

November Newsletter 2015

To Know Christ,
To Make Him Known,
To Build His Kingdom.

From the Pastor's Desk

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost upon us! I love Thanksgiving, I love turkey and all of the trimmings, and I love pumpkin pie. Mostly I love the fact that is one time a year that we all stop and reflect on what we are thankful for. It is important to note that when we say "thanks" we are not just sending it out to some cosmic power or the fates, we are thanking God Himself, and as with so many other spiritual acts we must determine our heart attitude toward God when we come to him in Thanksgiving. John Piper talks about the difference between thanksgiving and thanksfeeling. And I have summarized his thoughts for you below.

Now and then, it needs to be said that not all thanksgiving is thanksfeeling. We can make ourselves (or our children) say, "Thank you," whether we feel it or not. But, when it comes to God outward expressions are simply not enough. Jesus warns against "vain" worship. "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me" (Matthew 15:8–9). Thanksgiving without thanksfeeling is empty. It does not count with God.

Genuine thankfulness is an act of the heart's affections, not simply an expression of our words. It is not a decision of the will, but a reflex of the heart. It happens to us. We become aware of good will toward us, and either we feel gratitude or we are ungrateful.

"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice *glorifies me*" (Psalm 50:23). This offering of thanksgiving which glorifies God is not merely external. It is gratitude truly felt in the heart. That is the only kind of sacrifice that pleases him.

"You will not delight in sacrifice . . . you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices

of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (Psalm 51:16–17). This is the kind of heart that can truly feel gratitude for grace.

So the sacrifice of thanksgiving that glorifies God is the offering of contrite and broken-hearted thankfulness for undeserved mercies. This makes God look glorious — it glorifies him. Similarly Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:15, "As grace extends to more and more people it increases thanksgiving, *to the glory of God.*" The sequence goes like this: God's grace is experienced as wonderful and undeserved; heartfelt *thanksfeeling* rises in the heart; this true *thanksfeeling* overflows with *thanksgiving*; thus God is shown to be glorious — he is glorified.

The implications are this God is glorified more fully when we *feel* thankfulness, not when we only *say*, "Thank you." Authentic heart-feelings are not in our control. We can't make ourselves feel thankfulness. If our hearts are not moved by God's goodness, we are ungrateful.

Thankfeelings are a work of grace.

Therefore, as fallen sinners whose hearts are often dull, we should regularly pray for God to overcome our sinful hardness, and cause us to see his goodness and feel thankful. (Psalm 51:10–12)

So the manifestation of the glory of God depends on 1) the appearance of God's good will toward us in some undeserved benefit; 2) our eyes seeing it as from God; 3) the awakening of a sense of our being undeserving; 4) the awakening of the sweet thankfulness for being loved like this; 5) the expression of our *thanksfeeling* in *thanksgiving*.

So as we feast this Thanksgiving holiday we should think on these things. Is my heart filled with thankfulness, or is it only an expression on my lips? Have I truly recognized God's good will, grace, and provision to me? Am I truly experiencing *Thankfeeling* that leads to true *Thanksgiving*?

May the God of great grace work these miracles in you this Thanksgiving.

Pastor Jason

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies for All Ages 9:30

"The Gospel Project"

Children's Sunday School ~ Infants - 6th grade
In the Fellowship Hall classrooms

Youth Bible Study 7th – 12th grade
In the Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study
In the Youth Room of the Parsonage

Worship Service

10:30 - 11:30

Fellowship following service

Wednesday Night Bible Study

**Bible Study does not meet on the first
Wednesday of the month.**

**In observance of Thanksgiving Bible Study
will not meet on Wednesday,
November 25th**

In the Sanctuary at 7:00pm we will be studying
The Gospel of Mark.

Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible
study. Pastor Jason will be teaching.

Children's Ministry in the fellowship hall
classrooms, they are learning from The Jesus
Storybook Bible.

Youth Ministry Intern

St. Paul Evangelical Church is currently looking
for a Part Time Youth ministry intern.

The goal of this position is to provide a point
person for our youth age students (7th-12th).

