

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 24, 2024

ThanksLiving

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we often begin to think of all the things we should thank God for. We reflect on a series of events to determine how and when to thank God. Sometimes, we forget the fundamental reasons why we should say thanks.

A young man put it this way; "nine months ago, a Christian came to my house and said he wanted me to become a Christian. He talked to me kindly and encouragingly, pointing out the errors of my ways, and I became converted. I had been a hard drinker, but since that time I have not touched a drop of liquor. If anyone had asked who the most hopeless man in town was, they would have pointed to me." Today, this man is the superintendent of a Sabbath school. Eleven years ago, when I went to Boston, I had a cousin who wanted a little of my experience. I gave him all my help, and he became a Christian. He did not know how near death was to him: He wrote to his brother and said: "I am very anxious to get your soul to Jesus." The letter somehow went to another city and lay from the 28th of February till the 28th of March—just one month. He saw it was in his brother's handwriting, tore it open, and read the above words. It struck a chord in his heart and was the means of converting him. And this was the Christian who led this drunken man to Christ. This young man had a neighbor who had drunk for forty years, and he went to that neighbor and told him what God had done for him, and the result was another conversion. I tell you these things to encourage you to believe the drunkard can be saved." (from Moody's Anecdotes and Illustrations. Biblesoft formatted electronic database. Copyright ©2014 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

"ThanksLiving" begins with keeping the value of being born again front and center. Salvation is a gift (Ephesians 2:8-10). No person sought after God on their own (Romans 3:9-11). It was ONLY because "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son....." (John 3:16). Salvation, by God's grace, provided the Holy Spirit who was poured into us (Titus 3:5-8), providing a spiritual gift (1 Peter 4:10). Applying ourselves to use His spiritual gift blesses us eternally (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 15:18). Because He does not listen to the prayers of sinners (John 9:31) now saved, we are blessed!! He now hears even the groans of our hearts (Romans 8:26). The Holy Spirit empowers us to mature in wisdom and righteousness, providing material blessings (Luke 12:13-28; Psalm 112:1-3; 24:3-5).

Sometimes it is hard to swallow this because we often focus on what we don't have rather than seek Christ first. He promises to 'provide our needs according to His riches in glory' (Luke 12:29-34).

Happy ThanksLiving!!



UPCOMING Events



LWFC KIDZ COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday, December 14, 2024
10 am-12 pm
For more information, contact Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org

LWFC CHRISTMAS PARTY
Join the LWFC Kidz and Angel Tree for a community-wide Christmas Party on Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 10 am—12 pm. Register on the events page of the website and for more information contact **Sylvia Edwards** at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org



Serve With The Comfort & Care MINISTRY
Be a source of light and strength for those going through a loss or a health crisis in their family.
Sign up at <https://bit.ly/LWFCComfortCare>

COMFORT & CARE MINISTRY
Join our Comfort & Care Ministry. Be a source of light and strength for those going through a loss or a health crisis in their family. Sign up on the events page of the website or contact **Pastor Duane Lawrence** at dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org or **Margaret Baptiste** mbapt37091@aol.com for more information.



Connection Sundays
2024 December Events
See Website: www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events

December Connection Sundays
Dec. 1st —Candy Canes & Wear Red & White
Dec. 8th —Donuts & Hot Chocolate & Wear Scarfs & Hats
Dec. 15th —Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday
Dec. 22nd—Cookies & Milk for Christmas Sunday & Wear Christmas Colors
Dec. 24th —Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m.
Take Photos & Post With Hashtag #LWFCChristmas2024



JOIN THE NET TEAM
Join our NET Evangelism Team that goes out to spread the gospel in the community. We have opportunities for you to serve on the street team that goes out, on the hospitality team that provides refreshments, and the phone team that makes phone calls to spread the good news of Christ. For more information sign up on the events page of the website or contact **Pastor Duane Lawrence** or **Omari Dawson**.




LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$89 per week with a \$55 Registration fee. The program focuses on the four cornerstones of child development: Academic, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Activities include robotics, karate, arts and crafts, outside play, academic enrichment, cooking classes, sports & more. Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCAResister> or call (281) 445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Communion
- Worship In Giving
 - Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses
- Special Music
- "ThanksLiving"
 - Colossians 1:9-12
- Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website
- Call to Discipleship
 - Please remain seated at this time
- Visitor's Welcome
- Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade



LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY 7:30 PM

ThanksLiving
Colossians 1:9-12

A. Renewed (v. 9):

- 1. Paul was unequivocally committed to incessantly prostrate himself before God focusing on petitioning the Lord on behalf of these believers.
- 2. Paul, respecting the Lord’s power and authority, requests that He completely control these believers’ grasp of spiritual truths so that they can achieve an intimate experience with God.
- 3. Paul’s desire is for the spirit of God to influence these believers to come to a ‘full knowledge’ of God’s Word so that from their intimate experience of His Word, they learn what pleases Him and brings Him glory.
- 4. Understanding the Lord’s will, because of the influence of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13), allows believers to become skillful in applying God’s Word in real-life situations. This is a result of skillfully balancing factual information against the knowledge of God for an application that manifests mental excellence (Philippians 1:9-11).
- 5. When the Word of God is clearly exposed in the mind of a believer, it becomes easier to understand the decision-making process. This allows them to function in an excellent manner under whatever circumstances they may be experiencing; Peter says they will not stumble (2 Peter 1:3-11).

B. Revived (v. 10):

- 1. Being able to balance the issues of life against the Word of God, as a result of the influence of the Holy Spirit, blesses us to once and for all experience the inner strength that comes from the Holy Spirit and live at a high level of maturity.
- 2. Our inner desire to walk in a manner to please God, coupled with our commitment to living at a high level of maturity, causes us to focus on gaining God’s favor as bond slaves.
- 3. This spiritual commitment to Christ indicates a continuous process by which a believer experiences the fruit of the Holy Spirit permeating their lives.
- 4. This spirit-filled life is energized to walk by faith, which is a labor of love that benefits both the person engaged in it and those around them.
- 5. The practical application of God’s Word grows to an even greater understanding of God’s Word, stimulating a greater intimacy with God and a ‘mental grasp of spiritual truths.’ This matures a believer to have a thorough participation in the Word of God.

C. Empowered (v. 11):

- 1. When the ministry of the Holy Spirit blesses us to gain spiritual wisdom and understanding while increasing knowledge, we are able, from the inside out, to experience His supernatural ability to overcome obstacles in the face of our troubles and dangers. This is what allows us to ‘do all things through Christ who strengthens us.’ (Philippians 4:13) We are also more than conquerors (Romans 8:37-39).
- 2. When we function in this manner the divine nature of God (2 Peter 1:3-4) becomes more of who we are, so like Paul, “I no longer live, it is Christ that lives in me.....” (Galatians 2:20) This experience empowers us to live in His supernatural strength while displaying His divine nature.
- 3. The inner strength that matures us to become like Christ and live in His supernatural power enables us to endure long trials, blessing us with the ability to wait on God while also being patient with others who may have wronged us.

D. Gratitude, Attitude (v. 12):

- 1. We can become so drunk with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-19) that in the midst of hardship or opposition for others, we can experience exuberant gladness leading to dancing and leaping with intense joy. David modeled this for us in Psalm 34 and Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19. This is because the fruit of the Spirit is joy (Galatians 5:22-23). This is the object of everything God does for us in this passage.
- 2. When we experience all that the Lord is doing for us and how that powerfully transforms our lives, providing inner strength to make it through each storm we will be grateful to the God who is responsible for beginning this spiritual journey.
- 3. We are blessed because of the salvific work of God (John 3:16), and we can fully (Titus 3:5) share in the ministry of the Holy Spirit as promised by Christ in John 14:16-17. (Ephesians 3:16-21)
- 4. When we are blessed with spiritual wisdom and understanding while growing in the knowledge of God, we are empowered to consistently portray a lifestyle that is pleasing to God as we walk in a worthy manner. This leads to good works, while continuously increasing in God’s knowledge empowering us to withstand all the attacks of the Devil. We become saints (totally separated unto God) and salt and light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

Donate Toys

By Dec. 13th

Donate Unwrapped Toys for the LWFC Community Christmas Party by Dec. 13th in the Children’s Wing or in the foyers

Contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards for more information

Connection Sundays

2024 December Events

December 1st	Candy Canes in the Foyer Wear Your Candy Cane Red & White
December 8th	Donuts & Hot Chocolate in the Foyer Wear Scarfs and Hats
December 14th	LWFC Kidz Community Christmas Party Legacy Sanctuary Silver Stars Christmas Event Off Campus Christmas Sneaker Ball Dress Up With Tennis Shoes LWFC Drama Ministry Fellowship
December 15th	Ugly Sweater Sunday Wear Your Ugliest Christmas Outfits
December 22nd	Christmas Cookies and Milk Wear Christmas Colors
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service “The Gift of Hope”

www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events
Use Hashtag #LWFCChristmas2024

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Ashley Gipson & family, Sylvia Edwards & family, Curtis Wiley & family, Olivia Hamilton & family, Patsy Gettersson & family, Lucretia Lewis & family, and Vicki Wilson & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gattersson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Be-atrice Williams, Jessie Austin, and Evelyn Harvey.

ThanksLiving
Colossians 1:9–12

