



# November News

2025

## Prepare to Die Well

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25*

As you read the title of this article you may have thought to yourself, "Gosh, Pastor Michael, this sounds a bit dark and depressing!" Ok, I can understand your concern, but please keep reading.

Have you ever noticed how people in general are always preparing for something? Whether it's our work, our relationships, or our schedules. Yet with all the things we spend our time preparing for, I am going to assume that for most people *preparing to die* is probably not on that list.

The reality is this, death is something that is on *everyone's* appointment calendar, but talking about it seems odd and taboo. Here's why: we convince ourselves that we have a long time to live, and as long as we are healthy, we really believe that we will live forever in this body.

Consider what we often forget. If the God who is revealed in the Bible is revealing truth to us, (and I believe He is) then this life is a dress rehearsal for eternity. The Bible seeks to drive us to "death awareness" and protect ourselves from deception. We need a teacher to sober us up, and the only teacher who can rescue us from ourselves is God. In Psalm 90:12 we read, *"So teach us to number our days that we might get a heart of wisdom."* Compared to eternity, life is short. We need to value the moments and days God gives us. In doing so, our hearts become wise.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, my dad lived his last day on this earth. In the days before his death, we spent a lot of time in the hospital talking about the things that mattered most. In one of our many conversations, I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to make sure my dad would "die well" by making sure that Jesus was His

Savior and Lord. I left the hospital that night unsure of how many days my dad had left, but what I was certain of is that my dad was prepared to someday die well.

The words Jesus said in John 11:25 were spoken in a moment when those listening were confronted with the death of a loved one. And consider this, Jesus chose not to avoid the ultimate reality that none of us can avoid. Jesus in His death on a cross, would *redeem* death for the new purpose of bringing life in a way never experienced! Let's remember that death was never intended for this world.

In the Garden, Adam and Eve were tricked by the promise that they could be "like God." What could be more life-giving than being God himself? But it was all a sham, with deadly consequences. They ate, sin entered the world, and now we must pay the ultimate wage of sin: death. To repair what was broken in the Garden, Jesus Christ freely sacrificed his own life to put sin to death. Through his death and resurrection, life was freely given to those who believe.

The following is a portion of a letter written by John Newton to Mrs. Talbot on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1777. Her fear was that her husband may have rejected God and suffered terribly prior to his death. Newton writes these beautiful words of assurance:

*"The Lord usually reserves dying strength for a dying hour! You have nothing to fear from death; for Jesus, by dying, has disarmed it of its sting, has perfumed the grave, and opened the gates of glory for his believing people! Satan, so far as he is permitted, will assault our peace—but he is a vanquished enemy. Our Lord holds him with a chain and sets him bounds which he cannot pass."*

Death is a defeated enemy, because of Jesus and His resurrection! Trust in Jesus and prepare to die well!

Make Much of Jesus- Pastor Michael



Founded in 1987, the Victory Center Rescue Mission is a comprehensive ministry in Clinton, Iowa. They serve all by providing food and shelter to any individual or family in need of assistance, whether they are facing homelessness, addiction, or poverty.

The Center's mission is to provide the opportunity to cultivate a relationship with God, transform individual lives through proactive support and positive reinforcement, and empower them to live with dignity and grace.

The Victory Center has two shelters in Clinton, IA: One for men and a separate one for women (which includes their children). They have a food pantry every Saturday and feed the public lunch and dinner every Monday – Friday. This ministry is totally supported through generous tax-deductible contributions and

## Missionary Focus

donations of supporters like you and Journey Church.

Ron McKenney, a representative from the Victory Center, will be at Journey Church Sunday, November 16, during our "Meet and Greet" time (10:00 – 10:30am) and after worship. He will be glad to answer your questions and talk with anyone interested in learning more about this mission.

Their annual "Great Thanksgiving Banquet" will be held Wednesday, November 26 in Clinton High School's Yourd Gym at 6:30 p.m. Last year they served about 750 Thanksgiving meals and this year they are planning for 1,000.

Let's be HIS hands and feet by providing prayer, volunteering time, and/or finances to this ministry. Please consider giving to this worthy cause.



## Veterans Day... what does it mean?

Veterans Day honors all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, living and deceased. Its true meaning is to express gratitude for veterans' service, courage, and sacrifice, which includes acknowledging the human cost of war and military service on individuals and their families.

