



# The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

November 2017

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

## Thoughts from here and there...Finding ways to be thankful

"These are the times that try men's (and women's) souls." Thomas Paine wrote this in December 1776. There was a revolution taking place in America's bid for freedom from the tyranny of a foreign king from a foreign country.



These are also the times which try our souls. We cannot but experience the thoughts and emotions that have floods our minds. We have been fortunate in not experiencing the hurricane that devastated Puerto Rico. We have not known the floods that inundated Houston Texas. We did not lose our homes or communities as did the people in California.

These are the times that try our souls. It is not the American Revolution but a series of natural disasters that threaten life and property. We are fortunate and because we have not experienced a recent disaster we should not take life for granted.

What is occurring in our country may lead to a dampening of our ability to celebrate Thanksgiving with the fervor and devotion that this great holiday demands. We have so much to be thankful for and it is worth our time and attention to reflect on our blessings rather than on our regrets.

We can thank God for the obvious blessing of which we are aware and benefit from every day of our lives. We can thank God for the blessings that are not so obvious but do come to our attention from time to time. We can thank God for the blessings of which we remain ignorant. These are usually the beneficial actions of others in our lives who contribute good.

There is one other area of thankfulness that came to my attention in a M.E.M.O. column that is written by Martin Marty. He writes: "I want to point to the people whose year in, year out steadfastness tends to get overlooked by the post-disaster worshiping crowds. Does it occur to the crisis churchgoers that someone must be paying for the pews they occupy, the lights that are ready to be turned on, the doors that open, the buildings where the language of prayer takes on special meaning? Does it occur to them to become part of

worshiping communities, to take part in this sustenance? Do they remember that such communities keep alive the vocabulary of prayer, the stories that give meaning? The state doesn't pay for the church thank God!, and for profit organizations cannot do much to support it. Who will?"

Be thankful that we can pay for the lights that are ready to be turned on. Be thankful for doors that are ready to be opened. Be thankful that we have a building where the language of prayer and the spoken word are heard. Be thankful that you have a faith that moves the spirit to provide for the worshiping community, those who attend each week, and those who only seek the church in crisis or for special occasions.

In the midst of the times that try men's (and women's) souls we can still celebrate a Thanksgiving with deep gratitude and thankfulness to God.

Always be thankful, Pastor Shultz

### SERMON



### SCHEDULE

## Sermons for November

November 5, All Saints Day, Daylight Savings Time Ends: Lesson: Matthew 23:1-12, Sermon Title: The Practice of Religion

Some boast of their religious condition and practice. It is better to keep silence and practice what you preach

November 12, Church Anniversary Sunday: Lesson: Matthew 25.1-13, Sermon Title: Foolish or Wise

Preparedness can prevent great loss. Here is a tale that illustrates what it means to be prepared.

November 19, Thanksgiving Sunday: Lesson: Colossians 1.11-20, Sermon Title: Creating Gratitude

The encouragement is to always be thankful. This is a tall challenge. How does one carry it out?

November 26, Reign of Christ, Hanging of the Greens, Soup and Sandwich Potluck Lunch:

*(Continued on [page 2](#))*

Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23, Sermon Title:  
How to Have a Healthy Body

The health of the body depends on the presence of the Head of the body. We have been given all we need to have health.

## Spotlight on the Family

For the Holidays you may create Applesauce and Cinnamon Ornaments

Contributed by Helga Shultz



Ornaments made with this simple mixture turn out dark brown and fragrant and stay firm for years. This is really an ideal substitute for ginger cookie ornaments — it takes fewer ingredients and the dough is easier for children (and adults) to work with. And there is no baking! For best result, drain the applesauce overnight in a sieve to remove excess moisture.

Ingredients:

1–1 pound jar sweetened applesauce, drained  
8 ounces ground cinnamon, or more if necessary  
Wax paper or parchment paper

Equipment:

Electric mixer and bowl  
 assorted cookie cutters  
A match or toothpick

In a mixer bowl, gradually combine the applesauce with the ground cinnamon, alternating the ingredients until the mixture reaches the consistency of cookie dough. (Applesauce texture varies because of the water

content in the apples themselves, so you have to judge the proper stiffness by the feel of the dough.)

2. Working with about 1 cup of the mixture at a time, pat the dough with your hands onto wax or parchment paper too about 1/4 inch thick.

3. Using decorative cookie cutters, cut out ornaments, and with an old-fashioned wooden match or a toothpick, make a hole in the top of each.

