



The HOLY CROSS WORD

Words of news, information, humor and
inspiration from Holy Cross

NOVEMBER 2022

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXV, NO. 12

The Word of Life

"If you hear these words of mine, and do them; You are like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rains fell, the winds blew, and the waves crashed against it. But it did not fall because it was built on rock." Matthew 7:24-25

For the past month at Holy Cross, we've been focusing on one passage of Scripture to help us slowly and steadily build our house/life on the Word of God. Very simply, this has meant committing the verse to memory, thinking about what God has to teach us, and then putting these things into practice. After all, Jesus said that hearing is the first part of the equation; doing what He says completes the project! But one brick is hardly a house. So each month we will continue to build our houses brick by brick; verse by verse. And we will keep building into the future because this housing project won't be completed until Christ returns.

More than just on Sunday mornings, however, we want the Word of God to be at the forefront of our minds, centered in our hearts, and extending out into our everyday lives. The wonder of God's Word is that it is true for everyone – not just those who believe it to be true. And so, as you build your house on the Word, and we, collectively as a congregation, build our house on the Rock of Jesus Christ, God will reveal ways in which we can be a blessing to each other and to our neighbors. And so, not only will each month focus on a passage of Scripture but will give us a general theme to work from. It is a theme that will help direct articles in the newsletter, prayers in worship, posts for social media, and activities by the congregation, which will help to bring God's truth to light.



For example - November's Verse of the Month is from 1 Peter 4:10, which says **"Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many forms of God's grace."** The theme for this month, then, is "Stewardship". How do you, individually, and we, communally as a congregation, use the gifts God has given us to serve and love each other and our neighbors? By answering that question, and others like it, about our theme verse, God will reveal ways that we can minister to our community. It's just so fitting then, that on November 13, we will be visited by Jon Rossman of the Gbarnga Mission. He will share ways in which he has stewarded his gifts and resources to help the children of Liberia, and present ways in which we can share in his ministry, because that is what stewardship is after all: Recognizing that all gifts are from God, and belong to God – and so we can use what is in our possession for the benefit of others.

I'm excited to see where God will lead us as we build upon the Word of Life. As you read God's Word and let it mold and shape you, may the Holy Spirit guide you into all wisdom and truth; and give you the courage to face the storm – knowing that you're on solid ground in Christ.

Pastor Nathan Erb

Pastor Nathan Erb



Sunday morning Bible Class begins every week at 9:00

Sunday, November 6 – Daylight Saving Time Ends (2 a.m.)

Thursday, November 10

6:30 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

Wednesday, November 23

7:00 p.m. – Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

(Office closed and no preschool both on this day and Friday, Nov. 25)

Sunday, November 27 – The Season of Advent begins

5:00 p.m. – Advent Night

Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, 21

7:00 p.m. – Advent Midweek Worship with the theme
"Be Born in Us Today"

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship Service

8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship Service

Sunday, December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion



Like Holy Cross on Facebook!

After you "Like" us, you'll see postings of upcoming events, pictures from events and other notices.



GIVING THANKS

**Words by G.K. Chesterton,
British writer, best remembered
for his religious writings**

"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Class precedes Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555; **Pastor's e-mail:** pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com

Church Office: 203-268-4555; **Church Office e-mail:** office@holycrosstrumbull.com

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matt. 28:18-20). We will share the love and forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the whole world so that we can take part in the joyous privilege of "making disciples of all nations" through the power of the preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering His Sacraments, and joining together in service fellowship according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church (Article III).

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the December edition. The deadline for articles is

Tuesday,
November 15.

Please plan
ahead to

publicize events or share news with your fellow Holy Cross members. You can submit articles to the newsletter mailbox (outside the church office) or send them via e-mail to:



office@holycrosstrumbull.com

THE WORD OF LIFE

Monthly Bible verse focus is from 1 Peter 4:10

To those of you who have been faithful readers of the “on paper” Bible study we do in the newsletter, thank you, first of all, but this preface is to alert you to an addition we plan for the newsletter.

In this month’s issue, you’ll see Acts chapter 18 is examined, and also in this edition we introduce an addition with a regular monthly focus on the Bible Verse of the Month, a focus Pastor Erb started in October with Mathew 4:4 (can you cite that verse to yourself right now!?).

