



Voice of Redeemer



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume 53—Number 11

November 2024

Pastor's
Thanksgiving
Message



Think of that little band of people who crossed the Atlantic in a boat that was 26 feet by 112 feet and landed on the New England coast during a bitter cold winter in 1620. At times that first year food was so scarce that the daily ration was only five grains of corn! In early New England, it was the custom at Thanksgiving time to place five kernels of corn at every plate as a reminder of those stern days in the first winter. The

Pilgrims wanted their children to remember the sacrifice, sufferings, and hardships through which they had safely passed -- a hardship that made possible their settlement in a new land where they were free to practice their faith. They wanted to keep alive the memory of that sixty-three-day trip taken in the tiny Mayflower. They desired to keep alive the thought of that rock-bound coast, its inhospitable welcome, and the first terrible winter which took such a toll on lives. (As you may know, they had intended to land in Virginia, which would have been a bit warmer.)

Later that next year, the Pilgrims were surprised to discover a Native American, Squanto, who spoke English. (He had been enslaved and taken to Europe previously). He lived with the local Wampanoag tribe. With the assistance of Squanto as interpreter, the Wampanoag chief Massasoit negotiated an alliance with the Pilgrims, with a promise not to harm each other. They also promised that they would aid each other in the event of an attack from another tribe. William Bradford, the pilgrim leader, described Squanto as “a special instrument sent of God.”

Squanto worked hard to prove his value to the Pilgrims as not only a vital communicator but also an expert on resources. He taught them how to cultivate crops that would help them get through the next brutal winter. The Pilgrims were delighted to find that corn and squash were easy to grow in the Massachusetts climate.

As an expression of their gratitude, the Pilgrims invited Squanto and around 90 Wampanoag to join them in a celebration of their first successful harvest in what they called the “New World.”

A three-day feast that took place sometime between September or November of 1621, the first Thanksgiving featured fowl and deer on the table — and plenty of entertainment around the table as well.

St. Paul reminds us, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

Continue to give thanks in all circumstances and a happy Thanksgiving holiday to all!

Pastor Jon Christenson





Applying Bible Principles

A wise person once observed, "Half of any task is having the right tool, and the other half is knowing what to do with it." Although we don't often consider it as such, money is a tool which God uses in our lives as a means of spiritual growth.

You see, money is not an end in and of itself. It is a means to an end. And in God's hands, one of its primary "ends" is to instruct us and to help us grow spiritually. God especially wants us to avoid our natural tendency which is a bent toward selfishness, greed, and hoarding. That's why the Lord Jesus said, "Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because a person's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be" (Luke 12:15).

Well, if an individual's life does not consist in having a lot of possessions, in what does it consist? Jesus provided an insightful answer to that question in Matthew 6:20-21, where He said, "... store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. For your heart will always be where your riches are."

Now, according to Jesus' teaching in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25), there is nothing wrong with saving. There is nothing wrong with investing or earning interest on investments. There is nothing wrong with being a wise steward by planning for the future.

In fact, Jesus taught that those who do so are to be commended. But our primary emphasis as God's children is to make our investments in the "Bank of Heaven." When we do that, our investments are secure. They are not affected by inflation, by theft, by wear and tear, or anything of the kind.

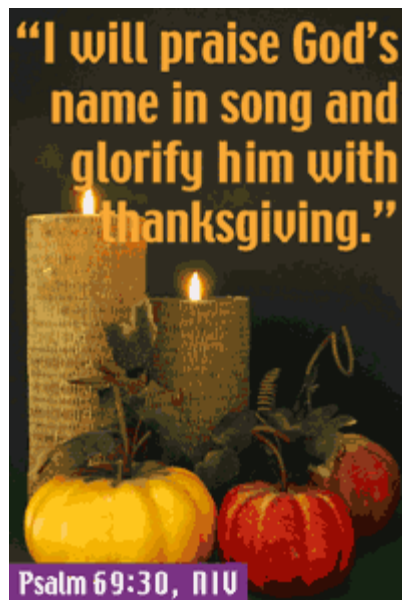
There is only one way to make deposits in this special "bank": By giving to the Lord's work. Although the money is used here, it is credited to your eternal account. Each time you give your tithes and offerings at Redeemer Lutheran Church, you are giving to the Lord by investing for eternity. You are storing up "riches . . . in heaven" that will glorify God forever.

Psalms 95:1,2,6

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.





