

## Nov/Dec 2019 Newsletter

### Time is a Sign of Grace ~ Pastor David Niemela

I hear it quite often, "Time goes fast." The snow reminded us that time has passed quickly, and the department stores have us thinking months in advance with their Christmas sections already on display. Didn't I just start here when it was warm and sunny? But passing time is not all bad. Time on earth is a sign of God's grace.

"...when you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen. 2:17). God told Adam this concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This statement can be confusing since we know after Adam and Eve ate of the tree, they were still alive.

Although it might not answer everything, we should note that their sin made them dead in their sin *to God* (Eph. 2:1). They were not dead to one another, as people in the grave are dead to us. Adam and Eve still had a type of life as they continued to breathe. Why did not God totally make an end of them? Why did we get to still roam the earth while we were yet sinners? Why does He give us and the whole world time?

God revived Adam and Eve with a promise that would not be fulfilled for a long time, even thousands of years. This promise was about the offspring of Eve, Jesus, who would bruise Satan's head (Gen. 3:15). God's plan of salvation would take time.

The very fact all humans, both Christians and non-Christians, breathe is a sign of grace. We only know this as we look at time through the lens of God's Word. A most insightful passage into this is about Samson's parents in Judges 13. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah and his wife, telling them they shall give birth to a son who would deliver Israel. Manoah decided to give a burnt offering to this Messenger, and the Angel ascended in the flame that was ignited for the burnt offering. Amazed and now realizing that this was the Angel of the Lord, Manoah exclaimed, "We are doomed to die!...We have seen God!" (v.22) His wife gives an insightful reply: "If the Lord had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering

from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this." (v.23)

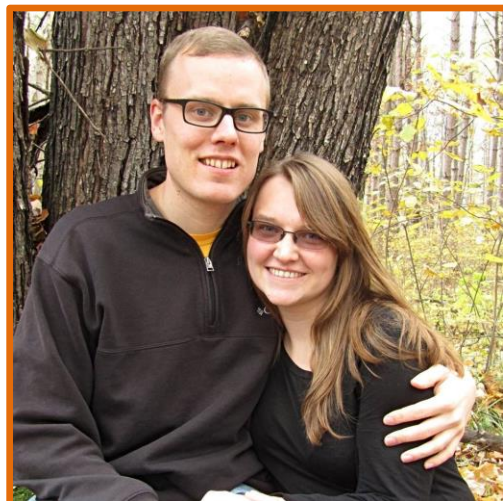
"If the Lord had meant to kill us..." That is a good point. If God meant to kill us, would have he let Adam and Eve breathe longer? Would have he let us have our lives as they now are? Would have he sent His Son to die?

God desires all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). "Our Lord's patience means salvation" (2 Peter 3:15) Peter wrote. He does not intend to kill, but he patiently waits for all or any to repent. We need time to do many things. Work takes time. Family. Sleep and rest. The Word says to redeem all this time (Eph. 5:16), which we have not done. Yet, all is not lost. There is still time.

You have even helped people attain more time on earth because of your labor of increasing others' livelihood and health as you serve at your job, home, and wherever else it may be.

Remind yourself, show others, that time is a gift from the patient God. Time is a sign that even this just God does not intend to kill us. He is for us. Then show that while there is time there is an opportunity to open the next, most gracious gift: life in God's Son.

