



# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church ELCA

## SCRIPTURE VERSE for NOVEMBER

*"I will praise the name of God with a song;  
I will magnify him with thanksgiving."* Psalm 69:30

### READINGS for Sunday, November 1, 2020

#### Matthew 5:1-12

It seems that in the mid-80s the author of the gospel of Matthew compiled smaller units of the sayings of Jesus into what we call the Sermon on the Mount, a single lengthy address meant to parallel the primary address of Moses from Mount Sinai. The word translated "blessed" can also be translated "happy." The Beatitudes indicate Matthew's sense of the transformed values inherent within the kingdom of heaven. This kingdom, of central importance in this gospel, is not here defined, but it honors persons not normally revered in society. The Beatitudes assume that persecution of believers is imminent.

#### Revelation 7:9-17

Probably written in the late first century or early second century, Revelation names John as its author, who never claims to be the John of the original Jesus movement. The author employs the apocalyptic style and imagery of Daniel and intertestamental writings in his visions of the evil power of the Roman Empire and the salvation that Jesus Christ will bring at the end of all things. Typical of those social situations that inspire apocalyptic thinking, Revelation sees no way out of the current sufferings except for divine intervention and the consequent destruction of evil. The excerpt describes a vision of heaven in which the saved represent all peoples on earth who have suffered for their faith but now experience happiness.

#### 1 John 3:1-3

Anonymously written in the late first or early second century perhaps in Ephesus, 1 John evidences a community familiar with the theological style of the Gospel of John. Not actually a letter, the essay declares the truth of the community's faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, warns the community about false teachings, and calls the community to mutual love. The excerpt states that the children of God, those who know and are known by God, are not those known by the world.

Sundays and Seasons v.20200325.1254

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### PASTOR JIM'S CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## Prayer Requests



- Steven & Jodi Swanson & Family  
(our missionary family)
- All those who have been affected by Covid-19
- All essential workers
- Law enforcement officers
- Those suffering from racism
- Jim Krug
- The family of Shorty Berg
- Mary Hesselbacher
- Gail Israel
- Dorothy Bohnsack
- Paul & Karron Mills
- Paul Hesselbacher
- Janice McKee (Kay Hesselbacher's friend)
- Roxann Krull (Paul Mills' daughter)
- Michael Lorento (Larry & Sue's neighbor)
- Dean Mysliwicz (Israels' niece's husband)
- Ken Reinert (Israels' nephew)
- Liam Vogt (Joe & Kirstin Ehrler Vogt's son)
- Kate Redfearn (Russ & Brittney's daughter)
- JoAnn Hesselbacher
- Juliette Schmidt
- Kendall Smith (Hansens' granddaughter)
- Janice Bradley (Ladora Williams' daughter)
- Liam Petelle (Edie's grandson)
- Rich Schelke
- Ali Krug (Jim & Babette's daughter-in-law)
- Caroline Krug (Jim & Babette's granddaughter)
- World leaders & peace in the world
- Men & women serving our country

### Weekly Giving – October 25, 2020

General Giving	\$3435
Mission Giving	\$250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3685</b>

## Pastor Jim's Message – November 1, 2020

### **LINK TO PASTOR JIM'S MESSAGE:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sStbxiT-Rll>

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE:**

Our readings for today come from Revelation the 7th chapter verses 9 through 17, Our psalm is Psalm 34 verses 1 to 10 and verse 22. Our second reading comes from First John, the third chapter verses one through three and our Gospel reading, which I will share my message on, is from Matthew the fifth chapter verses 1 through 12.

If you'd like to read those, that would be wonderful, and I'll continue on with my message.

Blessed are, blessed are. The Beatitudes lists off so many people who are blessed. When we think of someone who is blessed, we don't often think of those folks who you just read about as being blessed. We think of those who are blessed as people who have all kinds of things showered upon them. We don't think of those who, at first reading, would appear weak and in need, stressed, worried, challenged by so many different things.

Nevertheless, this passage reminds us that they are blessed. As you read this passage or maybe if you read it again, do you see yourself in one of those categories? Are you one of the blessed that Jesus refers to? Or, as you read it, are you thinking to yourself, "Boy, I sure am glad I'm not one of those. Boy, I sure am glad I'm not in that fix."

Interestingly, Jesus began to teach, and his disciples came and sat next to him and listened. How beautiful a time that must have been hearing those words of encouragement, but what do they mean for us today? What does it mean for us today, and how do those blessings come about?