The newsletter will include a short monthly study on the verse in order to partner with what Pastor Erb will speak about during worship services and his video blog. He has selected 1 Peter 4:10 for the November verse. (I initially thought it would be best to phase out the “Bible Study on paper” column, do quick summations on Acts chapters 18-22 in the next two issues, and switch to doing a study on the monthly verse only but had a change of heart and thought why not do both! So we will see how that approach works going forward.)

Because of a late start on this verse, it will not be as in-depth as I hope to be in the future, but I did not want to miss this one from First Peter because it’s only four verses off from my confirmation verse of 1 Peter 4:14.

Pastor Erb is using the Evangelical Heritage Version of 1 Peter 4:10, which is **“Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many forms of God’s grace.”** The verse focus each month will be background/setting, key words and definitions, and summary. Nothing too crazy but something that can supplement Pastor Erb’s in-depth application.

So what was the setting for this verse? Peter wrote this letter around 64 A.D. to Christians, many of whom had been driven from their homes. His purpose was to encourage the suffering Christians who were being persecuted, primarily from Emperor Nero’s effort to wipe out the faith. The message of being hopeful in an unfriendly world, with the desire to look toward Christ’s second coming, is pervasive in the book and is quite relative to today.

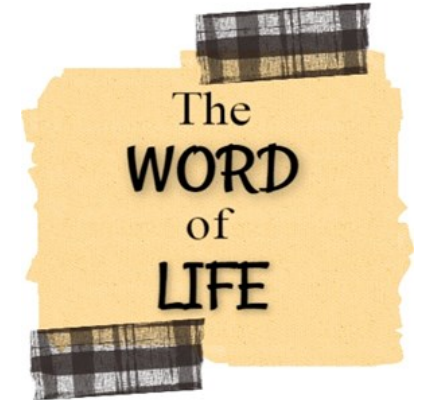
What are some key words? This month:

Serve: The reference here is to minister and render any kind of service to others.

Gift: The gift here refers to one given from God as the donor, passed to believers by the Holy Spirit to those in the Christian church.

Stewards: This word can normally mean or indicate the manager of a household but in this verse it is used metaphorically in the wider sense of a steward (Believer) as the caretaker and distributor of something precious. (From “Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words”).

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Holy Cross Word Writer



PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Give grateful thanks for our church blessings and workers; be inspired to help pitch in

Since it's November, it seems only fitting to use this space to express thanks for the people and places that make up Holy Cross Lutheran Church. This is by no means a complete list so I encourage you to add others as you give thanks this month.

- For Pastor Erb who has brought a strength of living faith, as well as new perspectives and vitality to our congregation.
- For our staff – Mary, Elisabeth and Roger – who see to it that we can gather and worship without worry of the multitudinous details that go into keeping Holy Cross running efficiently.
- For Michele and all the preschool staff who provide a nurturing, Christian environment in which our youngest generation can learn and grow.
- For our Board of Directors who give of themselves freely, often for decades, to ensure that Holy Cross stays true to its mission and vision. We tend to expect they will continue on, forgetting our responsibility to take up our own mantles of service.
- For Edith and the Finches, who, every Sunday, share God's glory through beautiful flower arrangements behind the altar.
- For the many volunteers who usher, greet, read, deacon, prepare the altar, record services and/or count, enabling both visitors and members to focus on a worshipful experience, whether in person or virtually.
- For our youth who serve as acolytes, albeit sometimes unwillingly, but remind us that the future of our church (dare I say our society?) is rooted in the passing on of values related to faith, dedication and service.
- For our members who are, or have been, consistent in their worship attendance, for they understand not only the importance of regular hearing of the Word of God and participation in His Holy Supper, but also understand the importance of a faith community in which members support one another.
- For our facility, which we often take for granted, envisioned by past generations to provide a meaningful, attractive environment in which to gather, worship and build community.
- And finally, and most importantly, to God who made all these people and things possible; to the Holy Spirit who continues to work within and among our congregation; and to Jesus Christ who shows us the Way.



May you and your family share a blessed Thanksgiving season, remembering to give thanks daily.

---KERRY GEFFERT
President, Board of Directors

Advent Night

at Holy Cross

Sunday, Nov. 27
5:00-6:30pm

Enjoy a light pasta dinner followed by a time to make an Advent wreath box.