Thank you, Veterans!

## Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes

<https://samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline>

Did you miss the deadline to help out this wonderful ministry through Journey Church? You can go online and build a box for just \$30. You select items and they make sure these boxes go to unreached areas.



## It's Cookie Time!

Bake cookies to financially bless our Missionaries! This year we are asking for 50 dozen cookies; No store-bought please. Sign up at the Sign Up Counter!



Please bring your homemade cookies, in a disposable container, to the church kitchen before 10:00 am on Thursday, December 4.



**Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch**

**Sunday, November 9**  
Following the  
Worship Service  
**All** are invited to attend  
**Members, please make it a priority**

The Elder Board is recommending **Vittoria Eagle and Bruce and Billie Selser** for membership, and **Jon Balk** as an Elder.

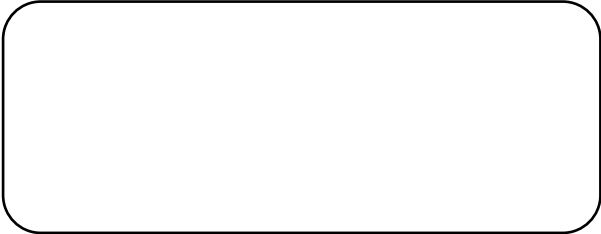
According to our Articles of Incorporation, “*The congregation will then have a three week period for consideration of the recommended applicants. During this time the Elders may be approached by members regarding the recommended applicants.*”

If you have a topic, regarding church business, that you would like the Elders to consider including in the agenda, please let them know no later than **November 3**. Current Elders are Michael Bell, Gary Fier, Mike Ketelsen, Jeff Reed, and Daryl Yoder.



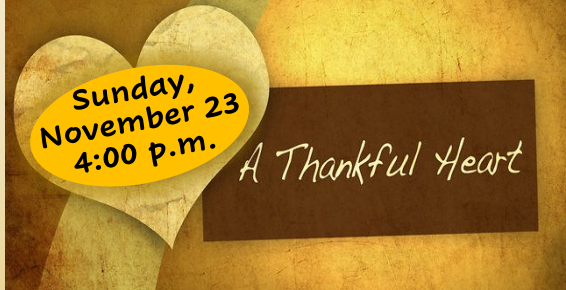
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**Annual Thanksgiving Celebration**

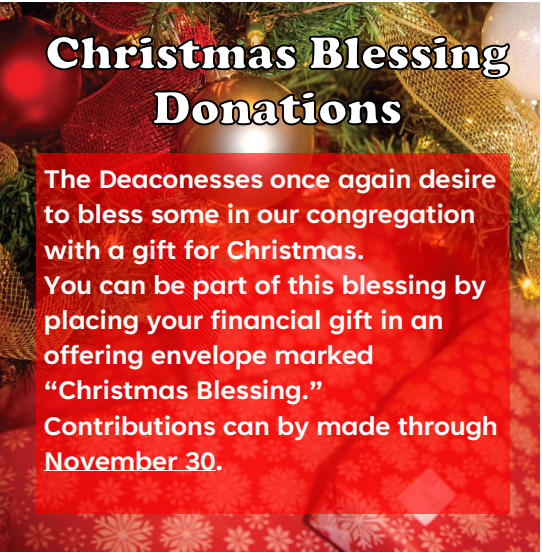


Every year Journey Church has a service and dinner where we give thanks to God for His love, caring and kindness to us.



- Service—4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
- Catered dinner—5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall
- Reservations can be made at the Connection Point and are due by **Nov. 16**.
- Please don't let your financial situation keep you away. We would love for you to be there. Just sign up so we know how many meals to plan for.

**Christmas Blessing Donations**



The Deaconesses once again desire to bless some in our congregation with a gift for Christmas. You can be part of this blessing by placing your financial gift in an offering envelope marked “Christmas Blessing.” Contributions can be made through **November 30**.

**Family Christmas Celebration**

Everyone is invited to join us!  
Sunday, December 14  
9:00am in the Fellowship Hall



**Save the Date**

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**THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION**  
November 23, 4:00 p.m.



**Gathered**  
*in gratitude,*  
lifting our  
hearts in  
*Thanksgiving*  
to the Lord.