

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

November 2017

In the cycle of the years, we come again to the day of Thanksgiving. Many societies from ancient times to today celebrate a fall harvest, giving thanks for the harvest and the preceding year. The ancient Israelites celebrated the wheat harvest with the Festival of Weeks and the remaining crops with the Festival of Booths. The Israelites firmly believed that their God was responsible for the harvests and these harvest celebrations were a means to express thanks to their God. The Israelites relied on God's providence.

The question of where the first Thanksgiving was held in the United States has been a subject of debate. President John F. Kennedy brought about a compromise about the debate in his proclamation on November 5, 1963, "Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together, and for the faith which united them with their God." However, I do have to add that one historian wrote, "The American holiday's true origin was the New England *Calvinist* Thanksgiving." (Emphasis mine!) It was President George Washington that proclaimed the first nationwide thanksgiving celebration in America for November 26, 1789.

For Christians, our lives are to be more than just periodically giving thanks. It is a life of gratitude, a way of living. Gratitude is our response to God's grace. I have used this example before, but it bears repeating. Before God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, God reminded the Israelites what God had already done for them: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (Exodus 20:2) God had already acted on their behalf, when God freed them from their slavery in Egypt. God claimed Israel as God's people. God did not choose Israel to be God's people because they were better or worthy or deserving. Their being chosen as God's people was a gift of God's grace. Obedience to the Ten Commandments was not required before they could be God's people. God had chosen them before God gave the Commandments. Obedience was out of gratitude for being God's people, and the Ten Commandments directed the Israelites in how they were to live and act as God's people. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website declares:

Grace and gratitude is our theological and spiritual vision. What is our picture of God? The gracious one who comes to us in creation, in the law, in the prophets, and ultimately in the person of Jesus Christ. The God who sustains us with the ongoing grace of the Holy Spirit. The God who calls us through the church. The God who is for us.

The website goes on to say that the only appropriate response is gratitude. Karl Barth, the German theologian, wrote that grace and gratitude "belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder [follows] lightning."

As Presbyterians, we share the same basic convictions as Methodists, Mennonites, Baptists, Pentecostals, Roman Catholics, etc., but we have a distinctive perspective, which is *grace and gratitude*.

Raymond A. Meester



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 02 Kirk Schjodt
- 04 Carolyn Pester
- 05 Kelly Jack
- 07 LaVerne Whitmarsh
- 09 Mike Lagueux
- 10 Denise Lagueux
- 10 Jean Strobe
- 11 Jim Pester
- 12 Ariel Weyers
- 13 Reece Beurivage
- 14 Lorraine Een
- 18 Nita Babcock
- 19 Emily Crouch
- 20 Jay Weyers
- 22 Virginia Dzerk
- 25 Kennedy Hunzeker
- 27 Delia Thompson
- 28 Gina Meester
- 29 Dwight Easterly

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.



HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB Congratulations to new & renewing Heritage Birthday Club Members **Dawn Thompson, Pat Zink**

Consider renewing or joining Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund.



ANNIVERSARIES

- 07 Chuck & Linda Clark
- 13 Frances Beurivage & Sue Nelson
- 19 Mike & Denise Lagueux

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Do not forget to set your clocks **back** an hour as Daylight Saving Time ends November 5.



ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS PLEASE SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCs AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Saving Best Choice UPC's is such an easy way to help our youth. We receive 3 cents for each UPC, and it is surprising how quickly that adds up! Thanks to all who continue to save them to help raise funds for our youth. **Only Best Choice UPCs can be redeemed. No other UPCs are accepted.**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will met on November 7 in the Gibson Room at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to join us in this Bible Study.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Heritage will be providing the volunteers at the Eastridge Food Pantry on Wednesday, November 8. We need 3-4 people to help 3:00-6:00 pm (please arrive by 2:45 for training). Please sign up on the Mission bulletin board if you can help. Thanks!

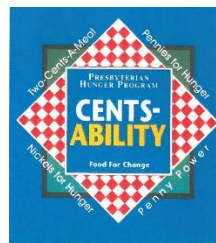


2017 CROP WALK

Thank you to our Heritage Walkers and those who supported them!