Sign-up by **Nov. 20th** in the back of church or at holycrosstrumbull.org

If you have any questions, please see Pastor Erb or Elisabeth.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Our new directors debut with ways to serve the community and church

Food Collection

Holy Cross will be collecting much-needed items for the Trumbull Food Pantry at our Thanksgiving Eve service (7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23). It is a difficult time for so many families as they try to make ends meet. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Please, no glass items.



Housekeeping Need

Looking ahead to the Advent and Christmas seasons, we have set a date for some much-needed housekeeping. Cleaning pews and other woodwork in the sanctuary are the goals before holiday decorating takes place. Please consider giving a bit of your time on the morning of Saturday, December 3. "Many hands make light work." More information to follow.

---PAT DELOGE and DONNA SENFT
Co-Directors of Worship

WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS

Serve Holy Cross and the Lord with gladness!

Now that worshipping at Holy Cross is returning to some semblance of normalcy – THANKS be to GOD – other aspects of our worship service are slow to do so. Deacons serve a vital role during worship, assisting Pastor Erb in the distribution of the sacraments. Prior to the onset of Covid-19, Holy Cross had many faithful Deacons assisting at two worship services. Currently, the rotation is limited to a half-dozen faithful deacons. There is a need for additional volunteers and your church is *recruiting* "new" and "former" Deacons.



I ask that you prayerfully consider serving the Lord and Holy Cross in this capacity. Please speak with Pastor Erb to discuss your interest in becoming a Deacon and I look forward to the opportunity to include your name in the quarterly rotation of service volunteers throughout the church year.

God Bless,

---DIANE DIETMAN

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Annual "Giving Tree" will be presented later this month to help spread Christmas cheer

My favorite season of fall is going by so quickly, and we've already had late-night/early morning temps in the mid-30s, which makes me realize colder weather is coming...as well as preparations for Christmas and the annual Covenant to Care for Children "Giving Tree." Our "adopted" social worker, Mimose Laurenard (DCF-Bridgeport) will be doing her best to give me an updated caseload list with gift suggestions for the children by mid-November, so it will be my goal to have the "Giving Tree" poster in the narthex by Sunday, November 27...perhaps even by November 20. For many of the children, this will be the only Christmas gift he or she will receive.

As we have done for the past five years we will give each child a hat & mitten/glove set – a very "warm" and welcoming addition to the Christmas gift they will receive. Any time this month prior to seeing the "Giving Tree" poster, if you feel so moved to purchase a winter hat & mitten/glove set, you may leave it in the red "snowflake" collection box in the narthex. (Please, no "hand-me-down" sets; these items must be brand new.)

Mimose currently has 36 children in her caseload...36 gifts plus 36 hat & mitten sets adds up to 72 ornament tags on the Giving Tree this year!



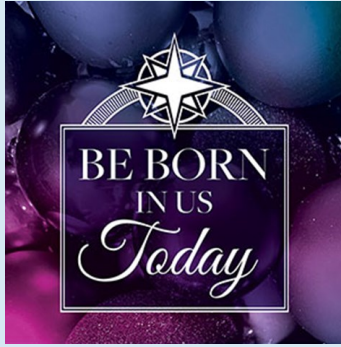
If you do not have opportunity to be at the church when this "Giving Tree" poster is presented and would like to buy a gift for a child in Mimose's caseload, please contact me via my personal email address: schrocknroll@optonline.net. I will match up a child to you and send you the information needed for you to purchase the gift.

As you make preparations for the upcoming Christmas season, I hope you will include in your gift-giving list a Christmas gift and/or hat & mitten/glove set for one of the children that is under the care of DCF through Covenant to Care. The gifts need to be turned in, unwrapped, and are due no later than Sunday, December 11; this early due date gives me time to get the gifts wrapped and into Mimose's hands for delivery by December 15-16. And if you would like to provide a gift bag and tissue paper for the gift you are giving, I will certainly accept and appreciate that!! Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry to benefit children in crisis and in need.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays

November 30, December 7, 14, 21
at 7:00 p.m.

Our Theme: Be Born in Us Today

THANKS A BUNCH!

