



November 2025

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS – Pastor Jim Brown

My current 3-message series is on THANKSGIVING as I feel we could always use a refresher on being THANKFUL to our Lord God.



I love the “NINE WORDS” we say often in church:

“REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. (I love those verses – and IF I were ever visiting another church and for some reason asked to preach a sermon impromptu, no Bible, no notes, that’s one of a short list of passages I’d go to!)

Think about this: those nine words ARE God’s will for you and me since we are in Christ Jesus, aka Born Again. They are NOT optional. And as I often say: “God never tells us to do anything that is not ultimate for our benefit AND His glory.” THUS – doing those nine words – which includes: “In everything give thanks” – is for our benefit AND for God’s glory!

I don’t have time to TEACH in this short missive, but one thing that is HARD for many, and especially the average American, is to GIVE THANKS to God. Many of us have grown up with the sentiment of the Sinatra song: “I did it my way” on our minds. THUS, there is the presumption that we need NOT thank God, “He didn’t do anything, I did.” (Well, you know that is immature thinking.)

So, this Thanksgiving Month, BE THANKFUL. (All year round, actually!) Thank God that you can READ this church newsletter. That you can SEE and HEAR the TV. That you have FRIENDS, FAMILY, and people who know you. That you can enjoy your food, that you can watch a sunrise or sunset. That you can enjoy the clouds floating across the sky, the stars and moon and night... and on and on. But mostly, thank God for sending His Son Jesus, for your and my salvation, because “God so loved the WORLD” ... and YOU! (Ponder that – God sent Jesus because He loved YOU. Tell Him thanks for that!)

Growing your “Attitude of Gratitude” is a good thing! And I am thankful to the LORD for calling me to be Pastor here and with Debbie, to serve Him and love Him with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Love God, Love Others. That’s Lake Church!



Dr. Jim Brown, Pastor



Pastor Jim's Christmas series this December will be entitled: **"The Way in a Manger."** (John 14:6 – Jesus said: *"I am the way, the truth and the life."*) It will be a fun month! Invite your friends!

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN – Art Pedersen

In the Bible, November has several significant things happening. This part of the year in the Hebrew calendar is covered by the months of Kislev, early November, and Cheshvan, the latter part and into December.

Deuteronomy 1:3 says that *"In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the Lord had commanded him concerning them."* Then in verse 8, after God had shown Moses all the lands they were promised, *"See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land the Lord swore he would give to your fathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – and to their descendants after them."* So, it was this time of year that God commanded the Israelites to take the "promise land." Today they are still struggling to keep it.



It was this time of year that the waters of the great flood started to recede, bringing hope and a sign of God's provision for Noah and his family. And Zechariah records that the word of the Lord came to him on the 24th day of the eleventh month. This message provided reassurance and a vision for the restoration of Israel during a difficult time for the returning exiles.

This is also the time the first Temple, constructed by Solomon, was finally dedicated.

According to what I have read on Biblical Timeline, some modern spiritual teachings associate November with spiritual themes based on the Jewish calendar and scriptural reflections. It is a time for believers to focus on inner battles and the importance of right actions, and to focus on this month as a time for spiritual protection. Some interpret this month, derived from prophetic teaching, as a time to experience the great flow of God's presence, symbolized by a "river of Holy Spirit" which brings peace, healing, and rest.

I don't know if they realized it, but the Pilgrims picked a good time to celebrate Thanksgiving. A "river of Holy Spirit" bringing us nothing but good things is something to celebrate and be extremely grateful for. God's blessings flow freely and with no limits.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

SO GOOD TO SEE SUSAN!

It was a pleasure getting to see Susan York when she visited us recently (and led us in worship). If you weren't able to join us, here's a photo of Susan and Pastor Jim.



ANSWERS TO BIG QUESTIONS – Geoff Glossop, Apologetics and Bible Teacher

HOW DO I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

God invites everyone to become a Christian. (2 Peter 3:9, Acts 17:30) While the specific way to accept this invitation is not described in concise detail, the Bible does provide strong guidelines.

The Bible verse John 3:16 reads, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* The word “believes” here is the Greek word *Pisteuō*, which means much more than just “believe”, as in “knowledge of.” It means to trust in, rely on, obey, and put total confidence in.