This is a critical age group and we hope to
provide opportunities for growth, discipleship,
and of course fun for them through a Christ
Centered, Gospel Focused youth ministry. We

have reached out to area Seminaries and
College Campus Ministries looking for potential
candidates. If you know someone who might
be interested, we would love to hear from
them. All inquiries and applications should
come to Pastor Jason.

Upcoming Events

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 1st. Don't forget to set your
clocks **back** one hour before you go to bed on
Saturday night.

Installation and Pot Luck Meal

Sunday, November 1st we will hold the
installation service for Pastor Jason Ford. Rev.
Jim Barnes, EA National Minister, will conduct
the ceremony as well as provide the message.
Followed by a pot luck meal, meat provided.

Communion Sunday Date Change

Due to the installation service on November
1st, communion will be moved to
November 8th.

SPEC Supper Club

Wednesday, November 4th at 6:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship

Thursday, November 5th at noon. Potluck
meal. Regular meeting, discussion about
Christmas Party and cookies for homebound.
For more information please contact the
church office at 210-658-5874.

Harvest Sunday

Sunday, November 8th. Please help RACAP fill
their Thanksgiving and Christmas meal
baskets. **Items Needed:** Chicken broth, Flour,
Granulated Sugar (4 lb. bag), Brown Sugar
(1 lb.), Canned Green Beans and Corn,
Evaporated Milk, Stuffing Mix, Canned
Pumpkin, Yams, Fruit Cocktail and Cranberry
Sauce. Donated funds will be used to purchase
turkeys and perishable items for the baskets. If
you are sponsoring a family, the basket should
also include eggs, margarine/butter, pie shells,
rolls/bread and turkey.

Board of Christian Education Meeting
Sunday, November 8th after worship.

Women's Fellowship Bake Sale

Sunday, November 15th. The ladies are invited
to bring baked goods for sale. For more
information please contact the church office at
210-658-5874

**The Sewing Sisters ~ November 12th
In observance of Thanksgiving, they will
not meet on November 26th**

They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the parsonage from 9-11 am. All are welcome to come and enjoy good fellowship and ministry. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Council Meeting

Monday, November 16th at 7:00 pm

Community Breakfast and Bingo

Thursday, 19th at 8:30 am.

R.A.C.A.P. Ecumenical Thanksgiving

Worship Service

Triumphant Lutheran Church, 21315 Bat Cave Rd., Garden Ridge, will host the service this year. All are invited. Thursday, November 19th at 7 p.m. There will be a fellowship time with light refreshments following the service.

Totenfest Service

Sunday, November 22nd. This is the day the church remembers the members who passed away in the last year.

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 28th, at 10 am. All are invited to come and decorate the church for the holiday season. Donations are also greatly appreciated, to replace some of the older decorations. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

General Announcements

Thank You

The church would like to thank Karen Schneider and Stephanie Ford and their "crew" for working so hard on the patch this year.

Church Offices Closed

In observance of Thanksgiving the church offices will be closed
Thursday & Friday, November 26th and 27th.

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas presents in a shoe box for children overseas. Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Boxes are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please take home a box and fill it up and bring it back by Sunday, November 15th. A \$7 donation with each box is also asked to help offset their costs.

Advent Readers

If you would like to volunteer to light an Advent Candle and do the readings, there is a sign up sheet in the hallway.

Mission Challenge

An anonymous donor has challenged our congregation to give for the Prakash Mission work. The challenge is every dollar you give will be matched dollar for dollar until we reach \$5000. So if we do our part that will be \$10,000 for the Prakash Mission!

Liturgy Sign Up

If you would like to contribute to the worship service by reading the liturgy, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the hallway.

Contact Information Needed

If you are a member and took directory pictures we should have updated information on you and your family. If you have an e-mail address that the church might not have, if you are a regular attendee but haven't formally joined the church we would ask that you fill out the "Guest Card" attached to the bulletin or provide the church Secretary with your information. We are gearing up to bring many new ministries and would like to be able to contact you in the manner you prefer, i.e. telephone, e-mail, or regular post, to inform you of the details.

Service Opportunity

If you are looking for a way to serve the church and like working with computers we have the perfect spot for you. The A/V Team runs the computer and sound for the service on Sunday mornings. You would be able to serve the church and not miss worship. The computer part is a simple program to use and the sound board is basic as well. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two in order to find out

what all is involved. For more information please contact Beth Johnson at 210-658-5874 or by e-mail at Beth@StPaulCibolo.com.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Community Outreach

Preparing and serving a meal for the needy of the community once a month on the first Wednesday. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as we attempt to help our brothers and sisters that may need a helping hand.

