



Gratitude: The Basis for a Good Life

There are only two ways to live your life: entitled or thankful. Which of these you choose will determine how you see and respond to almost everything else you encounter.

People who feel entitled are usually arrogant when they have many blessings. After all, they deserve it! As a result, these people can be a royal pain to be around when things are going well. They are often both full of themselves and also judgmental about the fates of others.

In addition, people who feel entitled are even more of a pain when things don't go well. They whine and moan about their poor fortunes and make others know that they aren't getting their fair share right now. Facebook posts often come fast and furious about yet another bad break, bad day, or bad person that they have encountered. When people are in the entitled mode and things don't go well,

the frustration mounts faster than it does in the lives of thankful people.

Contrast this with the attitudes of thankful people. When things go well in their lives, they remember that none of this belongs to us or comes to us because we deserve it. It all comes from God and comes as a gift. So, rather than felling arrogant when things go well, thankful people are likely to be humbled when they have more than they need. They often notice the struggles of others and use their good moments to offer extra gifts to meet the needs of others. Gratitude leads to generosity almost naturally.

Likewise, when thankful people have times of struggles, they are less likely to be whiney and to moan about how unfair things are. Thankful people often still see blessings in the midst of hard times. They

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often continue to practice being generous because of their commitments to it as a matter of principle. And they often weather the storm better because they recognize the ongoing commitments of God to them, even when times are tough.

November is a chance for all of us to reflect on the kinds of people we are. It is also a time to think about the attitudes with which we live out our lives as followers of Jesus. In the death and resurrection of Christ, God has shown unstoppable commitment to life and love for each and every one of us.

Gratitude is the Christian's natural state of living out our faith. Thankfulness is the foundational fruit of faith. Take a moment to look at the attitude with which you live your life. Entitled or thankful? Which one describes you best?

Nov. 3 – Fall Fest at Zion



Want to have an evening of fun, games and crafts? Then Fall Fest is for you! Our Congregational Care Committee will sponsor the event and it is a chance for people of all ages to connect and enjoy a nice evening together. The night will begin in the fellowship hall on the lower level of the church at 6:30 PM.

Nov. 5 – Congregational Forum

We have a lot going on at Zion and our congregation council has been working hard on a lot of things. With staff ideas, emphasis on trying to reach out to younger families and children, work to connect with a diverse and multicultural community and more – it is time for a conversation about ministry here. This will be a chance for members to hear from council what they are working on and thinking about important issues. It will be a chance for council to hear from members about their ideas and concerns as well. Plus, questions will allow for dialog and help us move ahead as a congregation. Hope you will make the effort to attend!



Nov. 12 – St. John's Bible at Library

By now, you have probably heard about the St. John's Bible and the amazing work of art that it is. You may have even had a chance to see it one or more times.

This project has been led by Pastor Dave and co-sponsored by Congregation Kneseth Israel (Elgin's synagogue), St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, and Christ the Lord Lutheran Church. The photo above shows members of the team from all of these sponsoring groups.

On Sunday afternoon, November 12th both volumes will be on open display at the Gail Borden Library from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. The books will be in the rotunda on the first floor and available for viewing, discussion and questions. This is a great chance for Zion's sponsorship to be visible to the public. Please come and both enjoy the display and program as well as help Zion continue to be a leader in the Elgin community.

Nov. 5 – All Saints Sunday

Each of us has people who have touched our lives and passed their faith on to us. We have better known that God has loved us because of these people. On November 5th we will celebrate All Saints Sunday and remember these people and their role in our lives. Worship will include chimes for those who have died at Zion in the past year as well as a chance to light a candle in remembrance of those who have been important to us in our lives but who have gone before us into the mystery we call death. Be sure to be here for this special day.

NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	2	3 Office Closed 06:30 PM-Fall Fest/ Costume Party	4 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
5 Daylight Time Ends 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	6	7 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	8 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	9	10 Office Closed	11 Veterans' Day 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
12 Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 01:30 PM-St. John's Bible - Gail Borden Lib.	13 06:30 PM-Church Council	14 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	15 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	16 02:00 PM-Lifetouch Pictures	17 Office Closed 02:00 PM-Lifetouch Pictures	18 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA 10:00 AM-Lifetouch Pictures
19 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 09:45 AM-Cong. Mtg 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 12:00 PM-Youth Grp 04:00 PM-Interfaith Thanksgiving Svc (Synagogue)	20 07:00 PM-SWAN	21 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 07:00 PM-Thanksgiving Service 08:00 PM-AA	22 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	23 Thanksgiving-Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
26 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	27	28 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	29 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	30		

If you have concerns or joys to share, please call the church office at 847-888-2882 and



Thank You Notes

To Pastor, Marlene, and members of the congregation, Thank you for your love and support during the trying time of Larry's illness and our move. We are truly grateful for the many prayers that were offered and the blessings we have received during the past eight weeks.

Larry and Carol Anderson



Thank you for your gift of \$925.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With this gift you are providing emotional and spiritual care, supplying emergency relief, and addressing long-term recovery.

With your gifts you are making possible the support of unmet needs, the coordinating of volunteers in the United States through our local affiliates, and the promoting of disaster risk-reduction internationally, expanding knowledge and ability.