In other words, there isn’t a list of specific physical actions that will deliver the status of being a Christian; it is more about your state of mind (and heart) with respect to Jesus. Anyone who is sincerely and honestly seeking to know God will find Him, as in Jeremiah 29:13, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Individual experiences of becoming a Christian vary considerably, but here are some common aspects:

- Recognize your sin: acknowledge that sin separates you from God
- Repent and ask forgiveness: turn away from sin
- Believe in Jesus Christ and acknowledge that He is God: have faith in Jesus and His ultimate sacrifice as atonement for the sins of mankind (including you)
- Invite Jesus into your life: receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior and surrender your life to His leadership
- Receive the Holy Spirit: the indwelling Spirit brings about a spiritual rebirth, with a new, God-centered personality
- Live as a follower of God: be confident in speaking about and acting according to your newfound truth
- Grow to love God: as you get to know Him better, you will love Him more
- Desire obedience to God: when you acknowledge His Deity, when you understand more of who He is and what He has done for you, you will desire above all to be obedient to Him

Following some or all of the above, a person will begin to see God differently. 1 Corinthians 12:3 tells us, *“no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”* Romans 10:9 makes a similar statement, *“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* In both cases, Paul is referring to sincere, honest confessions of personal belief.

A true Christian desires and pursues a relationship with God that is grounded in an attitude of trust and in obedience rooted in love, ultimately leading to a transformed lifestyle in which

love and obedience to God, combined with service to others, become absolute priorities. It is the most wonderful experience you can possibly imagine. **Next:** What Will Heaven Be Like?

VISIT US ONLINE

Spreading The Good News!

We love seeing you in church! But sometimes you may be traveling, feeling unwell, or unable to attend in person. Now you don't have to miss worship with your Lake Church family. You can join us **live every Sunday** or watch anytime during the week.

Online services also help us reach people seeking Jesus—day or night, anywhere in the world. Many first-time guests even “visit” online before attending in person. We are thankful to be able to meet people right where they are.

Watch Live on Sundays

We **live-stream the full service (with music)** every Sunday on:

- www.LakeChurch.org
- **The Lake Church App** (phones & tablets)
- **The Lake Church TV App** (Roku, Apple TV, Google TV & Fire TV)

Just click or tap **Watch Live** on any of these platforms.

⏮ **Missed a Sunday? Watch Anytime!** All past services are available on:

- **Lake Church Website**
- **Lake Church App**
- **Lake Church TV App**
- **Lake Church YouTube Channel** (*Message Only with CC*)

You can choose:

- **Full Service** (with worship music)
- **Message Only** (Pastor Jim's sermon)

Each message includes:

- Message notes
- Scripture verses
- Organized by sermon series
- *Closed captions available on YouTube*

Weekly Sunday Email

Every Sunday we send an email with:

- A link to the **full service**
- A link to the **message-only** version
- All Scripture verses
- Message notes

- Illustrated Bible verses
- News & announcements

It's also a wonderful tool to share meaningful messages with friends and family—just forward the email!

✉ Not Receiving the Email?

Visit www.LakeChurch.org and scroll to the bottom to sign up. It only takes a moment, and it keeps you connected each week.

NEW! The Lake Church TV App

If you have a physical Apple TV Device, Fire TV Device, Google TV or Roku TV or Roku Device that you plug into your TV, then you can search and download "The Lake Church" TV app!

You can now watch The Lake Church right on your TV through:

- **Apple TV**
- **Roku**
- **Google TV (formerly Android TV)**
- **Fire TV**

To Install:

1. Open your TV device's **app store**
2. Search for **"The Lake Church"**
3. Select the app and click **Add / Install**

That's it!

FOR BETTER OR VERSE: A Calendar of Bible Verses by Month and Day

Here's a fun way to read 365 meaningful scriptures this year. One scripture a day... each day of the month has a corresponding verse for that date. As you wake up each day, read the verse designated for that day. Last month we gave you the November scriptures.

Here's your **December** list (month 12):

Hebrews 12:1, Acts 12:2, Luke 12:3, I Corinthians 12:4, Romans 12:5, Proverbs 12:6, John 12:7, Luke 12:8, Romans 12:9, Mark 12:10, Acts 12:11, I Corinthians 12:12, John 12:13, John 12:14, Romans 12:15, Proverbs 12:16, Mark 12:17, I Corinthians 12:18, Proverbs 12:19, 2 Samuel 12:20, Roman 12:21, Luke 12:22, Proverbs 12:23, Luke 12:24, John 12:25, John 12:26, Mark 12:27, I Corinthians 12:28, 2 Samuel 12:29, Mark 12:30, Matthew 12:31.