



ALC Connections November 2011

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

November 2011 Newsletter

The Discipleship Chat

Occupy Church

We've been hearing and seeing a lot about protests these days. There are certainly a lot of needs among people; times are tight for many: loss of jobs, foreclosures, mounting debt among the many problems.

I also notice a certain emphasis on what we don't have, and what others have, ie. the 1%. I have no special interest in defending "the 1%." However, when we focus on what we don't have, we usually lose sight of what we DO have.

That doesn't mean that we don't have needs. Some of our needs might be quite urgent. But in all of our cases, God has indeed been gracious and given to us.

Remember that promise in Matt 6:33, after Jesus has spoken about all our needs: "But **seek first** the kingdom of God, **and His righteousness**, and *all these things will be given to you as well.*"

Satan wishes to distract us from God, living as His children, and His great promises and blessings. He'd love to keep us focused on what others have, and what we don't have (remember the 9th and 10th commandments warn us against coveting what others have.) Despite our needs, we can look closely in our lives, and begin to count the many blessings that God has given us. The starting point is to recognize that what we are and have comes to us from God; it is not from ourselves.

Thanksgiving is not to be just a season feeling, or an occasional observance. It is to be a continual attitude of the Christian, enhanced by the Holy Spirit. We live in constant gratefulness to God for the way in which He touches our lives and provides for us (often, *through* us!) What others have should be irrelevant to our relationship with God. What has God done for you? What has He done to show His provision and love for you? What has He done to show His faithfulness to you? What has God done to remind you that you're His child? And don't forget the greatest single thing He did: send Jesus to the cross to completely and fully pay for your sins, so that God could forgive you and make you His dear child.

God loves us with a deep love, and looks for a grateful heart and attitude from His children. Don't let the sinful nature turn your eyes aside, to grumble about what you don't have. That story is as old as the Israelites in the wilderness, grumbling because they didn't have all the luxuries of Egypt, when God was providing the daily manna for them. We may not have a lot, but we can still be grateful.

O give thanks unto the Lord (why? Because of all the things He will give me? No ...) **for He is good!**

Let Jesus *Occupy Yourheart.*

-Pastor Dave

The Chapel will be open the first Saturday of the month from 10:30 am to noon for special PRAYER TIME. You can pray on your own; or, there will be an Elder there to assist you, if you desire it. This is a special trial initiative from the Ascension Board of Elders.

Next Prayer date: this Sat Nov 5th. 10:30 am – Noon.

Council Reminder: **November 8** is Election Day as well as Council at 7:00 p.m. Please adjust your schedule accordingly.

Flowers on the altar: A few dates for 2011 remain: November 20, December 4, 11 and 25. Planning ahead for 2012, the flower calendar is posted on the kiosk. Sign up now to get the dates you want the most.

Have you mailed or turned in your *Time & Talents Survey* and your anonymous Personal Covenant [pledge] card? Please do so by **November 20**, the date of the Harvest Dinner and the "landing" of the Stewardship campaign. There is a basket for the Survey and a box for the card on the round coffee table in the narthex or you may drop them in the collection plate or mail them to the church.

FALL CLEAN UP is Saturday, **November 12**, rain, snow or shine. This is a great family activity. Come when you can; Coffee, juice and donuts will be served at 9:00 AM.

Planning ahead: The agenda for the **December 11** Voters Assembly includes electing officers and voting on the budget for 2012.

Thank you!

To the Members of Ascension: Thank you so much for the wonderful gift of cash you sent to Mark and me for our wedding on 10/8/11. Although we had the wedding in Detroit out of convenience, our thoughts were with Ascension Lutheran on our big day. We hope to visit soon. Thank you and God Bless.

-Myra (Horn) and Mark Sandor.

Members of Ascension: Thank you for the extremely generous gift of a Target gift card. We were completely surprised! Your thoughtfulness prior to our wedding day meant a lot. We are happy we found such a loving church! Thanks and God Bless! Lindsay and Jeff Franklin.

Mark your calendars! The Harvest Dinner will be November 20th. Please sign up on the kiosk for food. Hope you can make it!



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COMMEMORATION OF BLESSED DEAD

Cleo Bamberger, mother of Linda Putz
George Bamberger, brother of Linda Putz
Shirley Brezina, member and mother of Linda Nelson
Bill Celio, long time member
Art Chappell, Rebecca Baughan's father
Carol Chappell, Rebecca Baughan's sister in law
Karen Hartwig
Paula Holmes, friend of Ascension
Irene, mother of Barb Holste
Pastor John Kayser
Raymond Langen, Jake Wamhoff's brother in law
Art List, husband of Lois, friends of Ascension
Beth Mehrens, former member
Carol Meyer, Winninghams sister in law
Rolland Keith Munger, Sandi Thorne's father,
grandfather of Jaime Kositzke and Lindsay Franklin
Annabelle Joy Patton, granddaughter of Pattons
Janet Penner, member
Jim Phillips, father of Brad Phillips
Peg Powell, founding and long time member
Delores Rhode, friend of Ascension
Janice Schaffer, Bob Schaffer's wife
Genevieve Senyk, Amie Winninghams grandmother
Harold Sy, father of Christine Maxwell
Robert "Bob" TerAvest, Jake Wamhoff's brother in law
Raymond Wamhoff, Jake Wamhoff's brother
Mike Wamser, Joe Wamser's brother
Tom Wietecha, Sandi Nielsen-Gessert's father
Jerry Winningham, Pastor Dave's father

November Birthdays

Kristina Putz 11-2
Ryan Schroeder 11-12
Emily Roberts 11-15
Dana Scherer 11-21

Tim Thompson 11-4
Paul Halbig 11-13
Judi Stroemer 11/18

Kathy Pohl 11-9
Chris Martin 11-14
Ellen Eschler 11-21

Wedding: Tom & Judi Stroemer 11/21

