

## Family Information

### Sermon Series Title

A Thankful Life

### Sermon Passage

Luke 2: 22-38

Thoughts to Consider This Week:

- 1) What are you known for?
- 2) Why do you have hope?
- 3) What's the longest you've ever waited for something you really wanted?

**November Challenge: Share with someone this week why you are thankful for the Lord.**

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Dot Duncan** will be having surgery on Monday, November 25th. Please be praying for her.

**Karen Chavis** injured her leg. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Gretchen Estep** is now at home. Please continue to pray for her.

**Vicki Cowans** requests prayers for her attitude and actions. She says that Jesus is worthy of so much more worship than she has been giving Him lately. She has slid into corporate worship and been late a lot. Pray that she will not withhold that time and effort for Him.

## Calendar

### November

24 Services At Willow Brook  
 27 Food Pantry Closed  
 28 Happy Thanksgiving

### December

4 Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30 am  
 8 Single Sisters Lunch  
 8 White Elephant Gift Exchange  
 Christmas Party  
 18 Food Pantry Closed  
 18 Northland Child Care Christmas Program, 7:00 pm  
 25 Food Pantry Closed  
 29 Area Wide Worship At Genessee  
 30 Church Bowling 11 am-1 pm

### January 2020

1 Happy New Year  
 1 Food Pantry Closed

**For The Month of November**  
**Invitation/ Responses: Jim Robbins**  
**Foyer Duty: John Lindsay**  
**Greeters: Dan and Sandra Loy**  
**Announcements: Glenn Culler**

### Communion Servers

<b>Perry Coate</b>	<b>Jack Evans</b>
<b>Josh Evans</b>	<b>Michael Evans</b>
<b>Mike Evans</b>	<b>William Nixon</b>
<b>Frank Rynearson</b>	<b>Paul Silva</b>

### Contribution

<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Average YTD</b>
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<b>General:</b>	\$6218	\$5062
<b>Designated:</b>	\$520	\$169



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## Why Are We Thankful?

*We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds. - Psalm 75:1*

There are over 117 million public posts on Instagram with #blessed in the caption and over 36.4 million posts with #thankful. If you scroll through the posts, you will see people from all over the world exclaiming thanks for new cars, clothes, a relationship, a new child, or a delicious meal they just ate. The sheer number of posts is enough to make even a wealthy person feel lacking. As we enter the holiday season, we must ask ourselves: as Christians, why are we thankful?

We are thankful because *God's steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 136)*. God has shown us his steadfast love throughout all of history. From the creation to the end of times, God is resolute. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, or things present or things to come, nor powers, nor heights nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39). Let us praise God and thank Him for His never-ending love!

We are thankful because *God is merciful and forgives us (1 Peter 1:3, 1 John 1:9)*. We have hope because our salvation comes not from our human will, but it depends entirely on God's mercy (Romans 9:15-16). If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Let us praise God and thank Him for His merciful will and forgiving spirit!

We are thankful because *God takes care of our human needs (Matthew 6:25-33)*. Matthew 6 tells us to not be anxious, asking 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' Those who do not know God seek these things, but we know God and we know that He will provide for us. If we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, our human needs will be met. Let us praise God and thank Him for taking care of our human concerns!

Most importantly, we are thankful because *God sent Jesus (John 3:16)*. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." In this one verse we see the gospel of the entire Bible. The good news that God sent Jesus to die for us so that we may have eternal life with Him. It is through Jesus that we have a living hope to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading (1 Peter 1:3). Let us praise God and thank Him for sending his Son to die a terrible death so that we may know true life!

I want to challenge you this holiday season, to proclaim the greatness of our God and let the whole world know why you are thankful!

- Ashley Dillinger

### Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

**Minister:** Caleb Dillinger  
**Elders:** Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins  
**Deacons:** Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva  
**Spanish Ministry:** Elmer Renderos

## Our All-Sufficient Portion

*The Lord is my portion, saith my soul. (Lamentations 3:24)*

It is not "The Lord is partly my portion," nor "The Lord is in my portion," but He Himself makes up the sum total of my soul's inheritance. Within the circumference of that circle lies all that we possess or desire. The Lord is my portion.

Not His grace merely, nor His love, nor His covenant, but Jehovah Himself. He has chosen us for His portion, and we have chosen Him for ours. It is true that the Lord must first choose our inheritance for us, or else we shall never choose it for ourselves; but if we are really called according to the purpose of his love, we can sing:

Lov'd of my God for Him again  
With love intense I burn;  
Chosen of Him ere time began,  
I choose Him in return.

The Lord is our all-sufficient portion. God fills Himself; and if God is all-sufficient in Himself, He must be all-sufficient for us . . .

All that we can wish for is to be found in our divine portion, so that we ask, "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee." Well may we "delight ourselves in the Lord," who makes us to drink of the river of His pleasures.

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon  
(1834-1892)



## For Such A Time As This

*Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? - Esther 4:14*

In her young life, Esther has already faced many unexpected events. Her cousin Mordecai had raised her when she lost her parents. She was one of the Hebrew exiles, yet she suddenly found herself made Queen of Persia. And now Mordecai warns her that destruction has been proclaimed for all of the Israelite exiles, appealing to her for help.

Yet Esther would have to deal with King Xerxes, an erratic and impulsive king, whose decisions were made by whim and emotion rather than with understanding and justice. Moreover, if someone approached the king without being asked, it came at the risk of immediate death. So she and Mordecai ask God to show them why she may have come where she is 'for such a time as this.'

We too may sometimes find ourselves wondering how we can face troubled times that seem overwhelming, or we may often simply wonder why God has brought us where he has led us, and why we are in such a time and place as this. So Esther reminds us that we can always turn to God and ask him for guidance and spiritual strength -

*Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king. - Esther 4:15-16*

As God brought Esther to her position, he has brought each of us to a 'royal position'; he has made us his own sons and daughters, *a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession (1 Peter 2:9)*. Yogi Berra once observed, "No matter where you go, there you are." Yet for us, wherever we go, there is also God, who is with us and gives us guidance and reassurance.

For Helen Keller, every new day brought obstacles and unexpected problems, so she trusted God to guide her one step at a time, and she wrote, "A bend in the road is not the end of the road. . . . as long as you make the turn". God promises that as we walk by faith in Jesus, *Along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them (Isaiah 42:16)*. Moreover, God has made each of us part of the body of Jesus -

*God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. - 1 Corinthians 12:16-18*

Human nature often overlooks things that matter a lot to God, yet in the body of Jesus each part is indispensable. Albert Einstein once used an amusing analogy, "If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it'll spend its whole life believing that it is a failure," to encourage us to appreciate people who are different from us and things that often go unnoticed.

None of us knows what tomorrow holds, none of us knows where the bend in the road ahead may take us, and many of us may feel like a fish trying to climb a tree. Yet God understands each of us and what each of us endures. He asks us just to give him our 'mustard seed' of faith and let him show us the next step; for, as Esther understood, his ways and thoughts are far higher than ours.

- Mark Garner