

A Word From Your Pastor

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And BE THANKFUL!"

Colossians 3:15 NIV

"Be joyful always; pray continually; GIVE THANKS in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Romans 1:21 NIV

We are in the seasons of THANKS and GIVING! What a beautiful time of the year, as we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas within a month of each other. I recently heard the following story that made me chuckle: *"A man and his wife on a strict diet, sat down at the table for a meatless meal, all steamed and all green. He looked at what was before him and said, 'You say the blessing. If I thank the Lord for this, He'll know that I'm lying!' "* And to that, I think most of the men can say a hardy, "Amen!"

I want to share with you this month just a few things that would be on my list of thankfulness!

1. I Am Thankful for Almighty God—Father, Son, & Holy Spirit!

How truly wonderful to have a living relationship with the Creator of the Universe and to know that Jesus calls us His friends! **(Jn. 15:15)** I am thankful for the stability of the foundation upon which our faith rests, especially as we live in such uncertain days! **II Timothy 2:19** says, ***"Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.' "***

Our faith in Christ is of greater worth than gold, which perishes! (I Peter 1:7) My own salvation testimony is far from dramatic. I am so thankful to have been raised in a god-fearing home where Christ was honored and where I received Christ during my 6th grade year! That is a blessing far beyond all the wealth of this world!
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2. I Am Thankful for My Family!

As I give thanks to God for my parents and both sets of grandparents, I am often reminded of Paul's words to Timothy found in **II Timothy 1:5** - ***"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."*** Of course, being raised in a Christian home doesn't automatically make you a Christian, but it sure is a wonderful blessing!

I am so very thankful for my wife, Ann, who is a wonderful partner and helpmate at home and in the ministry! God truly answered my prayer when I was a single young man starting out in the ministry, and praying for a godly wife! We have been blessed with two great children, Nathan and Rachael, and this year we were thrilled to add our son-in-law, Kaleb to the family! We give thanks to God every day for our 'three' children and for their desire to also serve the Lord!

3. I Am Thankful for the Congregation That We Serve!

We, at Salem Reformed Church, are only a small part of the whole Body of Christ! The Body of Christ is so beautiful when everyone works together! **Romans 12:4,5** says, ***"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so IN CHRIST we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."***

I do Praise the Lord for every individual, family, and home that calls Salem Reformed Church their home! As I stated in church last Sunday, ***"The Body of Christ compromises an unlikely assortment of humans!"*** What a blessing each one is with such unique personalities and amazing gifts that are given by the Holy Spirit of God!

Together, God has called us to reach this part of our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! And as **Philippians 4:13** says, ***"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!?"***

**In Christ Alone,
Pastor Mike**

