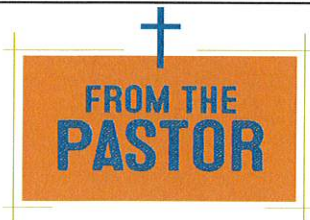


THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

November 2024



Volume 66 Number 10



Get Rich Quick!

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Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.
(Psalm 66:5)

Get rich quick - count on your blessings! It's a good prescription for wealth. That idea has been on the sign board for Salem Mennonite Church, which is nearby. It's a nice reminder for us to be thankful all year round. An old hymn instructs us - "Count your blessings, name them one by one! Count your many blessings, see what God has done!" When we pause to actually reflect upon our blessings from God, it does our heart good. We might notice the aspects of our lives and our society that we aren't happy about more readily than the ways that God has been kind to us.

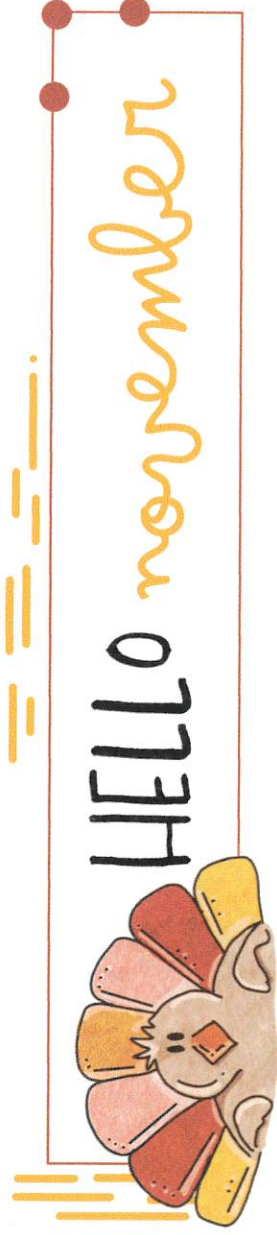
Especially at Thanksgiving, we want to be grateful. That task will be easier if we've meditated upon God's hand upon our lives. We might be more prone to think on what we don't have and what isn't the way it should be and the many problems and stresses we contend with. As we ponder with dissatisfaction we feel poorer. But as we praise God for his goodness we feel rich.

Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

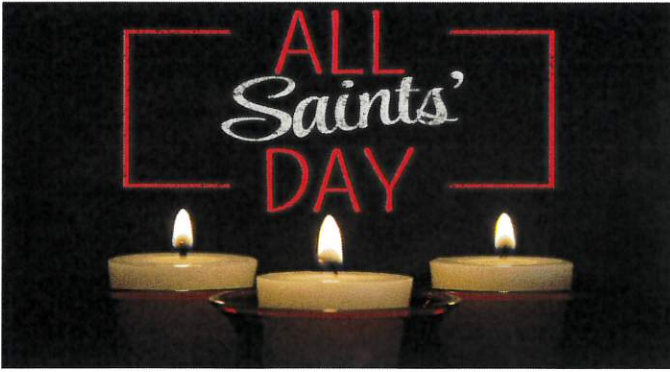
That's good advice from the apostle Paul, not only for spiritual reasons, but for emotional reasons, since feelings flow from thoughts. The act of counting blessings and cultivating a grateful spirit is very healthy. We'll enjoy life much more while maintaining a positive and grateful attitude. Even when there are disappointments, we can find things worthy of praise to God. God is awesome in his deeds!

I'm grateful to be your pastor. Leanne and I thank you for your kindnesses during the pastor appreciation month. As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, happy counting. Let's name our blessings one by one.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Mo Dunn



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 All Saints' Day	2
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Daylight-Saving Time Ends	4 7:30pm Deacon & Deaconess meeting	5 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	6 7:00pm Bible Study	7 7:00pm Bible Study	8	9
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship	11 7:00pm Trustee meeting Veterans Day	12 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	13 6:00pm Shalom 7:00pm Bible Study	14	15 9 to Noon Recycling at Uncle Al's	16
17 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30 am Christian Education	18	19 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	20 7:00pm Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship	25	26 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	27 Thanksgiving	28	29	30



