

Pastor's Letter—November 2017

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is November already, the month of Thanksgiving. As I have heard many say (and I have said myself) where has the year gone? I can almost hear my grandmother's voice saying, "The older you get the faster time goes." At the time, I didn't understand what she meant, but now I do. It seems as though there aren't enough hours in the day to accomplish all we need or want to get accomplished. We have a tendency during this time of the year to forget to stop and be thankful for all God has given and done for us.

In 1 Chronicles 16:7-36 we can read David's Song of Thanksgiving. Verse 8 reads, "Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!" I know, that maybe you are thinking, "So when do I have time for that?" We are to be encouragers of each other. So it is important for us to make the time to encourage each other to remember and give thanks and praise to our Creator and Sustainer, and also to share among others what He has done for us.

If you read all of these verses, you will find that they contain four elements of thanksgiving:

- Remembering what God has done
- Telling others about it
- Showing God's glory to others
- Offering gifts of self, time, and resources.

When we are truly thankful, these four elements show up in our lives. When we are truly thankful others recognize that these four elements are a part of who, what and whose we are.

Every day is to be a day of thanksgiving not just the 4th Thursday of November. As David ended his Song of Thanksgiving he wrote these words which many of us are familiar with in verse 34: "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

God is good and merciful all the time even when we don't deserve His gifts or His mercy. I would like to invite you to be intentional about your thanksgiving. Get a



small notebook, something you can carry in your pocket or purse. Keep track of all the things you can be thankful for each day. Also keep track of each time you thank God for those blessings and how often you share what God has done for you with others. After a week review each day and see how blessed you are and how you either shared or could have shared those blessings with someone for God's glory and in His name. At the end of that week you alone can determine if you are as thankful as you should be. As for me, I know and confess that I fall short of God's expectations on a daily basis. However, I continue to strive toward that perfection He has promised me as I continue to believe that I am a beloved child of God.

I pray that our Thanksgiving holiday will bless us and that we will be a blessing to others.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Pastor Lynn