We know that our Lord Jesus Christ took the time to say "thanks" because he notably did so in prayer thanking His Father, and when He instituted the Eucharist it was done with thanks. St. Paul's writings are a strong example of saying thanks, particularly being thankful to God for the Believers. Likewise, it is good practice to tell someone thank you because it tells the person they've been noticed and appreciated, which is the intent for this month's list. This month we recognize:

Cindy Ciccia, for coordinating the annual church picnic on October 2. Cindy had a handful of people who helped her in various ways, so we also thank **John Anantharaj, Donna Bogen, John Buck, Joe Ciccia, Pat Deloge, Kerry and Karen Geffert, Laurie Vaitkus, Michele and Rick Van Wart**. And even though your name may not be mentioned, there were plenty of other helping hands throughout the afternoon, and Cindy greatly appreciated everyone's help.



All those who brought food pantry items to the church picnic! Thank you for your generosity! During the annual picnic we did not forget those in our community in need. Your generous donations of non-perishable food items were given to the Trumbull Food Pantry.

John Roman for replacing the dimmer switches for the ceiling lights in the Fellowship Hall.

Gary Messerschmitt and Sherry Duff, for recording Sunday services over the past few weeks and uploading the recording to our youtube channel. Thanks also to **Gary** for preparing the Holy Cross website for the uploads and making the service links "live."

If you have a note of thanks for our next "Thanks A Bunch" article, please e-mail it to the church office or jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Two words – giving thanks – will be our focus in November

During the month of November, we will focus on giving thanks to God for all His blessings. We are thankful for the beauty of autumn, our homes and families, food and most of all God's gift of our Savior Jesus! We will also learn about the first Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for both here at school and in our homes. We are looking forward to having our annual Thanksgiving Sharing Party with all the children! The teachers will cook a turkey and the parents will send in the side dishes.



Our November Bible stories are focused on Moses: the crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites in the desert, the 10 Commandments and the bronze snake.

All of us here at the preschool would like to wish you and your family a very blessed Thanksgiving.

In Jesus' Name,

---MICHELE GLENNON

Preschool Director

preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com



Share the Hope Fund

In memory of Ronald Dietman

Mary Atkinson

*In memory of Susan Sastram,
friend of the Van Warts*

The Bogen Family

*In memory of Anne Drapcat,
Lydia Struzik's Godmother*

The Bogen Family

EVANGELISM AND YOU

Monthly director's report: What can you do as an ad hoc member of the commission?

This month's report starts with a little background on Evangelism's duties. For most of Holy Cross' existence, a "partner" for Evangelism was the local media, primarily newspapers. Evangelism is entrusted with church publicity and getting news coverage in the papers along with placing advertisements; those were the primary forms of putting the Holy Cross name out there. Of course, the slow downfall of print has closed off that avenue and made it virtually nonexistent.

There is a notebook in our conference room library that shows how we once got print coverage about our programs and events. One of the downfalls of print media today is that topics that don't make money for the source are off limits for reporting. The once commonly reported area of religion gets no coverage at all anymore because it is perceived by the publisher to not be something to generate sales of editions or subscriptions. The Saturday listing of church services in the area that nearly stretched over two pages in the Connecticut Post when it was done for free was slowly reduced to nothing after papers started charging to list a church's worship information as a way to make money. Churches gradually stopped paying and the listing is no more.

When Holy Cross began in the 1950s, churches often used the direct approach to bringing in new members, going out into the neighborhood for targeted recruitment.

Such campaigns are rare these days, along with media coverage. Social media is now the way to publicize, which is why we use our website and Facebook and similar electronic focal points to focus on what we do. The way I perceive social media working, however, it requires a user to seek your service out in their searches and stumble across your platforms for them to find you. That's not terribly specific in ensuring you are discovered so being a direct missionary to nonmembers is still an effective method, which is where you as Holy Cross members come in.

You are encouraged to be an extension of the Evangelism Commission and talk it up about Holy Cross when you have face-to-face opportunities at work and socializing. I understand how awkward it can be to bring up your church but I also know chances to do so do happen. I recall a time recently when I was able to mention Holy Cross to someone at work and it wasn't complicated or forced and it fit right into the conversation. At the end of the conversation I was able to say "please feel free to come to our church and try it out." So far it hasn't brought the desired result but we need to be on alert for opportunities to pitch what Holy Cross is all about.



There are easily several "talking points" you can say about your church to attract someone to come: our focus on Christ crucified and liturgical worship style, welcoming people, our new worship leaders, stimulating pre-church Bible class, convenient location on Main Street, easy-to-follow worship bulletin.