On Sunday, November 3, 2024 we will observe All Saints/All Souls Day during our morning worship service at 10:15am. We remember our loved ones that now have become a part of the church triumphant. Our members who we lost this past year:

Winona Bernetta (Rogers) Brigode

December 15, 1923-January 19, 2024

Monetta L. (Bushong) Lloyd

April 23, 1929 – March 7, 2024

Carl Leon Johnson

December 8, 1947 - May 18, 2024

Marilyn June (Lewis) Dunlap

September 1, 1937 – April 19, 2024

Robert (Bob) Dean Jones

January 22, 1928 – July 25, 2024

Hungry for Jesus

Many residents of first-world countries avoid true physical hunger, grazing at the slightest stomach rumble. Spiritually, the opposite is common. Many people run on empty, unaware of or rejecting Jesus' free gifts of grace, love and abundant life.

In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims, "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53, NIV). To be filled with Jesus, first we must empty ourselves and hunger for him. But what does that look like?

At Bible.org, pastor Steven J. Cole writes, "Starving people aren't interested in new smart phones or computers, unless they can somehow sell them to buy food. Hungry people have one focus — where to find food. It consumes their whole existence. ... That's how we should hunger for God!"

Spiritual hunger leads to a feast of God's blessings. He generously gives us gifts that overflow into the lives of others. So let's share Jesus with people who are starving for him!

Simple but lifesaving

In early 2024, Beatrice Johnson became deathly ill in hours. An upset stomach became dangerously low blood pressure; it turned out flesh-eating bacteria had attacked her entire body. When Johnson's kidneys started failing, she was put on life support. In a last-ditch effort, doctors added sodium bicarbonate — baking soda — to her IV. Within hours Johnson was noticeably improved, and she left the hospital a month later. "I never thought something so simple would save my life," she said.

Another lifesaver many people find too simple is God's grace. We quip, "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is," and "Nothing in life is free." We're used to payments or paybacks. We balk if a friend offers to buy our lunch. When a neighbor brings us homemade cookies, we don't dare return the plate empty.

So how can something as huge and *holy* as salvation be a free gift from God? Don't we need to *do* something to earn it: follow the 10 Commandments? go to church? live a "godly" life? All those things are good to do, but the key is to do them as *thanks* for God's gift of salvation, not to earn it. Jesus loves you and assures you of eternal life. Just accept the gift! If that seems simple, it's because it is — but it will also save your life.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

A different kind of King

As Jesus himself taught, denial of ourselves leads us to find ourselves (see, for example, Matthew 16:24-25). The crucifixion is the ultimate expression of such self-



denial. The all-powerful God of the universe submitting willingly to having all power stripped away. How could that be imaginable? Even more, how could that be true? And yet it was. For Jesus, as for us, this is what it means to steward our power well. Jesus' death was not just a necessary price for humanity's failure and restoration. It was that, of course. But it was also the incomparable and ultimate demonstration of what God-like power looks like in its expression of self-restraint.—Uli Chi, *The Wise Leader*



Dear Gomer Congregational Church,
Thank you so much for your generosity. We were able to provide many of our students with money for the book fair to purchase books with the money that you donated. These students were very excited to be able to purchase books because some of them had never had the opportunity to do so at the book fair. It was so nice to see them excited about their brand new books that were theirs to keep.

We are also so very grateful for your donation of school supplies this year. Many students come to school empty handed on the first day of school and your generous donation allows us to give them the supplies to start their school year out.

Thank you so much for always thinking of our school district and students for your generous donations. It is appreciated by so many.
Elida Elementary Staff

Dear Gomer Congregational Church,
On behalf of the children who receive weekend food through Meal 'til Monday, thank you for your recent donation. Because you give, over 400 local elementary students are having their hunger need addressed. The partnerships of community members are critical in the program continuing. Your gift and the love you show for these kids is of great value to us. It is this kind of giving that has allowed Meals 'til Monday to expand with confidence whenever the opportunity has presented itself.
Sincerely,
The Meals 'til Monday Board of Directors

In awe of everyday joys

Maybe you've heard of making micro-resolutions for the new year. Similarly, health experts recommend becoming aware of — and thankful for — micro-joys we experience and encounter.