In Christ, Pastor David



## Calendar of Events: Nov/Dec 2019

- Sunday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 8:45am Sunday School  
10am Worship Service
- Wed, Nov 6<sup>th</sup>:** 3:30pm Kid's Club  
6pm Confirmation Class & 6pm Youth Group
- Sunday Nov 10<sup>th</sup>:** 8:45am Sunday School  
10am Worship, with Holy Communion
- Wed, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>:** 3:30pm Kid's Club  
6pm Confirmation Class & 6pm Youth Group  
**6:30pm WMF Meeting**
- Sunday Nov 17<sup>th</sup>:** 8:45am Sunday School  
10am Worship Service  
(Note: no Potluck)
- Wed, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>:** 3:30pm Kid's Club *\*last session*  
6pm Confirmation Class & 6pm Youth Group
- Sunday Nov 24<sup>th</sup>:** 8:45am Sunday School  
10am Worship Service  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
9:30-1pm Pancake Benefit for Mark Glad
- Wed, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>:** 6pm Confirmation Class  
7:30pm Thanksgiving Service
- Thurs, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>:** 11am-2pm Community Thanksgiving  
Meal ~ free to all, at United Free
- Sunday Dec 1<sup>st</sup>:** 8:45am Sunday School  
10am Worship Service
- Wed, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>:** 6pm Confirmation & 6pm Youth  
**6pm WMF Christmas party**
- Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>:** 8:45am Sunday School  
10am Worship Service, with the Sunday School  
Christmas program  
Fellowship potluck
- Wed, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>:** 6pm Confirmation Class  
6pm Youth Group
- Sunday Dec 15<sup>th</sup>:** 10am Worship Service
- Wed, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>:** 6pm Confirmation & 6pm Youth
- Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 10am Worship Service
- Tues, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>:** 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service
- Sunday, Dec 29<sup>th</sup>:** 10am Worship Service

## United Free WMF

### (Women's Missionary Federation)

1 Chronicles 16:34: "Give **thanks** to the Lord,  
for he is good; his love endures forever."

The ladies have a busy couple of months coming up. WMF Bible Study and meeting will be on **Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>**. Angie is the Bible Study leader and Angie and Avis W are hostesses. The Bible study will be *Dorcus...Showing My Love for Jesus in Practical Ways & Mary, Mother of Jesus... God keeps His Word. Read: Acts 9:36-42 & Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2*. We will be studying both November and Decembers Bible study, so take note of that.

Ladies of all ages are welcome to attend. We meet at 6:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in the dining room. We also have elections for the office of Vice President and Secretary, so please pray for these needs and that someone comes forward to take on those offices. If you would like to hear more about WMF, please contact Angie Truscinski@ 218-779-3570 or email me at [atruscinski@hotmail.com](mailto:atruscinski@hotmail.com).

There will NOT be a potluck in November since we have the big Thanksgiving Dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We are all excited about sharing with the Community on the meaning of being thankful!

### Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> will be the WMF Christmas Party at 6pm.

Heidi Hamann of Badger will be the speaker and she will talk about Spiritual gifts. We are not having hotdishes this year, but will be having homemade scallop potatoes with ham that the Martha group will make, the Esther group should bring salads and Sarah group should bring sandwiches and cakes/bars or desert. Please invite your friends and family to attend, it is always a fun night with Arlene and Joanne, Jody and the praise group of Matt, Lynn, Robin, Trish and Dawn singing. Pastor David and Jenny are also participating in the program, but I can't give it all away ahead of time, so you will have to come to check it out.

We will not have a meeting in December for Bible study. We will have a new study and books starting in January. If you are gone for part of the winter and want to make sure we keep a book for you, please let myself or Paulette Nelson know.  
*Blessings, Angie*



UNITED FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COMMUNITY

# Thanksgiving Dinner

**Thursday, November 28th**  
**Serving from 11am-2pm**

MENU: Turkey, Ham, Mashed potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing, Corn, Cranberries, Buns, & Dessert

>> Take-out available | Limited deliveries available | 782-2249

**FREE FOR EVERYONE + EVERYONE WELCOME**

United Free Lutheran Church  
 845 Old Ridge Rd | Greenbush, MN 56726

**ANNUAL MEETING ~ Nov 24<sup>th</sup>**

THANK YOU to these servants for serving our Congregation this past year:

Council Member at Large:

Charles S\*, Brian B, Doug G

Deacons:

Lyle M.\*, Matt G, Brandon W.

Trustees:

Ryan W\*, Curt C, Randy D

Head Usher: Craig C

Christian Ed. Cmt:

Robin W\*, Trish W, Anna S

Music Cmt:

Corena G\*, Joel, Shania

\*- term is up for 2019

How can YOU serve this coming year?