Thank you for this gift and all your faithful generous gifts. Thank you for encouraging others to learn, act, pray and give with you. Thank you for living into God's words of justice and mercy and for joining with the whole church to love and serve one another.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

BIBLE READINGS for November

November 5

1 Kings 19:1-18 (sermon text)
John 12:27-32

November 12

Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24 (sermon text)
John 7:37-38

November 19

Isaiah 9:1-7 (sermon text)
John 8:12-16

November 26

Jeremiah 29:1,4-14 (sermon text)
John 14:25-27

December 3

Daniel 3:1-30 (sermon text)
John 18:36-37

NOVEMBER

VERSE OF THE MONTH

Seek good and not evil, that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be
with you, just as you have said.

Amos 5:14



Nov. 19 – Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on November 19th at 9:45 AM at the church building. Our agenda will include election of council members for terms that begin in 2018, approval of our annual budget, and then discussion of some key issues as we move forward as a congregation. Voting is open to all active, confirmed members of the congregation.

Zion Picture Directory

The new picture directory is now underway. This is a great chance to get your family photo taken and every family will get a free 8 by 10 photo as a thank you gift for your sitting. We are taking appointments for photo sessions. The dates for the sessions will be:

Thursday, November 16: From 2-9 PM

Friday, November 17: From 2-9 PM

Saturday, November 18: From 10 AM - 5 PM

You can sign up for a photo session on Sunday mornings at Zion. Or for more information contact Nancy Emmer at 815-762-6182.

Commitment Sunday is Nov. 12

One of the most helpful discipleship practices is the discipline of giving with intentionality. Each year we offer you the chance to look at what you are giving and encourage you to reflect on it with God. Are you giving what God wants you to give? How are you investing in what God is up to at Zion? Are you giving enough to other things that God cares about as well? The chance to do this is the chance to take stock of your giving and to grow closer to becoming the generous person God has created you to be.

Financial Report

September	Income	Expenses
General	\$16,135	\$22,684
Building Fund	\$919	\$1,231
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$194,635	\$206,799*
Building Fund	\$10,197	\$11,075

* Includes \$21,300 for roof

Nov. 19 – Interfaith Thanksgiving at 4 PM

Our annual Elgin Community Thanksgiving service will be hosted by Congregation Kneseth Israel at 4 PM on Sunday, November 19th at 4:00 PM. Both the Pentateuch and Gospel-Acts volumes of the St. John's Bible will be used in the service to read Jewish and Christian scriptures. The service includes Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists and is the only interfaith Thanksgiving service in Elgin. Following the service there will be refreshments at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, which is across the street from the synagogue.

Nov. 21 – Pie and Thanksgiving at Zion

Once again, Pastor Dave and Deacon Marlene will host a pie fellowship after our annual Thanksgiving service. The service will be at 7:00 PM on November 21st and the pie fellowship will follow immediately after worship. Plus, there is always an extra pie or two that will be raffled off to lucky winners who will take them home for their family to enjoy!



Windy City Bulls

The Windy City Bulls are an NBA G league team, affiliated with the Chicago Bulls. They play at the nearby Sears Centre. Congregational Care is exploring interest of folks to attend a Windy City Bulls game together on All Faith's night, January 19, similar to the Kane County Cougars. They need a minimum number to purchase group tickets, so if you are interested, please sign up.

Youth Group

This month we will meet on Sunday, November 19, following the late service (about noon). We will be having lunch together, then learning about and making fleece quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

December 3 we will be going out for lunch, then shopping and wrapping white gifts, plus some games as time allows.

As a reminder, 6th – 12th grade students are invited to join us each Sunday morning from 9:45 – 10:30 as we study and grow together.



As we make preparation for Christ's coming, our lives can get very hectic. That's why this year's retreat will be a time to start the season off in a way that we can center on keeping the focus on what is most important - the coming of Christ into our world. The retreat will be Saturday, December 2 from 9 - 4 PM at Riverwoods Camp in St. Charles (35W624 Riverwoods Ln). It is for adults **and** children. Some of the activities will be intergenerational, but most will be separate, with children having their own activities in a separate space. Cost is only \$15 per person, with a max of \$30 for a family. Lunch is included. To register sign up on the sheet at the church or go to <http://tinyurl.com/ybhmthye> and register on line.

New Orange Bags for Pickup

Knock. Knock.

Who's there?

Orange.

Orange who?

Orange you glad you live in Elgin?

There are many reasons to be glad we live here, but one of them is those orange plastic bags we get. You can use them or donate your stuff to a charity, but we are fortunate that Elgin makes recycling as easy as it does. In Elgin we recycle far more than lots of cities do and make it so easy. We can toss it all in one bin without sorting and now they even make it possible for us to have easy pickup for clothes and small household items with curbside pickup on the same day as our garbage pickup. Be a good steward – recycle!



December 2 – Advent Retreat - For children and adults. Location – Riverwoods in St. Charles

December 17 – Christmas program

December 24 – Morning Worship and Christmas Eve Worship at 5 PM and 11 PM

January 5 – Winter Fest (Theme: We're off to Hawaii)

January 19 – Windy City Bulls (All Faiths Night)



White Gifts

It won't be long until Advent comes and we prepare for Christmas. One of our commitments at Zion is to be sure that the homeless and near homeless kids in U-46 schools are remembered and we do this through White Gifts. White gifts are gifts we individually purchase for a particular child. This year we will have 50 names and ask interested folks to help by taking a name (or two) and purchasing gifts in the amount of \$30. Gift suggestions are provided by their parents. These gifts are to be wrapped in white paper and returned to Zion no later than December 10. If you would prefer to donate money, (\$35 to cover tax and wrapping paper), please sign up for a particular child and give the money to Marlene. The youth group will be going shopping on December 3. Thanks for brightening a child's Christmas!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship/ Holy Communion

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:45 a.m. Worship/ Holy Communion