Honoring the memory of those who have joined the Saints.
 Stephanie Cohen, Shirley Rice , Jamie Shartmann
 November 3, 2024

| IN HIS SERVICE | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Area of Service | November 3 | November 10 | November 17 | November 24 |
| Altar Guild | Louise → | | | |
| Assistant | Louise → | | | |
| Flowers | Olson family | Julie Griffin | Sue Morton | Smith family |
| Lector | Louise | Laura | Judy | |
| Greeter | | | | |
| Coffee hour | | Judy | Phyllis | Smiths |
| Counters | Sue, Bruce | Sue, Jan | Sue, Bruce | Sue |



Rosie Baker celebrating her 90th birthday!
Happy Birthday, Rosie!



Pastor Jon and Mickey with her new pup
at the annual blessing of the animals.



Dakota looking on as Pastor
gives Money Penny a
blessing.



Sue holding her new puppy Reno,
after being blessed by Pastor Jon.



Caitlin holding Tobias as he
gets blessed by Pastor Jon.

Pictured above

HONORING ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI WITH OUR ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Thankful





NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

SAVE THE DATE



Sat. November 9th
Please help if possible.



LUNCH BUNCH: is Wednesday, Nov. 6th, 11 am , @ Coconut Joe's, 4158 California Ave. All are welcome. Let Judy know if you plan to attend.



November 17
11 am



- Leo Olson** 01
- Jillian Uecker** 02
- Maia Olson** 04
- Becky Grove** 13
- Hudson Hairfield** 13
- Mark Smith** 22
- Taryn Grove Watt** 24



- Bill & Lucy Saltzman** 02
- Pastor & Katy Christenson** 10
- Mark & Louise Hall** 17
- Mark & Tammy Smith** 21
- David & Christa Schroeder** 27

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY & QUILTING is Wednesday 11-13-24, 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Karen Musgrove will have lessons on the knitting machines at 12:30pm. Anne-Marie Truax will furnish a snack. Please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday 11-20-24 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss God's Power Works In Us from Ephesians 3 & 4 & Gather magazine. Lyda Barger will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited!

WINE & DINE: will not meet in Nov. & Dec., but will resume in January 2025.



GAME DAY will meet on Nov. 27 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch at 12 noon, games begin at 12:30. All are welcome.

SMILE AWHILE - or GROAN!

I saw an audiologist today, but I think I'll get a second opinion. Why on earth would I need a heron egg?



Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before retiring Saturday, night—Nov. 2.



Following is a list of our friends who have been lifted up in prayer by our faithful Prayer Warriors.

Sept. 27, 2024



Oct. 25, 2024

Nathan

Sharon

Caylin

Please know that your prayers are so very much appreciated. Thanks and Blessings to all!



THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS

December 1
Evening Vespers
Dec. 10, and 17
6:45 pm

Christmas Eve is Tuesday, Dec. 24

CHARITY FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

ENDLESS HOPE AND CARE TO GIVE is the motto of Mercy Ships –since over 50% of the world’s population lives near a coast, ships are the best way to reach people in need with personalized, state-of-the-art medical care. The care is free and most of the hospital staff either donate their time and talent or do so at much less than average wages for their profession. Make your checks out to Redeemer with a note to Mercy Ships.



Just P.U.S.H.

One night, a man was sleeping in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with the light and the Creator appeared. The Creator told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Creator explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

The man did the same, day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore, and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain...

Since the man was showing signs of discouragement, the Adversary decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the man’s weary mind:

“You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn’t budged. Why kill yourself over this? You can never move it,” thus, giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. “Why kill myself over this?” he thought. “I’ll just put in my time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough.” And that is what he planned to do, until one day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Creator. “Creator,” he said, “I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?”

The Creator responded compassionately, “My friend, when I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push.” “Now you come to me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back is sinewy and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, and your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven’t moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith in My wisdom. This you have done. I, my friend, will now move the rock.”

At times, when we hear a word from the Creator, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what the Creator wants is just obedience and faith in Him.... By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still the Creator who moves the mountains. When everything seems to go wrong ... just P.U.S.H.! When the job gets you down ... just P.U.S.H.! When people don’t react the way you think they should ... just P.U.S.H.! When your money looks gone and the bills are due ... just P.U.S.H.! When people just don’t understand you...Just PUSH!

P.U.S.H – Pray Until Something Happens

(Anonymous)

HAPPY Thanksgiving

I AM GRATEFUL FOR:

.....

.....

