



# North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene Messenger

November, 2018, Volume 9, Issue 7

## With Grateful Hearts

Luke records Jesus' answer to His disciples' request to "teach us to pray," in the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter of his Gospel. In that lesson on prayer, Jesus instructed them to request GOD to "give us each day our daily bread." This is worded slightly differently than Jesus' teaching on prayer in His Sermon on the Mount, where He taught us to pray, "give us this day our daily bread." Whether we pray GOD to provide us "this" day or "each" day, the meaning is clear, but perhaps points us to a profound truth we may have lost or misplaced in our affluent culture.

When GOD provided manna to His children in the wilderness, He gave them enough for each day and instructed them to gather **only** enough for each day. Jesus instructed us to seek GOD's provision also on a daily basis. These messages from scripture fly in the face of our habits, though, don't they? When we shop for food, we seldom shop for only enough provisions to get us through today. No, we buy food for a week, or two weeks, or perhaps hoard food for months of provision. In fact, we can find multiple websites and books dedicated to teaching us how to shop and meal plan for months at a time. While the goal of this philosophy of shopping and planning for a month at a time may be saving money or time, which is admirable, it brings up the question: What happens to our prayer for daily provision when tomorrow's food is already in the pantry or freezer?

Has the abundant provision of the Lord caused us to lose sight of the vital truth that GOD's goal for us is that we be completely dependent upon Him for the meeting of our needs? We read of GOD's promise to provide for His people as He led them into the promised land, and of His continued blessing in that land if they would obey His commandments. He then gave them this instruction for when they came into that land and experienced His abundant provision, "*When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.*" **Deuteronomy 8:10** It was His intention that His people would ALWAYS make the direct connection between His provision and our blessings and be forever grateful.

Abraham Lincoln recognized the missing element of thankfulness in the hearts of Americans when he proclaimed in 1863, *It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.*

He went on to declare:

*We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.*

*But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.*

*It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father Who dwelleth in the heavens.*

Our Lord commanded us that we not worry about tomorrow's provisions today, but that we, instead, "**Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**" Matthew 6:33 A grateful heart plays an essential role in the seeking of His kingdom and His righteousness. May we be reminded of all we owe to Him for every morsel we have, today and tomorrow, and be thankful. Becky

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 – Ida Chaplow<br>Tom Moore                            | 18 – Carl Logan<br>Linda & Dave Fregeau     |
| 4 – Phyllis Obney                                       | 21 – Marilyn Bissinger<br>Pastor Van Garner |
| 5 – Charlie & June Franklin                             | Jerry lee                                   |
| 9 – Janet Clifton                                       | 25 – Carolyn Method<br>Jamie Lorenson       |
| 10 – Harry Bova   | 26 – Dick & Janet<br>VanSkyver              |
| 12 – Teresa Boye<br>Linda Fregeau                       | Butch & Janet Heath                         |
| 15 – Janice O'Lynn<br>Nick Kiser                        | Keith Wills                                 |
| 16 – Sherry Chapman<br>Harry Friedman<br>Michael Romano | 30 – Doretta Parker                         |

## November Calendar

- Nov. 3 – Retired Missionaries luncheon at Der Dutchman
- 4 – Daylight Savings Time Begins  
The Ferguson Family in Concert
- 6 – ELECTION DAY – VOTE!
- 8 – Board meeting
- 11 – Baptism Service
- 12 – Veteran's Day
- 14 – Food Distribution
- 18 – Taking in new members
- 22 – Thanksgiving Day



### Prayer Needs:

- |  |                 |                       |                      |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Dick & Janet VanSkyver                 | Deborah Minnick | Craig Smith           | Jerry Parker         |
| Mark Woodby Family                     | Dan Bowker      | Heather Clark Family  | Hurricane victims    |
| Laurel & Dorothy Chapman               | Janice O'Lynn   | Michael Romano        | Ryan Woodby          |
| Paul & Grace Boling                    | Matthew Morgan  | Ida Chaplow           | Ardyth Eldridge      |
| Orion Predko                           | Phoebe Barr     | Beth Kurland          | Mark & Kim Barr      |
| Patrick Lindsey                        | Joseph Groves   | Eileen Massett        | Louis Perez          |
| Ernie Rybold                           | Regina Williams | Alice Daugherty       | Phyllis Obney        |
| Kenny & Gail Goodman                   | Bonnie Rose     | Eileen Jennings       | Vanessa Hinckley     |
| Raymond Jungles                        | Annie Krapu     | Ken Vandelinde        | Cody Church          |
| Steven Leo                             | Janice O'Lynn   | Jeff Werling          | Betty Retter         |
| Sandy Reedy                            | Pearl Buchkoski | Jerry & Deane Werling | The Nation of Israel |
| Marlene Ryan                           | Kitty Baxter    | George Smith          | Janet VanSkyver      |
| House of James Ministries              | A Youth Pastor  | Unsaved Loved Ones    | Our Church Leaders   |
| Our military, our leaders & our nation |                 |                       |                      |



**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
*Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope*

We need volunteers to help with the distribution on Wednesday, November 14, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, to help with a variety of tasks. Please spread the word to anyone you think could benefit from this special outreach and join us as we partner to help those in need. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Fort Myers.