**PANCAKE BENEFIT**

for

**MARK GLAD**

of Greenbush

To help defray medical expenses

**Sunday, November 24, 2019**

**9:30 am until 1 pm**

at the

**Greenbush Community Center**

**Freewill Offering—Everyone Welcome**

Pancakes – Ham – Ice Cream

Strawberries – Juice – Milk – Coffee

*Sponsored by the Greenbush-Badger Lions Club*

Mailed donations may be sent to: Lions, P.O. Box 8, Greenbush, MN 56726





## Pumpkin Prayer



**Cut off the top:**  
**Lord, open my mind and fill me with Your wisdom and guidance.**

**Scoop out the yuckies:**  
**Lord, take out all my fussies and frownies and fill me with Your love.**

**Carve out the eyes:**  
**Lord, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things You have made.**

**Carve out the nose:**  
**Lord, help me to be a sweet fragrance for You.**

**Carve out the mouth:**  
**Lord, help me to always speak Your words of love and kindness.**

**Place in a candle:**  
**Lord, let me be a light to others For You have filled me with Your light.**

## KIDS CLUB FUN!



## Happy Fall from United Free Sunday School!

We are in full swing teaching our kiddos about prayer. It has been so much fun to see their faces light up with understanding and learning. We have been busy carving pumpkins, singing songs, and learning about God's love for each one of us. The kids are learning why we pray and how important it is to have a relationship with Jesus. We eagerly look forward to seeing each and every one of our kiddos every Sunday, and are always ready to welcome more into our great group of kids.

The weather has provided a natural change to looking at the upcoming season of Christmas, whether we are ready for it or not! Robin is ready. She has already started practices for the upcoming Christmas Pageant. So, without further ado, here is that introduction!

**The United Free Sunday School proudly presents *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels* on December 8<sup>th</sup> at our regular church service beginning at 10am.** Can these angels get it together to present the real meaning of Christmas? On December 8<sup>th</sup> we will hold Sunday School at the regular time so the kids can prepare. There will be a potluck following the service as well, so please stay and be merry with our church family.

We teachers, like the angels, need to get this program together, and we are asking for your help. **4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders** will be asked to have additional practices in November and December. A letter will be sent out by Trish and Robin with further information about this. We are also looking for **volunteers** who would be interested in helping us sew some costumes for this pageant. Please contact Robin if you are interested. Her contact information is listed at the end of this letter.

**Sneak Peak: We are planning a caroling event!** We would love for any Youth Group, Kids Club, Sunday School, and church goer family to come and celebrate Christmas with us. We will be caroling around town spreading holiday cheer to the community. We are hoping to be pulled by horses on a trailer, so if anyone is interested in helping out with this, please let us know. Hot chocolate and cookies are sure to follow. This will be scheduled after the Christmas Pageant is done and before Christmas. Date to be announced.

Please pray that we can teach God's word to your children in a way that it reaches into their hearts and takes root.

Merry Christmas!

The Sunday School Staff

(Contact Robin Waage – 782-4261 –if you're a sewer!)

*The greatest Christmas gift of all was never placed beneath a tree. He lay within a manger for the entire world to see.*

## THIS & THAT:

**KIDS CLUB** - Our group of elementary kids have been having such a great time together learning God's Word! Thanks for Pastor David and Jenny for the great help! November 20<sup>th</sup> will be the last session, and we will restart in the new year-watch for a date!



### DISTRICT AFLC NEWS:

**COMBINED SPECIAL MEETINGS** ~ were held here at United Free this year Starting Sunday Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, we were blessed with with Rev Alex Amiot of Thief River as our guest speaker. *\*\*Thank You to all for attending!*

Sunday Night Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>:

YOUTH/FAMILY GAME AND FUN NIGHT

5:30-8pm ~ Bring a snack (& game if you wish)

**FRUIT FUNDRAISER for Youth group –**

Orders taken in November!!

Delivered before Christmas

Nov 24<sup>th</sup>: Annual Congregational Meeting

**Thanksgiving Dinner:** Helpers are needed to prep, serve, deliver, cleanup.  
How can YOU Serve? Contact Matt, Pastor David or Angie

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>: 6pm WMF Christmas Party

**Sunday School Christmas program:**

Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – during the Worship Service

CONFIRMATION FAMILIES: Lynn Strand has put together the Supper Schedule rotation for Wed Confirmation Nights.

Have something to highlight for the next United voice ~ get information or articles to