace, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: Creator of all we have, as you bless us with many things – your Son, a heavenly home that awaits us, earthly homes, food, drink, families, jobs, automobiles, time for recreation, earthly wealth, etc. – lead us to truly appreciate all that you have given us. May your abundant blessings move us to return a portion to you with hearts full of thanksgiving.

C: Amen.

P: God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all. He has put away our sins in Christ and now, along with him, graciously gives us all things. By his Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament he empowers us to resist temptation and to be thankful for all of his blessings. With his power, let us rejoice in his love and respond with lives of thanksgiving.

C: Amen

SONG OF PRAISE: (612) “For The Beauty Of The Earth”

**For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit, lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Devotional Message & Scripture

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (Pew Bible p. 277)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. (1 Chronicles 29:10)

Songs: “For the Fruit of His Creation” (Upper grades)
“Clap Your Hands”

Devotional Message & Scripture

Deuteronomy 8:11-20 (Pew Bible p. 277)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Choir : “Thanks Be To God”

Confessional Lesson:

Large Catechism, 4th Petition

“Give us this day our daily bread”

P: This is the word of our faith.

ALL: Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. (1 Chronicles 29:12)

HYMN: 610 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Devotional Message & Scripture

Luke 17:11-19 (Pew Bible p. 1576)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. (1 Chronicles 29:13)

HYMN: 613 “Come, You Thankful People, Come”

OFFERING

Music offering: “Sing To The Lord Of Harvest”

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of life.

C: We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

P: We thank you for giving us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

C: We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

P: Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to life in your kingdom.

C: Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

RESPONSIVE LORD'S PRAYER

P: O God, through Jesus' sacrifice you have restored us as your forgiven children. In his name we pray:

C: Our Father in heaven,

P: Help us to know you through your inspired Word and to live by it as children in your family.

C: Hallowed be your name.

P: Give us your Holy Spirit to rule in our hearts, and use us to extend your kingdom of grace to others.

C: Your kingdom come.

P: Make us zealous to carry out your will as gladly as the angels do, and to conform our will to yours.

C: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

P: Merciful Lord, since you are the provider of all things necessary for our bodies; fill us with trust.

C: Give us today our daily bread.

P: Continue to erase our iniquities, and help us gladly to forgive and to do good to those who wrong us.

C: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

P: We know the devil seeks to destroy our souls and the world lures us to ruin by appealing to the desires of our flesh. Guard us from the poison of misbelief and the trap of unrepented sin.

C: Lead us not into temptation.

P: Keep safe our bodies and souls, our property and honor, and above all send the Holy Spirit to preserve our faith in Christ which leads to life everlasting.

C: But deliver us from evil.

P: For all these petitions we look to you as King of Kings and Lord of your church.

C: For the kingdom,

P: You alone hold the power to grant our requests.

C: the power,

P: We worship you from whom all blessings flow.

C: and the glory are yours, now and forever.

P: Relying on Jesus, who cancelled our sins and made us acceptable in your sight, we pray with confidence:

C: Amen. It shall be so.

HYMN: 615 "We Thank You for Your Blessings"

PRAYER

P: Most gracious God, by whose wisdom the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We give you hearty thanks and praise for the return of seed time and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all other blessings of your merciful goodness bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we pray, give us a true sense of these great mercies, so that in thankfulness we may walk before you in humility, holiness, and obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all glory and honor, now and forever.

C: Amen. (spoken)

BLESSING

C: Amen. Amen. Amen. (sung)

Choir: "Jude Benediction"

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Organist: Christy Ittel

Trumpet: Justin Koepf

Piano: Catherine Templin

Tyler Koepf

Kathy Stuedemann

Stephanie Koepf

Flute: Jennifer Koenen

Violin: Rebecca Litzau

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: *We will be decorating the church on Saturday, November 26th beginning at 9am. All members are encouraged to come and help.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRACTICE: *We will begin practicing our Children's Christmas Eve program NEXT Sunday, November 27th following Sunday School. Practice time run until noon for all our Sunday's in Advent. If you have any questions or concerns, speak with Pastor Reichow or Dennis Rabe.*

BUDGET UPDATE: *Our General Fund is still in the red and our Building Fund has dropped deeper in the red. Please remember this as you continue your walk with the Lord and consider offering your cheerful and willing gifts in service to him.*

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING *All confirmed congregation members are invited to participate in an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, Nov 27th. We will be discussing a proposed update to our church constitution and a change in our leadership structure. Then, we are planning to have another meeting on Dec 11th after worship to discuss further any items with this proposal and have a vote.*

JOB OPENINGS: *The custodian position and the secretary position are open! Please see one of our trustees or Tim Schuth for more information on either position.*

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: *We are planning to go Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 3rd. All members are invited to join and spread the story and spirit of Christmas through song. If you have any questions or would like additional information you may speak with Pastor Reichow or Lonnie Rabe.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS: *The Ladies Aid is offering Christmas cards for sale. Check out the selection on the table in the narthex. Thanks for your support. It's greatly appreciated.*

ST. JOHN'S LADIES AID *is hosting its annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 4th beginning with a catered dinner at 12:00pm. All church members, your friends and relatives are invited. The cost of the meal is \$8.00 per person. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex by November 27th.*

Thanks — For One Hundred Things
Use these suggestions to organize one hundred things for which you are truly thankful:

- Ten gifts from the garden
- Ten meaningful memories
- Ten favorite meals
- Ten handy tools
- Ten Christian friends
- Ten favorite Bible stories
- Ten Gospel promises
- Ten medical miracles
- Ten special blessings of the year
- Ten wonders of nature

Suggested Table Prayers

Before the Meal:

Gracious God, from your hand comes all that sustains our life: the fruits of the earth to nourish our bodies and the gift of faith that brings hope and joy to our spirit. Accept our gratitude and praise! Bless those gathered here as we break bread in your name. May we receive with thanksgiving this food from your hand and, rejoicing, resolve to share with others. We offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus. Amen.

After the Meal:

We give thanks, heavenly Father, for the way you have revealed your gracious heart through countless gifts and the wonders of creation. We offer special thanks for the gifts of caring and sharing exchanged in the lives of those gathered here. May our **thanksgiving** grow into **thanksgiving** as we show our gratitude to you through service to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.