

# The Spotlight

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## Come Before the Lord with Thanksgiving

*Giving thanks* - to show one's pleasure or satisfaction in something; being grateful.

As we approach one of the uniquely American holidays, Thanksgiving, I often think of Romans 1 where it says as a matter of first importance that the difference between believers and unbelievers, Christians and pagans, the religious and irreligious is one of thankfulness.

The unbelieving, irreligious pagan does not acknowledge God, ignores the whole idea of a Creator to whom he is responsible and is ungrateful for the very life and blessings he enjoys. He doesn't realize that every breath he takes, every beat of his heart are gifts from God. These, along with many other blessings, are called 'common grace,' for God is good to the righteous and the wicked alike (Matthew 5:45).

The believing, faithful Christian on the other hand glorifies his Creator, acknowledges his indebtedness and is forever grateful for all he enjoys. The very first thing Paul says to the saints in Rome after his opening salutation in chapter one, is "*I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you,*" (1:8). Gratitude - to God, for people.

November will quickly come and go, and as it draws to a close many of us will

gather with family and friends on the fourth Thursday of the month to celebrate Thanksgiving. Melinda and I are looking forward to that weekend with excited anticipation because all of our children, grandchildren, a new fiancé and perhaps a friend or two will all be together for the first time in several years.

Melinda and I express our gratitude to God daily for people, especially the people we love the most. We are also thankful for you, the saints of Salem Road Covenant Church. Thank you for your prayers, your support, your encouragement and your faithfulness to this fellowship and its work.

Once again there will be an opportunity for you to express your thankfulness to God for people when we come together on Sunday evening, November 22 at 5 p.m. for our Thanksgiving Service. This will be a new day and time for our traditional gathering and the elders and I hope you will plan to attend with your family for an evening of music, prayers, and expressions of thanks. However, you do not need to wait until then to be thankful. *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and give thanks!*

Pastor Mark

## Arise! Cry Out

On November 14 from 9:00-1:00 Moms in Touch International is hosting a world-wide prayer event to pray for our children and schools. Our church is one of two meeting sites in Rochester. Register at [www.MomsInTouch.org](http://www.MomsInTouch.org) or contact Sonja.

## Sticks and Scones

You are invited to Melinda Evinger's on Saturday, November 14 from 10-12. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other handwork. RSVP to Melinda so she'll have enough scones for everyone.

## Church Work Day

Our rescheduled work day at church will be November 21 from 9-noon. We appreciate you coming for all or part of this time to help with indoor projects that need to be done. If you can't come but would like to help out with a project, contact Randy or Sonja Reimer.

Other improvements/updates this month are sanctuary painting this week, and new lighting in the sanctuary and hallway painting next week.

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

On November 21, from 10 - 4, a number of our families will be ringing the bell at TJ Maxx Plaza for the kettle drive. This is a great way to help our community and makes a huge impact every year. Thank you to all who have signed up.

## Turkey Bowl on November 26

Come at 9:00 a.m. for some football fun.



- 5 - Kohl Hanson
- 5 - Luke Ouverson
- 6 - Seth Boyum
- 7 - Sadie Iott
- 8 - Melinda Evinger
- 9 - Glory Lucas
- 10 - Ella Ouverson
- 14 - Jeanette Lorang
- 14 - Shawn Hanson
- 19 - Mike Gustafson
- 24 - Tom Reinhart
- 25 - Steve Lewis
- 26 - Doug Zerbe
- 26 - Brian Gillis
- 28 - Marge Pratten
- 28 - Shirley Heikes
- 28 - Randy Reimer
- 30 - Phil Isaacs

### November Anniversaries

- 3 - Jim & Leone Svelmoe

### Set Up

- 1 - Ouverson
- 8 - Stewart
- 15 - Therneau
- 22 - D. Capps
- 29 - Huebner

### Ushers

- Reimer
- Engstler
- Therneau
- Hanson
- Boyum

### Greeters

- 1 - Svelmoe,  
Pratten
- 8 - Heikes
- 15 - Driscoll
- 22 - Naatz
- 29 - Hopkins

### Nursery

- Ouverson
- Lucas
- Iott
- Johnson
- Gustafson

# Lake Beauty Bible Camp Annual Meeting News

I was pleased to be able to serve as Salem Road's delegate to Lake Beauty Bible Camp's 47th Annual Meeting, held on October 24th at camp. A total of 49 delegates were in attendance, representing 27 churches. Business included the election of new Board members and the introduction of new camp staff as well as the approval of updates to the constitution and by-laws.

A new fundraising campaign was introduced called "A Buck for a Truck." Lake Beauty has a chance to purchase a 1994 GMC Top Kick Truck with a snow plow attachment and just 36,000 miles on it for just \$6500. This vehicle is much-needed to move dirt, haul fire wood, and keep roads plowed in the winter, and the price is right. If every member in our 64 churches were to give just one dollar, there would be enough money to purchase it! A box will be avail-

able on Sunday, November 8, so please consider making a contribution. That Sunday, we'll also show a DVD that LBBC has provided so that all in the member churches can see how Lake Beauty has touched so many lives.

The 2010 Lake Beauty calendar is available and posted on our bulletin board, and you can also find it on the LBBC web site ([www.lbcc.com](http://www.lbcc.com)). The summer theme will be Serve One Another in Love and Become Free, based on Galatians 5:13. Take note that the prices for 2010 camps and retreats have increased slightly.