You, the members, have a lot to be proud of in your church and your help is needed to bring in new members to see our membership slowly increase. Every day you are out in public or at work you are in the mission field of Jesus Christ. The study of Acts we've been doing in the newsletter has been incredible in showing how much effort is required to initiate people into the body of Christ. Please be proactive in being a part of the Evangelism team even if you're not formally on the commission. Your church has great need for helping spread its name in the Trumbull community.

As for the commission's key tasks, it continues to sustain its normal duties. The Greeter schedule is up to date and, as always, if you are interested in being a part of this group please contact me. It is truly a painless position and not too taxing on your schedule.

A new display case has been done, coming after the summer theme of our 65th birthday. Kendra Norman from Social Ministry did a well-done theme on the Gbarnga Mission in Liberia, along with a side focus on the Reformation that explained Martin Luther's comments about giving. Please be sure to view the display and respond to its message of supporting missionary work.

Lastly, when you came to church in the second half of October, did something look different when you went through the narthex? If you didn't notice a change then that supports the commission's decision to take down the tract rack from the narthex wall and leave the space blank, likely permanently or to be used for another purpose perhaps. We had not noticed much usage of the tracts all year, and in an effort to help with the recent move to unclutter the narthex and sort of brighten it up the rack was taken down. The tracts have not been tossed, however, and we are figuring how to provide a list of this resource but for all practical purposes in this day and age there are many outlets searchable on the computer that can provide the kind of information that had been found on the rack.

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Director of Evangelism

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Normally outdoors, Holy Cross pulls off a picnic gathering held indoors

Sometimes when planning an event, I wonder whether anyone would come. Let's face it, we all have "stuff" – obligations, things to get to. Our Annual Picnic, held October 2, is always a favorite and well attended – but a picnic inside due to inclement weather, I wasn't so sure. When the morning's Worship service was finished and everyone started coming into the Fellowship Hall, I knew that this was going to be a wonderful afternoon filled with laughter and smiles. Adults and children of all ages arrived. Our preschool families joined us eager for their children to have the opportunity to play with their classmates.

This year's annual picnic included a new twist by including the new member reception where the Shepherds' Commission presented each new member family with a welcome gift bag. The new members received during the Worship service and honored at the picnic are pictured to the right. From left to right are John and Cheryl Connic; the Erb Family; Cheryl Mayeran; and Bill Magyar. Missing from the photo were Jessica Connic and Rebecca Turner who were also welcomed as new members.

Rick Van Wart, John Anantharaj and Joe Ciccia, pictured below from left to right, readied the grills on the patio to BBQ the hotdogs and hamburgers, and an array of salads were brought by those attending. Our emcee, John Buck, pictured in action, lower right, got the afternoon started and made sure everything went smoothly as he played great music he selected and by requests from others.

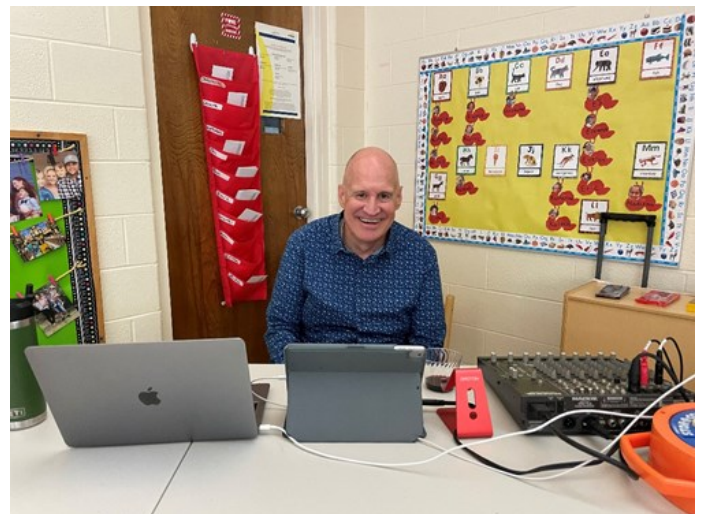


The kids had a blast building the largest Duplo tower and making masks, and trying their skills with hula hoops and the giant Connect Four games. Corn Hole was played outside on the patio with those playing keeping an eye on the grill progress. The games were culminated with the traditional Egg-On-A-Spoon contest. Our game chairs, Donna Bogen and Laurie Vaitkus, gave the instructions to 19 participants and broke them into three teams. Laughter and encouragement were enthusiastically on display as well as the competitive spirit. In the end, team three won the bragging rights for this year. See the following page for the official Team Three photo, as well as other images of memories from this special day.