4. Dry the ornaments in a warm place for a week, turning them every day.

## Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar



November, Native American Heritage Month

November 1, All Saints Day

November 5, (S), All Saints Sunday, World Community Day, Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 12, (S), Stewardship Sunday, Church Anniversary, International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

November 11, Veteran's Day

November 15, (S), Bible Sunday

November 19-25, National Bible Week

November 19 (S), Thanksgiving Sunday, Reign of Christ Sunday, Hanging of the Greens with Soup and Sandwich Lunch

November 23, Thanksgiving Day

(Continued on [page 3](#))

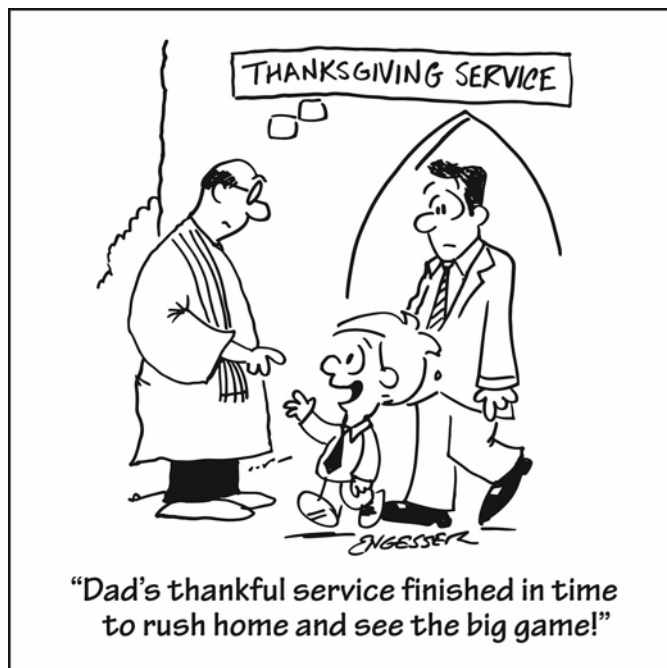
**THE GOOD TIDINGS** is a monthly publication of the Arena Congregational Church, 383 Oak St., PO Box 125, Arena, WI 53503-0125.

Editor: Pastor Leslie R. Shultz II  
409 W. Daley St. PO Box 488  
Spring Green, WI 53588-0488  
Pastor's Phone: 608.574-0707

Email: [les@lesandhelga.com](mailto:les@lesandhelga.com)  
Web Site: <http://www.lesandhelga.com>  
Church Web Site:

<http://www.lesandhelga.com/acc/acc.htm>  
Church Office Phone: 608.753.2242

Contributors: Members, Friends and Officers of the Arena Congregational Church. Ideas and comments about this publication should be addressed to the editor and sent to his home address.



November 26, Christ the King Sunday

## A Promise and a Prayer

### A Promise

...for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need (Philippians 4:11a-12).



### A Thought

"Cultivate the thankful spirit—it will be to you a perpetual feast. There is, or ought to be with us, no such things as small mercies. A really thankful heart will extract motive for gratitude from everything, making the most of even scanty blessings. Anonymous.

A discontented person is never happy. Discontent is a state of uneasiness, or dissatisfaction. It is looking around at what you do not have. It is a wish that you might have more than you do now.

Being content with what you have does not mean that you do not desire more. What it means is that you will not let your desire for more create a sense of discontent with what you have in the present.

### A Prayer

God, Looking at all that surrounds me in my home and in the world; listening to all who call to me with their offers and prizes, it is difficult not to want so much that I lose sight of you and the goal that you have created for your children. When I think of my health and my future

it is difficult not to become discouraged and discontented. Help me, I pray, to let your love and graciousness do its valued work in my life, so that I may continue to be thankful for what I have and what I have left. Amen.



## Officers for 2017 - 2018

### Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

### Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



### Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, November 13, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, November 18, 2017, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's.



### Greeters

November -5 - Judith Rouse

(Continued on [page 4](#))

## Recipe of the Month

### Cranberry Orange Cake

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

3 large eggs

2 cups granulated sugar

3/4 cup unsalted butter, room temperature

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/4 tsp. Salt

Zest of one whole orange

2 cups all purpose flour

12 oz fresh cranberries

Preheat oven to 350 F

In a large bowl combine the eggs and sugar, beat together for about 3 to 5 minutes until the mixture has thickened and doubled in volume. (Can be done in an electric mixer)

Add the softened butter, vanilla, salt and orange zest and mix until incorporated. Stir in the flour with a spatula, followed by the cranberries. Stir just until mixed.

Pour into a greased 9 x 13 pan and bake for about 45-50 minutes, until brown on top and a toothpick stuck in the middle comes out clean.