Donations as well as volunteers are always welcome. Please see Rich A, Don & Marion D, or Willie & Ann S.

Women's Fellowship Recycled Card Program

In Support for St. Jude's Children's Homes

Used greeting cards, front cover only, can be dropped off in the designated box located in the Fellowship Hall. They will then be sent to St. Jude's Children's Home, for use by Kids' Corp., a program of the children at St. Jude's Ranch to learn entrepreneurship skills. The children participate in making the new cards by attaching a new back and then selling them.

For information on purchasing of cards go to http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php. For more information please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Prayer Team

If you are willing to receive e-mails or phone tree messages with prayer requests, please give Pastor Willie Stratemann your e-mail address or phone number.

Ushers and Greeters

If you can help usher on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Women's Fellowship Cookbooks Available

The cookbooks are available in the church office or after church in the Fellowship Hall. They are \$15.00 each and have over 800 recipes. They would make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs:

RACAP is in need of the following items as soon as possible. We are either completely out of or almost out of these items.

Canned pasta with meat (ravioli, lasagna, spaghetti with meatballs, etc.) / Dried Beans
Rice / Meat Helpers / Ramen Noodles
Macaroni and Cheese / All Soups / Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce

Reminder: Due to health regulations R.A.C.A.P. is not allowed to accept any donations that are not in their original container or have been opened.

Notification of Events - If you would like to be notified of St. Paul events, via Google calendar alerts, please send your e-mail to admin@stpaulcibolo.com with a notation for e-mail alerts.

If your church organization needs an announcement put into the Newsletter, the cutoff date is the 23rd of the month and if you need an announcement put into the bulletin, the cutoff date is Tuesday of that week at noon.

Church Office Hours ~ Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Read Through the Bible in a Year program
from Tabletalk daily devotional
(Tabletalk is \$23/year and can be ordered at 1-800-435-4343)

November Readings

Old Testament: Jeremiah 37 - Ezekiel 46
New Testament: Hebrews 2 - 1 John 2

December Readings

Old Testament: Ezekiel 47 - Malachi 4
New Testament: 1 John 3 - Revelation 22

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 15

37 Q. What do you understand by the word "suffered"?

A. That during His whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race. This He did in order that,

by His suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, He might set us free, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

38 Q. Why did He suffer "under Pontius Pilate" as judge?

A. So that He, though innocent, might be condemned by a civil judge, and so free us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.

39 Q. Is it significant that He was "crucified" instead of dying some other way?

A. Yes. This death convinces me that He shouldered the curse which lay on me, since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.

Lord's Day 16

40 Q. Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

A. Because God's justice and truth demand it: only the death of God's Son could pay for our sin.

41 Q. Why was He "buried"?

A. His burial testifies that He really died.

**Giving Report for
September 21- October 25**

*"Bring the whole tithe into...My house, and test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty,
"and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."
Malachi 3:10*

Undesignated (env/checks/loose plate)	12,812.91
Communion	18.00
New Building Fund	340.00
Building Use	400.00
Prakash India Mission	2,420.00
R.A.C.A.P.	145.00
SPEC	120.00
Pass Thru	170.00
Misc. Reimbursement	28.00
Church Maintenance	90.00
TOTAL	16,543.91

Weekly undesignated giving average for this time period was: \$2,563.

Weekly undesignated giving needed to meet budget is \$3,488.

**Attendance for
September 21 - October 25**

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8

As His custom was, Jesus worshipped on the Sabbath day. Luke 4:16

Date	Worship	Nursery	Total
September 27	82	9	91
October 4	83	4	87
October 11	80	3	83
October 18	77	4	81
October 25	88	5	93

St. Paul Staff

Jason Ford, Pastor

Jason@stpaulcibolo.com

Elaine McIntyre, Organist

Elaine@tindomorgans.com

Beth Johnson, Secretary

Beth@stpaulcibolo.com

Robert Webb, Custodian

Webbsondra@yahoo.com