

November 2015

Dear Friends,

“Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord: This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord. God is the Lord, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”
Psalm 118:19-29

In the month of November, we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. In many homes, it is a tradition for each family member to mention one thing for which they are thankful. The Holy Scriptures teach us that we are to live our lives in gratitude for all that God has done for us. In His first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul tells us ***“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” I Thessalonians 5:18*** This means that we are to be thankful in good times and in bad. Remarkably, when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863, he did so while the nation was still in the throes of the Civil War. Lincoln encouraged the nation to give thanks, even though the nation's future was still uncertain.

Because we are sinners, it is difficult for us to be thankful, especially during times of trouble. Even a Presidential proclamation cannot force us to be truly grateful. However, when God calls us to be thankful, He does so by revealing His great love for us in the Gospel. It is that revelation that kindles faith in our hearts and moves us to thankfulness and praise. In Psalm 118, we hear a phrase that is heard over and over again in the Old Testament; ***“O give thanks to the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.”*** We give thanks to God, because He is good and because He is merciful to sinners.

In that same Psalm, the writer expresses how God has shown us His mercy.

“I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.” We praise God, because He has heard our cries for help and has given us salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ. Even though mankind rejected Him, Jesus suffered, bled and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. It is the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ that is our hope, our cornerstone and the foundation of our faith. The hymn-writer says it so well, *“When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.”* So ***“Give thanks to the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever!”***

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

II Corinthians 9:15



Thank You, LORD!

DONATIONS RECEIVED...

In memory of Jim Johnson
from Ruth Johnson

In memory of Kathleen Forsman`
from Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of Ernest Bylkas, Jr.
from Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of Luuk Wahala
from Larry & Sharon Wahala

In memory of Ernest & Nella Wahala
from Larry & Sharon Wahala

In memory of Clarence Martin Larsen
from Ellen D. Larsen & family

In memory of Carolyn (Carol) Lepisto
from Gregg & Cheryl Patrick
John & Helen Sullivan
Bob & Gert Antioho
Linda Wirkkala
Michael & Margaret Laurin
Ken Seaton



Seminary Service Schedule **7 p.m.**

November

1st – Heath Anderson @ Range

15th – Heath Anderson @ Zion

December

6th – Heath Anderson - Laurium



SAVE THE DATE....

Winter Night of Music

at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI, to benefit the seminary on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7PM. Join us for an evening of Christmas caroling and special music. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