With your generous donations, we raised \$746.00 in this years CROP Hunger Walk. Since 1997 we have raised over \$14,000 to raise awareness and provide direct support to those in need in Lincoln and around the world.

CENTS-ABILITY COLLECTION



The Cents-Ability collection on October 8 raised \$68.18 for the Backpack Program at Randolph School. Additional non-perishable food items were donated to the Food

Panty. These items will help to feed the hungry in our community. Thank you so much for you generosity!

LET US WELCOME CAL CROSS CHOIR DIRECTOR

Please help us give a warm welcome to our new choir director Cal Cross. Cal took over the Choir & Bell Choir in September. Please help us make him feel at home as part of the Heritage family!



GOOD COFFEE FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

With so many different holidays and family

gatherings during the upcoming months, why not stock them with Fair Trade Products? Our Fair Traded coffee, chocolate, tea and olive oil make great gifts for your host. By purchasing Fair Traded products you are helping support small farmers and their communities.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS



The Food Pantry is always looking for non-perishable food donations. There are lists of needed items available on the table in the Narthex and by the parking lot entrance.



HERITAGE FREECYCLE

Heritage will be having a Freecycle event on Sunday November 19. Please bring items that you would like to give away and place them on the table in Fellowship Hall when you arrive at

church. Anyone can take what they want or need.

Please take remaining items home when you leave.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Rev. Mr. Dennis Hett is leading the Adult Sunday School class. This class meets Sundays at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to attend at any time as perfect attendance is not required.



NOCHE DEL TACO

The mission Committee invites you to join them Sunday

November 12 from 5-7 PM for

Noche del Taco. There will be a free

will donation taco bar as well as a silent auction.

Any donations for the silent auction need to be given to Leanne Miller ASAP.



HAT, MITTEN & COAT DRIVE

Winter will soon be upon us and it is the tradition of Heritage to donate caps and mittens to Randolph School. Please deposit them in the tub in the Narthex.

Gently used coats will also be accepted from child sizes to adult. Thank you for helping to keep the kids cozy this winter!



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Thank you to all who donated to this fall's Peace & Global Witness Offering! Heritage joined other churches around the world to work for peace in

our world through our donation of \$270.00 to this national offering. Our congregation's 25% share will be directed to the Peacemaking Workshop, an "annual ecumenical gathering in Lincoln to share perspectives and foster discussion and action on peacemaking and justice."



LEFTOVER HALLOWEEN CANDY

Do you have an excess amount of Halloween Candy leftover, or did your kids get too much? Please

do not throw it away! We are looking for any candy that you are willing to donate so we can use it for our Christmas goody bags. Your donation is appreciated!

RANDOLPH BACKPACK PROGRAM

Last month the Mission Committee asked for input about what we can do to help with the food backpack waiting list at Randolph School. With the church's support, we are going to start with filling backpacks for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. To follow the menu guidelines of the Food Bank we need the following items for the Thanksgiving break:

- 2 cans of tuna
- 1 pasta entrée (box mix)
- 1 package mashed potatoes
- 1 box of granola bars
- 1 canned fruit

Please bring any donations to the church by November 12 so that we can get the items to the school by Friday, November 17. We are hoping to get enough of each item to fill a backpack for each of the 19 children on the waiting list!



ALL SAINTS' DAY BANNER

The All Saints' banner is located in the Narthex. You may add a bell with a red ribbon to the banner to remember a loved one who has passed away.

Please add the name of the deceased person you are remembering to the list

when you add a bell to the banner. Names received by Wednesday, Nov. 1 will be printed in the Nov. 5 bulletin insert. You may contact the office if you need to add someone.

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

November 5 – Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 12 – Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 – Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 26 – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

SAVE THESE DATES

***** November 26th – Hanging of the Greens (Incorrect date on calendar) *****

December 10th – Children's Christmas Program

December 17th - Choir Cantata during worship

December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight service & Communion at 5:30 PM

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Heritage Presbyterian Church

880 South 35th Street

Lincoln, NE 68510-3499

402-477-3401

The Rev. Dr. Raymond Meester, Pastor

www.HeritagePres.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

Items received after
November 27, 2017
may not be included
in December Herald