Finally, a consultant has been hired to work on a master site plan for LBBC. Details should be available in the spring.

The complete written annual report can be found in the hall rack.

Sheryl Peterson

## Covenant World Relief

November is Covenant World Relief month. CWR is an effective and efficient humanitarian aid ministry with a 60 year history. They work with partners around the world to provide relief, rehabilitation and transformational development. These partnerships empower local ministries, increase local involvement, reduce overhead and facilitate immediate response to disaster and human suffering. The goal is to love, serve and work together with the poor, the powerless, and marginalized.

Donations in 2008 totaled \$1,558,000. Ninety-five cents out of every dollar do-

nated was used to support CWR projects around the world. Besides disaster relief for flooding, cyclones, and earthquakes, grants were given for projects addressing issues of health, nutrition, child development, education, micro-enterprise, agriculture, and water.

Look for brochures in your boxes with more details. Banks are available in the hall for your family to collect money. You may give checks or designated money in the offering any Sunday during November or at our Thanksgiving Service on November 22nd.

# Events and Opportunities

## Friendship Place

The Monday evening tutoring and-homework help program at Friendship Place has been very busy, and I am very grateful to all of our volunteers who contribute their time and energy to this worthy program. What has been especially pleasing to me is to see how one little boy, Jamal, has responded to one of our volunteers and is really beginning to make some progress for the first time in several years.

Today, though, I want to talk to you about Friendship Place's financial situation, which is not very good. We are currently spending about twice as much as we are receiving in contributions. About 90% of our budget is not discretionary, mostly rent and wages for the program director of our daytime elementary program. As I project our current income and expenses, it is apparent that Friendship Place can remain open for only about one more year. If you typically make some special charitable contribution during the holiday season, I'd like you to consider contributing to Friendship Place. You can do this by sending a check to Olmsted Outreach, P.O. Box 882, Rochester, MN, 55903-0882, and indicating Friendship Place on the memo line. Thank you for considering Friendship Place. Greg Stewart

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## Eat at Roscoe's BBQ North

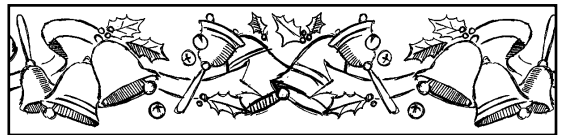
10% of your purchase will be donated to our church. Just give them your name and our church name and address and they will send us a check.

## Annual Christmas Dinner

Believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner! Make plans to kick off the holiday season with your Salem Road family as we gather for our annual party on Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. We're changing it up this year, moving the location to Willow Creek Golf Club (1700 48th Street SW here in Rochester). There will be no auction this year - as it is not a CHIC year - so our focus will be simply to eat, relax, and enjoy one another's company!

The menu promises to be wonderful and will consist of Chicken Marsala or Slow Roasted Pork Loin with Cinnamon Apples (your choice), Pasta Salad and Mixed Greens salad, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, and Coffee, with Apple Cobbler for dessert. Tickets will go on sale beginning November 8 and will be \$15 each. There will be no paper tickets this year, so you will have the convenience of just signing up and showing up!

So invite your friends and get your tickets! We hope to see you all there.



## Birthday Party for Jesus

On December 20, our pre-school kids through 6th grade will gather to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Children are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for Channel One as a gift for Jesus' birthday. We want to serve those who have less than we do.

# Mission Festival at Rochester Covenant Church

Rochester Covenant is holding a Missions Festival November 14-15. Saturday evening we will be having a kickoff for our 2010 mission opportunities, opportunities that we want to invite your congregations to participate in.

Saturday evening, November 14, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm will be a "Soup kitchen" type supper followed by Neil Taylor speaking on the Jesus People USA (JPUSA). Neil is an original member of the community, a ECC pastor and a member of their council. He will be speaking on the history of the JPUSA community, how they became associated with the ECC, their industries and their mission outreach on the near north side of Chicago. You and members of your congregation are most welcome to attend.

The mission opportunities for 2010 that will be presented are:

1) **A local outreach** to Friendship Place the week of June 14 - June 18. We are proposing a Bible School type program with Old Testament characters common to both Islam and Christianity. We wel-

come both adults and school age children to participate in this outreach.

2) **A national outreach** to JPUSA the week of Spring Break -- March 28 to April 4. Again the focus is on both adults and families. The trip will provide a close look at the Jesus People USA community as well as participate in some of their ministry outreach.

3) **The international outreach** is to Cancun, Mexico, August 7 thru August 15. We are partnering with the Messiah Baptist Church in community Bible School and camp construction activities. This trip has both a Youth (high school age) part and a adult/family part.

More information will be available at the Missions Festival. I want to extend an invitation to you and your congregation to participate with us in the Missions Festival, especially on Saturday evening as well as considering joining one or more of our mission opportunities.

Dick Gillis, Missions Commission Chair  
Rochester Covenant Church

## Urbana 09 Student Missions Conference

InterVarsity's 22nd Student Missions Conference will be held December 27-31 in St. Louis. This conference has been held every three years since 1946 for college students and young adults. Urbana has shaped more than 235,000 people, motivating thousands to Christian service in business, professions, the church, and missions around the world. Urbana consistently challenges

participants with the spiritual and physical needs of the world and connects them to opportunities to meet those needs. There are a variety of seminars offered ranging from the big picture to the specific and practical.

For more information or to register, go to [www.urbana09.org](http://www.urbana09.org) or pick up a brochure in the hall rack.