Take a retired missionary to lunch  
at Der Dutchman  
November 3 – leaving the church at  
10:30 A.M.  
Cost is about \$15 per person  
**Please sign up in the foyer**

**Matthew 25:35-36 (NASB)**

*'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'*

**Harvest Home 2018**

It is time, once again, to count our blessings by blessing others. As a body of believers, we want to be obedient to Jesus' command that we care for the needy and act as His ambassadors to a hurting world. Therefore, we will be gathering food beginning Sunday, November 4 through November 18, and bringing it to the altar in recognition and as a reminder that all we have comes from our beloved Heavenly Father and as an offering to help those who may be going through a difficult time. The LAMB's ministry will provide a turkey and potatoes to each family we will help, and the congregation is charged with providing the non-perishable items. The food will be distributed on Monday, November 19. If you know of a family that is in need and who could benefit from this ministry, please write down their name, address and how many members in their household, and give it to Pastor Becky. Please be assured that we do all we can to respect the privacy of these families and keep the information about who receives these gifts confidential. If you happen to be the one in need, we want you to please let us know, and be assured it is our joy to help and we do not want anyone to feel embarrassed. We are the body of Christ and delight in helping. Most of us experience times of need and want to return the help we may have received – please do not hesitate to let us be a blessing. We want to be obedient, but we also want to shower the love of Christ on our brothers and sisters in Christ because we love you. May we bring our best and do our best – both in giving and in receiving.



We have so many new folks in our congregation, we need to update our church directory. If you are not currently in our directory, please provide a picture, address, phone number, email, and birthdates and anniversary to Pastor Becky at her email address: [corumdeo59@yahoo.com](mailto:corumdeo59@yahoo.com). If you do not have access to a computer or would prefer, just write the info down and bring a picture and give it to her. Also, if you are already in our directory but have information that needs to be updated, we would appreciate getting your new info as well. The update will be available before the end of the year.



*The Ferguson Family in Concert*  
**Sunday, November 4 ~ 10:45 A.M.**  
**Be sure and invite your friends  
and family  
to this very special service.**



Thanks to our wonderful webmaster, Matt Miller, we are making big changes to our church's website. And there are more great additions to come. An important addition is the publishing of each month's *Messenger* to the site, allowing you to read it online without having to pick up a printed copy. We are also archiving those newsletters so you have access to back copies. Please check out the site and make a habit of checking it frequently so you can stay updated on what's going on and stay current on our church.

## Prayer, it's a good thing

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-23(NASB)

*Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.*

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

#### **Rejoice always:**

The word rejoice is in the Bible over 190 times. The time we are most familiar with is Philippians 4:4-7

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

When we rejoice in the good times and the bad we show the world how our God sustains us through all of our life's ups and downs.

#### **Pray without ceasing:**

In other words, prayer should be a priority in our daily lives. *Acts 6:4 (NASB) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*"

Is prayer the first thing or the last thing you go to in times of trouble? When you pray do you have the "faith of a mustard seed" that God is going to answer that prayer for your good?

#### **In everything give thanks;**

##### **Philippians 4:19 (NASB)**

*And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

##### **Colossians 4:2 (NASB)**

*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;*

### James 1:16-18 (NASB)

*Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

Your heavenly father showers you with everything you need to be who you are and who He wants you to be. These verses show us that we can trust Him to take care of us. Make sure you thank Him every day for all of His blessings.

#### **Do not quench the Spirit:**

##### **Romans 15 (NASB)**

*Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*

To avoid quenching the Spirit we need to strive to be... "with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Do not let the devil convince you that you should start turmoil. **PRAY** about everything that bothers you about the church. Go and talk to the pastors. Talking about your gripes to anyone other than the pastors and how you are upset about whatever might be bothering you, will quench the Spirit in the services and in the lives of the ones to whom you gripe.

Paul goes on to say in verse 21: *But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.*

Then he ends with a prayer of blessing:

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

And that is my prayer for you. Blessings, Pastor Van

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