We're reminded, of course, that our Lord has a hand in those blessings. Some of them are promised at the end of our lives, but as we read them, some of them seem as though they would appear while we are still here on earth. Some of that blessing would occur while we're right here. How do we play a part in that? How do we play a part in blessing others?

How do we form a partnership, if that's the right word, with our Lord as he makes these promises to sometimes us, sometimes our neighbors, that we and they are blessed?

I think that, indeed, we have a very special role in this passage. We have a very special role in following the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are invited to reach out to those who are most in need. We are invited to care for those who appear to be struggling.

How do we do that?

You know sometimes the answer is quite simple and sometimes the answer, with all of the flaws and complexities of our world, is very difficult. It's hard to unravel how it is that we can make a difference. As Christians, we are called to work in special and unique ways to advocate for those who are most in need, those who are indeed working for peace, those who Jesus calls blessed.

How do we do that?

We work, of course, to root out injustice, to break up the roadblocks that are in front of those who are working to care for those in need. We explore the ways in which systematic problems are brought upon our neighbors and our friends. Advocacy takes a number of different tasks. Advocacy takes acknowledging that there's a problem to begin with and understanding really what that problem means. Especially if it's quite removed from us, once we know about something, it can be very easy for us to just be quite satisfied in learning about it.

Indeed, that's not enough.

We are called not only just to learn about the challenges that may affect our neighbors or our friends or even those across the world.

We are called to take action, to make hard choices, to challenge people to action, so that God's work truly is done. Our ELCA Lutheran church has a phrase that we use quite often. It's "God's work, Our hands" and yes, sometimes that work is pulling the weeds at an elderly neighbor's house, but sometimes it's writing letters. Sometimes it's acting for justice. Sometimes, well, I'll let you fill in the blank how it

is that your particular gifts can be combined with God's love to make the world a blessed place for those many groups of people that are mentioned in the Beatitudes.

Is there one that you feel particularly called, to touch their lives? I hope so. I hope you'll deeply explore how you might be able to care for them, to uplift them, to make a difference in their lives.

If you see yourself, as many of us do, sometimes as one of those who are struggling, who feel downtrodden, who feel that they're struggling, this passage is for you.

It's a passage for us to know that God cares for us. God welcomes us and God empowers others to work with us in ministry. Whether it's working for peace or showing mercy or whichever one you happen to pick. God's love is ever present in a world that can be so challenging, so difficult, filled with so much brokenness.

Might we know that God works with us, works with our neighbors, works with our friends, and cares for us, that we might help others to be blessed in the way God intends and that we also might be blessed in the way God intends.

I give thanks for this passage, both for the encouragement that it gives me as I see myself in the passage and more importantly for others that I might be empowered and encouraged to care for.

Will you join me? How will this passage play out this week for you? How will you be a blessing to others? Amen.

## **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Shepherd of the Hills Church Council would like to thank Babette Krug for her many years of service to the church and to offer her best wishes for the future. For many years, Babette has made the weekly bulletin, kept up the church website and directory, assisted with the church record keeping and finances, and much more. Her knowledge of the church's history and her dedication to her job will be missed.

Sincerely,

The Shepherd of the Hills Council

### **GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2021**

If you received envelopes in the past and wish **not** to receive your giving envelopes in 2021 or if you have never received the giving envelopes and **would like to** receive a box of giving envelopes in 2021, please let Pastor Jim know. Thank you.

### **VIRTUAL STEAK FRY**

The "Virtual Steak Fry" will be ending soon. The money donated will be distributed between the area food pantries in Jo Daviess County.

### **GIVING**

We are now having services inside the church. If you feel uncomfortable in attending these services, you can still send your offering to the church address (536 E Schapville Rd, Scales Mound, IL 61075) or arranging for online banking. Thank you.

<b>Weekly Calendar</b>						
Sun – 11/1	Mon – 11/2	Tues – 11/3	Wed – 11/4	Thur – 11/5	Fri – 11/6	Sat – 11/7
Morning Church Services		Zoom – Text Study meeting @ 10		Zoom – Men's Bible Study @ 8:30		

### **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

Thursday, November 5 – Jeff Brown, Ron Brown, Elizabeth and Maddie Heim, Karlie White

Saturday, November 7 – Lou Kusnierz