In *The Power of Awe*, Jake Eagle and Michael Amster describe the benefits of taking several brief A.W.E. breaks throughout the day:

- **A** is for Attention, as you focus on something that amazes you or seems valuable.
- **W** is for Waiting, as you pause to take a deep breath.
- **E** is for Exhaling, as you breathe out and feel joy and gratitude.

This simple practice reveals how profound the “ordinary” can be, thanks to the generosity of our extraordinary God.



The Stewardship Committee has selected Toys for Tots for our November project. We will be collecting new toys in their original boxes for those children who are not fortunate enough to receive Christmas presents. Boxes will be provided in the church hallway for your donations. As always, thank you in advance for your generous support of our projects.

With gladness and thanksgiving

... The long day of the year is almost done,
and nature in the sunset musing stands,
gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,
looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands: ...

Empty and folded are her busy hands;
her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,
as in the twilight of the year she stands,
and with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,
in the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,
and lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,
and sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm.



OCTOBER 2024

Members present: Matt Nusbaum, Jim Siefker, Jeff Weis, Bob Ritchey, Deb Thomas.

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Matt Nusbaum. Pastor Dunn offered prayers for hurricane victims as well as members of the congregation in need.

The financial report was presented by treasurer, Dina Tadena. A motion was made and passed to pay the current expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

Deb Thomas reported on progress of the Men's bathroom project. Bob will finish the installation of the lighting and mirror.

Matt reported that Kiel had installed new security cameras for North entrance and that he had expressed the need for a larger monitor for use in office area. He has been given approval for that request and will do further research into that purchase.

It was reported by Dina that the sign project currently has \$2815.00 in the fund.

A letter was submitted by the Shalom organization, giving notice that they will no longer be in charge of the flowers and landscaping improvements needed in the Spring. A discussion was held regarding various alternatives. The trustees would like to thank them for their years of work in this area. A special thank you for the watering and weeding done throughout the growing season.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Dunn and his wife, Leanne have issued a special invite to the congregation for a Christmas Open House, to be held on December 8th. They are inviting everyone to the parsonage for refreshments and Christmas fellowship starting at 6:00 p.m.

Bids will be received for snow removal for this winter season. Interested parties may submit to any trustee member.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Thomas, Secretary

Be prepared ... to wait

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God's goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord," says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That is an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus? —Janna Firestone

Veterans Day salute

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. "That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.





2024 Budget - \$134,767.00
 Monthly Budget - \$11,231
 Current Expense Received by Oct. 14 - \$23,727.53

Cash Flow - (9/14/2024 through 10/14/2024)

INCOME

Uncategorized	306.80
Interest Inc	0.62
Investment Payment	18,434.23
Sunday Offering	5,027.00
Tithely Offering	279.20
Transfer From Savings to Checking	2,500.00

TOTAL INCOME \$26,547.85

EXPENSES

Bills & Utilities

AEP	612.56
Custodial Exp	185.58
Insurance	4,314.50
Men's Restroom Remodel	772.82
Miscellaneous	240.00
Monthly Copier Costs	258.00
Monthly Offering Donations	183.00
Music	190.41
NACC Shared Ministries Fee	500.00
Organ	425.00
Pastor Mileage	351.74
Payroll	7,281.83
Phone & Internet- Spectrum	139.98
Propane Cherry's	7,121.94
Trash	125.00
VISA Payment	187.89
TOTAL Bills & Utilities	22,890.25
Donations	210.00
Fees & Charges	251.31
Tax	
Fed	375.97
TOTAL Tax	375.97

TOTAL EXPENSES \$23,727.53

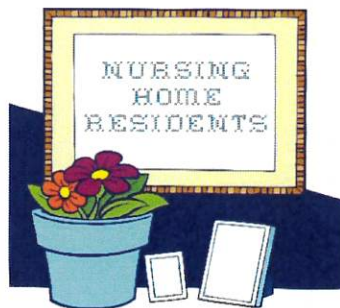
OVERALL TOTAL \$2,820.32



The electric sign in front of the church needs to be replaced. The goal for the new sign \$25,000. The trustees voted to start a fund to get the sign back in working condition. If you would like to contribute, mark your envelope Sign Fund. The fund continues to grow with the balance currently at \$2955. Thank you!