Once lunch was finished everyone enjoyed the vast dessert table along with the welcome cake to celebrate our new members. Popsicles were passed out to the children as well as a treat bag for them to take home.

When I think of having a picnic inside, I will now remember the fellowship, laughter and smiles this year and think to myself, "Why Not!"

---CINDY CICCIA
2022 Annual Picnic Chair



More Picnic Pictures are on page 9

More Memories of the 2022 Annual Church Picnic...



Those who attended the Annual Holy Cross Picnic on October 2 didn't let overcast skies and wet ground ruin their day. Having a picnic inside was just as fun! Just ask Egg-On-A-Spoon winning Team Three! Pictured above, left to right, are those who proved to be egg-carrying experts: Jacob, Lauren, Audrey, Riley, Elisabeth, and Abigail with Pastor Erb hamming it up in back. Close up pictures of competitors include Michele (upper right) and Buela and Audrey (right).

What's a Holy Cross function without fantastic desserts?! Below, Kerry shows off the array of sweets, which includes the "Welcome" cake to honor our new members.

There were plenty of activities for the kids, from coloring, hula hooping, playing a giant Connect Four game and building with Duplos, as shown in the lower right photo with Logan, Riley and Luke.



LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Cross Word monthly "Bible study on paper": Acts, Chapter 18

Acts, Chapter 18, 28 verses—In this section of Acts in which the spread of the Christian church is shown expanding overseas and to "the ends of the earth," we are also focused on Paul the Missionary and the fact the message he was preaching is universal and for everyone.



Please pause now to read the full Chapter 18 of Acts (use a home Bible or an aid such as BibleGateway.com if needed).

Chapter 18 analysis—

The chapter targets the Christian activity in a few locations: Corinth, Antioch, and Ephesus as Paul transitions from his second missionary journey to his third. At the end of Chapter 17, Paul had given a speech in Athens in which he discussed Christ having risen from the dead. He moved on to Corinth, which would prove a better overall experience than Athens for his missionary work. That was the case even though Corinth was known as a wicked place and one of the least likely locations to experience a spiritual revival. Corinth is where Paul met Aquila and Priscilla, recent transplants from Italy. They had left that country because Emperor Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul met up with the couple because, like him, they were tentmakers who worked with leather. He spent time working with them on this skill. He would hang with them during the week, and every Sabbath Paul would be in the synagogue talking with both Greeks and Jews, encouraging belief in Jesus Christ.

After having been separated from Silas and Timothy, Paul was reunited with them in Corinth. While Paul was having success at teaching those who later believed, at some point his attempt to instruct the Jews about Christ hit a roadblock. The Jews could not accept his teachings and spoke harshly to him, whereupon Paul said their salvation was no longer his concern. He had tried mightily and was in the future only speaking to Gentiles, non-Jews. Paul decided afterward to spend time at the house of someone more agreeable, God-fearing Titius Justus, who resided close to a synagogue. Crispus led the synagogue, and he and all in his house believed in Christ.

One night Paul had a vision in which the Lord instructed and encouraged him to continue to talk to Jews and not be fearful because he would not be hurt. Thus encouraged, Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, during which many more in Corinth became believers.

Beginning with verse 12, we are introduced to Achaia, which was a Roman province, and Corinth was the capital of it. The proconsul was Gallio, who had been appointed by Claudius.

The angry Jews in town brought Paul before Gallio and the tribunal and complained that he was teaching things contrary to Jewish law. But Gallio said the complaints were too petty to deserve his attention and dismissed the group and told them to handle the matter on their own. This so incensed the Jewish mob that they senselessly took their anger out on the leader of the synagogue, Sosthenes, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But that failed to cause Gallio to change his lax attention to the matter.