November -12 - Jeff and Joanne Brown Family

November -19 - Pastor and Helga Shultz

November -26 - Kathy Johnson

December -3 - Jim Favreau Family



### Adult Study Group

We are meeting at the home of Steve and Karen Wilkinson, 817 Brown St., Arena. Our study guide is John: The

Way to True Life by Douglass Connally. This month we will explore John chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11. We will not meet on Wednesday, November 22.



### Worship on Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



### Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the mission's program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



### Something to Think About

There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses - only results.

~Kenneth H. Blanchard



### Humor

Three gentlemen were all born the same year and decided to go to lunch together to celebrate turning 50. They decided to go out to the local German restaurant because they had pretty waitresses.

The next time they decided to celebrate turning 60 years old and decided to go to the local German restaurant because the food was good.

The next time they decided to celebrate turning 70 years old and decided to go to the local German restaurant because they were handicapped accessible.

The next time they decided to celebrate turning 80 years old and decided to go to the local German restaurant because they had never been there before...

Mikey's Funnies <funnies-owner@lists.MikeysFunnies.com>



Discovering that I'd overslept, I abandoned my usual morning routine and rushed out. In the van, though, I realized I had time to stop for a take-out coffee. I got my coffee and returned to the van, only to find I had not only left it running, but had locked it!

The day was going from bad to worse. I returned to the shop, sheepishly explained my situation to the clerk and asked if I could borrow a broom. I managed to open a side window and pop the lock on the back door using the broom handle.

When I returned the broom, the clerk said, "I know you're having a bad day, but..."

"I know, I know," I interrupted. "You want to know how I can unlock my van with a broom."

"No," she said. "I wanted to tell you that your shirt is on inside out."

- from Da Mouse Tracks  
docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



A man teaching his son to ride a bike said, "Pedal backward when you want to brake the bike."

The boy nodded and rode off, wobbling along until he rode right into a bush. His dad asked, "Why didn't you pedal backward?"

The boy replied, "You said it would break the bike!"

from Da Mouse Tracks  
docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



The cop got out of his car and the kid, that was stopped for speeding, rolled down his window.

"I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said.

The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could."

When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

Pastor Tim <posts@cybersaltlists.org>





I was the substitute teacher for a second-grade math class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics.

Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, a bundt cake, and ring cookies.

The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the center.

But one health-conscious girls's response was, "All of those things contain too much cholesterol."

- from Da Mouse Tracks  
docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



So a woman walks into the optometry store to return a pair of eyeglasses she had purchased the week before.

"What seems to be the problem, ma'am?" the optometrist inquired.

"Well, I bought these glasses for my husband last week and they're just not working," the woman complained.

"Perhaps the lens grinder made an error in filling the prescription."

"I'm sure he must have," the woman confirmed. "He's still not seeing things my way."

- from Da Mouse Tracks



One day on his way to work, my husband stopped at the cafeteria as it began to rain.

Forgetting that he hadn't brought an umbrella, he reached for the nearest one when he got up to leave.

"That's my umbrella," a woman immediately scolded.

Abashed at his mistake, he walked on to his office. He was drenched by the time he arrived.

Once there, he discovered three umbrellas that he had left in the office over the months, and he decided to bring them home at the end of the day.

That afternoon he ran into the same woman who had confronted him earlier.

She looked at the umbrellas, then at him, and tartly remarked: "You did real well for yourself today, didn't you?"

Received from Thomas Ellsworth. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



Pastor Dave Charlton tells us, "After a worship service at First Baptist Church in Newcastle, Kentucky, a mother with a fidgety seven-year-old

boy told me how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet.

About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, "If you don't be quiet, Pastor Charlton is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!"

- from Mikey's Funnies  
docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

~William Arthur Ward

### Advent

Announcing his coming, the angel from heaven.  
Descended to bring his good tidings to earth.  
Victorious, triumphant, the message is given:  
Each penitent sinner, come view Jesus birth.  
Now come we! Now sing we! Our king draweth near.

To Bethlehem hasten! He cast out our fear.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. We begin to develop a sense of excitement and anticipation as we prepare for the coming of the Christ-child.





**November 11, 2017**

**Lest we forget!**



**Hanging of the Greens,  
after Worship on  
November 26, Soup and  
Sandwich Lunch to  
follow. Bring Soup and  
Sandwiches, beverages  
to share.**

For all the good things I do have  
and for all the good things I have had  
and for all the good things I will have,  
for what I am,  
for what I have been,  
for what I can be,  
for what I shall be,  
thank you, God.”

—Joan Bel Geddes *All Will Be Well* via Lois H.

**THE GOOD TIDINGS**

Arena Congregational Church  
383 Oak St  
PO Box 125  
Arena, Wisconsin 53503-0125

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED