



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2018

Thank you to all the volunteers who served during the Twin Cities Marathon!



Check out our newly resurfaced parking lot!



Thanksgiving BY JOEL SUTTON

As I write this I am looking out my study window. The weather has turned cold. Yesterday we saw our first snow. And the leaves are starting to fall. November will soon be here.

I love November. It's true. Why? Because it is the month that our holiday season kicks off. It is the month for us to be thankful.

As families gather around the Thanksgiving dinner table this year, I am sure we will all be sensitive and grateful for all we have to be thankful for - because life is so fragile.

Yet sometimes with the busyness of preparing and eating the big Thanksgiving meal, watching the football games, and enjoying family and friends, very little actual "thanksgiving to God" takes place.

So I want to encourage you to pause and really thank God together - as a family - during your Thanksgiving prayers. Thank God for our freedom . . . our families . . . our wonderful church . . . our nation . . . our salvation

. . . our forgiveness . . . and all the other things God has so bountifully provided for us.

Might I suggest that you read Psalm 111 at your Thanksgiving table? And just to make it fun, try reading it from the Message paraphrase:

"Hallelujah!

I give thanks to God with everything I've got—

Wherever good people gather, and in the congregation.

God's works are so great, worth a lifetime of study—endless enjoyment!

Splendor and beauty mark his craft; His generosity never gives out.

His miracles are his memorial— This God of Grace, this God of Love.

He gave food to those who fear him, He remembered to keep his ancient promise.

He proved to his people that he could do what he said:

Hand them the nations on a platter—a gift!

He manufactures truth and justice;

All his products are guaranteed to last—

Never out-of-date, never obsolete, rust-proof.

All that he makes and does is honest and true:

He paid the ransom for his people, He ordered his Covenant kept forever.

He's so personal and holy, worthy of our respect.

The good life begins in the fear of God—

Do that and you'll know the blessing of God.

His Hallelujah lasts forever!"

This Thanksgiving season, why not join us for our Harvest of Praise service the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving? Come and voice a praise. Share a thanks. Acknowledge God is indeed the giver of all good gifts!

Might your Thanksgiving be one of truly giving thanks to God!



CURRENT SERIES | TOGETHER: ON MISSION FOR CHRIST

NOV. 4 The Balance Sheet

NOV. 11 Pressing on to Maturity

NOV. 18 Solving Church Conflicts

NOV. 25 The Benefits of Giving

**OUR MISSION:
TO HELP
INDIVIDUALS
BECOME
CHRIST-CENTERED
& CHRIST-SENT
TOGETHER**

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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

3-6 Boys at Camp Nathanael

42 3rd-6th grade boys, dads and other leaders from First Free went to Camp Nathanael for a weekend in October. Camp Nathanael is a rustic Christian camp for boys in Hinckley, MN.

They enjoyed Sunday devotions/"Camp Church", Octoball, frisbee golf, a sling shot range, cooking food over campfires and Swedish meatballs on the Dakota Fire Hole, and a Friday night hike in the moonlight. They also did a service project cleaning a 2 mile stretch of the highway (and looking for "Cool junk you find in the road, Nathanael Edition").

Thank you to all the leaders who made it a great weekend for the boys! Check out campnathanael.com for more about all that Camp Nathanael has to offer.



Adult Electives:

**NOVEMBER 4, 11, & 18;
9:00 & 10:30 AM**

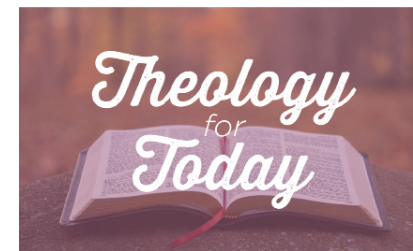
We want to invite you to join us for one of our two Adult Electives during both the 9 and 10:30 hours on Sundays Nov. 4, 11 & 18.

Discovering Your God-Given Potential, taught by Jason Pensa in Room 105/106.

Have you ever wondered how your personality, talents and gifting might be better utilized at your job or here at church? Join us for this 3 week Elective as we use a variety of tools to explore how God has wired you, gifted you and prepared you for service in his kingdom at home, at work and at church.

Theology for Today, taught by Jay Pound, Greg Strand & Paul Anleitner, Room 103

In this Elective, a different speaker each week will address topics in theology that are relevant for today. Pastor Jay will speak on a Theology of Humility (Nov. 4), Greg Strand (from the EFCA National Office) will address Contemporary Theological Issues and Trends (Nov. 11), and Pastor Paul will speak on a Theology of Worship (Nov. 18).



Church Family News

Congratulations to Matt and Erin Beckett on the birth of their daughter, Genevieve Gabrielle Beckett, who was born on October 8th.

Thanks to our Faith Community Nurses who organized the flu shot clinic on October 11th. 28 people got flu shots at church.

This Month

**@ FIRST FREE
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 4**

Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night!

CES FOOD & PERSONAL ITEMS DRIVE: NOV. 4 & 11

This Fall, the Caring Commission will be sponsoring our annual Food and Personal Items Drive, supporting Community Emergency Service (CES). Grocery bags with lists of needed items will be available in the foyer on Sundays, October 21, 28, and November 4. Collection days will be Sundays, November 4 & 11.

ADULT ELECTIVES: NOV. 4, 11, 18

We are excited to offer you two 3-week electives during both hours (9:00 am and 10:30 am) on Sundays: Discovering Your God-Given Potential, and Theology for Today. Visit firstfreechurch.org/comingsoon for more information.

QUARTERLY CELEBRATION (BUSINESS MEETING): NOV. 12

Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness to us on Monday, Nov. 12th at 7:00 p.m.

CHILD DEDICATION: NOV. 18

Interested in having your child dedicated, contact the church office.

HARVEST OF PRAISE: NOVEMBER 21, 7:00 PM

You are invited to our annual Thanksgiving worship gathering to give thanks for all God's blessings! There will be a pie social following our praise gathering. Nursery childcare provided.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: NOVEMBER 29, 2:00-7:00 PM

Make an appointment to give blood by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Firstfreempls.

Harvest of
PRAISE
NOVEMBER 21 AT 7:00 PM
PIE SOCIAL AT 8:00 PM