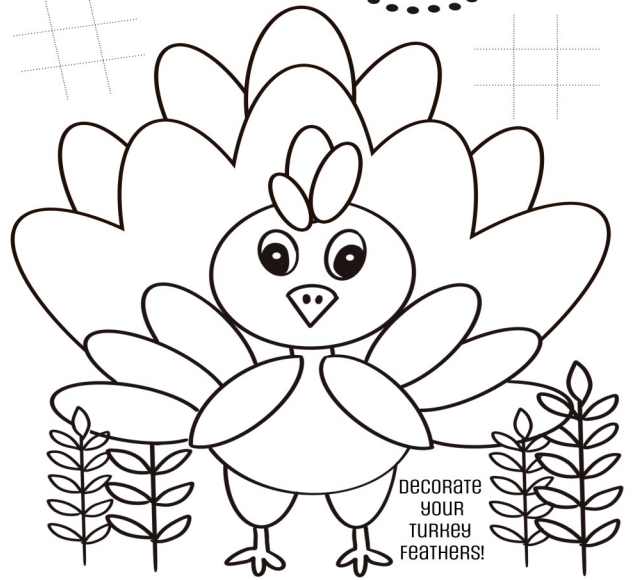
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WORD SEARCH

TURKEYEGMX
 GATHERHRGV
 DPRKVYAAUQ
 EOIMPPRTKT
 GRSRFLVEYH
 FSOCAREFRAN
 AQNLMTSUPN
 LOOBLHTLUK
 LHVLLAVQMS
 YVEEYNPQPG
 FIMSKKEZKI
 LJBSKFCWIV
 THEEVUTXNI
 ZBRDDLZMQN
 GRATITUDEG

THANKFUL BLESSED
 THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER
 FAMILY GRATEFUL
 GATHER TURKEY
 GRATITUDE HARVEST
 FALL PUMPHIN



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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
2024 Financial Report

| | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Receipts | 21,416.00 | 13,162.00 | 25,963.05 | 13,619.00 | 20,898.05 | 20,465.00 | 12,980.90 | 12,681.92 | 29,257.57 | 170,443.49 |
| Budget | 16,750.83 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 150,757.55 |
| Difference | 4,665.17 | (3,588.84) | 9,212.21 | (3,131.84) | 4,147.21 | 3,714.16 | (3,769.94) | (4,068.92) | 12,506.73 | 19,685.94 |
| Expenses | 11,832.90 | 12,631.49 | 13,829.76 | 13,354.43 | 17,436.20 | 21,502.85 | 14,836.74 | 18,459.65 | 14,968.27 | 138,852.29 |
| Budget | 16,750.83 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 16,750.84 | 150,757.55 |
| Difference | (4,917.93) | (4,119.35) | (2,921.08) | (3,396.41) | 685.36 | 4,752.01 | (1,914.10) | 1,708.81 | (1,782.57) | (11,905.26) |
| Loan Receipts | 1,250.00 | 950.00 | 1,725.00 | 900.00 | 2,800.00 | 925.00 | 1,325.00 | 775.00 | 925.00 | 11,575.00 |
| Loan Payments | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 9,765.00 |
| Difference | 165.00 | (135.00) | 640.00 | (185.00) | 1,715.00 | (160.00) | 240.00 | (310.00) | (160.00) | 1,810.00 |

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
2525 BELLE TERRACE, P O BOX 13132-93389, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

Pastor: Rev. Jon Christenson 832-7881 Secretary: Phyllis Elrod

E-mail address: rlcbakersfield@sbcglobal.net Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
|  Fall Back Sunday 11/3 |  Christ the King Sunday Nov. 24 |  NATIONAL Bible WEEK NOVEMBER 24-30 | | |  ALL SAINTS' DAY 9am—1 pm | 2 9am—3 pm A.A. 5:30-6:30 |
| 3 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:25  | 4 | 5 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30 | 6 Lunch-Bunch 11 am Pacifica 10-11 | 7 | 8 | 9  A.A. 5:30-6:30 |
| 10 9:30 worship Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:25 | 11  Honoring ALL WHO Served THANK YOU VETERANS | 12 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30 | 13 Quilting & Prayer Shawl 9am -3 pm | 14 Worship & Music 10 am | 15 Council 6 pm Fellowship Hall | 16 Garden Club 9 am- noon A.A. 5:30-6:30 |
| 17 9:30 worship Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:25 | 18 | 19 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30 | 20 Pacifica 10-11 Afternoon Circle 1:30 | 21 | 22 | 23 A.A. 5:30-6:30 |
| 24 9:30 worship coffee 9:30 10:30 worship S.S. Coffee 11 10:30 31 | 25 | 26 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30 | 27 Senior game day 12:00 bring lunch, games @12:30 | 28  | 29 | 30 A.A. 5:30-6:30 |