- Nov. 3 Matt & Heather Nusbaum Genna Thomas
- Nov. 10 Willard & Betty Metzger Rayna Ogle
- Nov. 17 Janet Alger & Norma Jacoby
Kennedy Larimore
- Nov. 24 Tim & Joyce Larimore Beckett Sunderland
- Dec. 1 Aaron & Lori Crider Jameson Thomas
- Dec. 8 Marty & Deb Thomas Beth Ogle
- Dec. 15 Kim & Bob Roethlisberger Madi Larimore
- Dec. 22 Adam Long and Dan Brown Norah Baker
- Dec. 24 Travis & Anna Watkins Zoey Diller
- Dec. 29 Ryan & Kim Rager Carson Sunderland



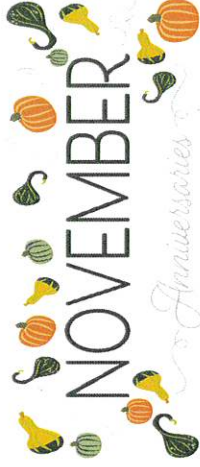
Joan Thomas, Dick Williams – The Meadows of Kalida, 755 Ottawa St., Kalida, OH 45853
Linda Alger – Wingate, 1070 Gloria Ave. Room 133, Lima, OH 45805



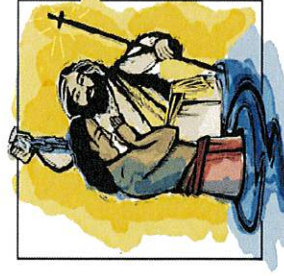


- 1 Joely Fisher
- 4 Kelsey Christlieb
- 5 T. J. Martin
- 6 Kennedy Larimore
Mary Alger
- 9 John Olds
- 10 Tom Evans
Ray Thomas
Jayna Siefker
- 12 Baker Siefker
- 13 Susan Siefker
- 17 Colin Siefker
- 18 Colin Larimore
Kelly Richards
- 19 Emily Manuel
Sarah Stoltz
Sue Williams
- 24 Larry Stewart
- 26 Lori Crider
- 27 Eric Ogle
- 28 Matt Flinn
- 29 Diane Campbell

30 Linda Martz-Traynor
Jonella Martin Yost



- 7 Lori & Matthew Parker
 - 20 Matthew & Heather Nusbaum
 - 23 Dian & Cheyenne Ridley
- Special dates**
- All Saints' Day, November 1
Daylight saving time ends, November 3
Veterans Day, November 11
Christ the King Sunday, November 24
Thanksgiving Day, November 28

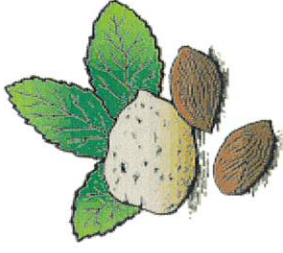


Bible Quiz

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas

Christian symbol



ALMOND — In Numbers 17:1-8, God settles a dispute among the Israelites by directing Moses to obtain a staff from each of Israel's 12 tribes and to place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting. The one representing the tribe God chose would sprout. The next day, not only had the staff of Aaron, representing the tribe of Levi, sprouted; it had blossomed and borne ripe almonds. Thus, the almond came to symbolize God's approval. By extension, it also represents the Virgin Mary, who found divine favor and was chosen to bear God's Son.

Bible Quiz Answer: A (See Acts 8:26-40.)



November 5

- A heavy November snow will last till April.
- Thunder in November, a fertile year to come.
- Flowers in bloom late in autumn indicate a bad winter.

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Thankful thoughts

"The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank." That quote from 19th-century painter Daniel Rossetti is often misattributed to Christian apologist G.K. Chesterton. In fact, Chesterton springboarded off Rossetti's statement to elaborate on thankfulness.

"The converse of this proposition is also true," said Chesterton, "and it is certain that this gratitude produced ... the most purely joyful moments that have been known to man. [Rossetti] boasted that he mixed all his colors with brains, and the great saint may be said to mix all his thoughts with thanks."