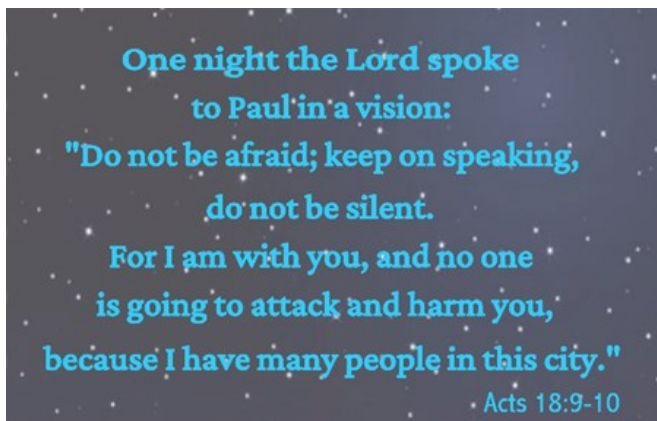
Paul stayed in Corinth for several more days, then left with Aquila and Priscilla for Syria. At a place called Cenchrea, Paul did the drastic thing of cutting off his hair, which was a Jewish tradition to show that the time of a special promise to God was finished. Paul separated from Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus, the end of his second missionary journey. Paul spoke with the Jewish leaders there, and then left, vowing he would return if he was able. He began a third journey: off to Caesarea, to Jerusalem, down to Antioch, to Galatia and Phrygia. At every location, Paul solidified and encouraged the believers.

Chapter 18 concludes with a story about Apollos, a Jew who came to Ephesus, having been born in Alexandria. He was an educated person who was well versed about the Scriptures and was very enthusiastic when talking about the ministry of Jesus Christ. His understanding about baptism, however, was not fully developed. Aquila and Priscilla spent time with him at their home and gave him more instruction, especially about the Holy Spirit. Apollos had desired to go to southern Greece, a travel journey that Aquila and Priscilla helped him make by writing a letter to the believers there and asking them to take care of the visitor. They did take him in and both sides were good for the other, Apollos being a very good speaker and teacher who showed how Scriptures proved that Jesus is the Christ.

Chapter 19 will continue with Paul's travels.

Sources: Harper Study Bible; The Everyday Bible: New Testament; Egermeier's Bible Story Book; The Acts of the Apostles, Neal M. Flanagan.

---CLIFF SCHROCK



NOVEMBER

Birthdays

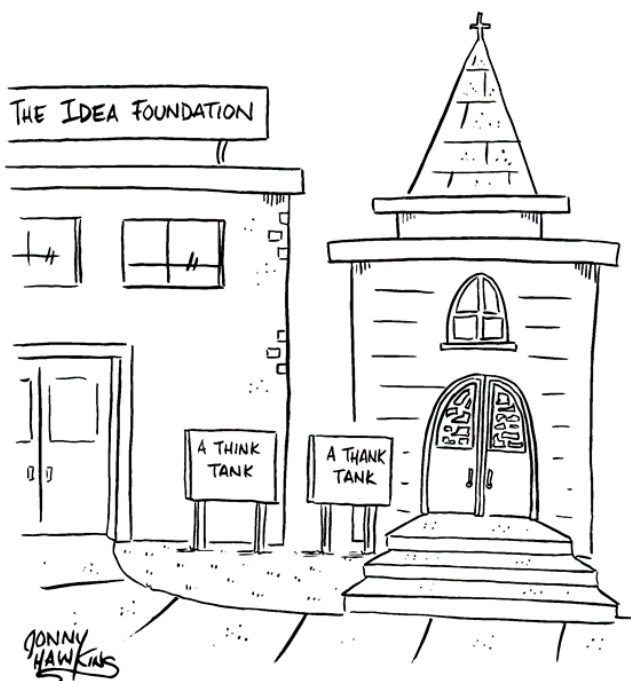
Nov. 1:	Kyle Helminger	Nov. 11	Bob Burns
Nov. 2:	Gavin Dowling		Dylan Chirgwin
Nov. 3	Kristen Cerone	Nov. 12:	Ingrid Cerone
	Peggy Liptack	Nov. 14:	Jon Halls
	Alex Riccio	Nov. 15:	Ryan Matthews
	Alexis Rodriguez	Nov. 16:	Joey Vaitkus
Nov. 5:	Lydia Struzik	Nov. 18:	Christine Matthews
Nov. 6:	Sherry Duff	Nov. 24	Harald Dale
Nov. 7:	Michael Antoniou	Nov. 25:	Keith Chirgwin
	Kevin Conte	Nov. 29:	Samantha Sylling
Nov. 9:	Sigourney Norman		



Give Thanks



CHURCH CHUCKLES



November: A meaningful month

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can “block out the cries of the denied ones...so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God.”

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus’ coming? It’s a good time to ponder what hurts God’s heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can invite them to Thanksgiving dinner. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.

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