

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"Thanksgiving"

By Kirk Kasson, Pastor, Congregational Church, Almena

Thanksgiving means so many things to so many people. Looking back to my childhood I think that to me it meant Turkey and Ham, playing football outside with the older cousins, and watching football on TV. Grandma Kasson would gather us all for the meal on her nice china and she or Aunt Mary would offer the blessing. Being farmers the prayer would intertwine thanks for God's grace as well as for family and the year's harvest.

How was your harvest this year? I remember helping with harvest during my teen years. Times were tough in the dry eighties and we all knew farmers whose livelihood hung on every truckload, every field. Constantly wanting to be reassured that we were having a good harvest, from time to time I would ask Dad, "How is the harvest going?" His answer was always the same: "We will know when the check is in the bank."

Farming is an exercise in delayed gratification. Spring rains? Great! But that doesn't mean the crop will suffice. Planting all in? Fantastic? Now we need rain. Timely rains? Maybe it's time to call the crop duster. Bugs and disease

love rain. Now if we can just get good weather for the combines, and a good price.

We will know when the crop is when the check is in the bank.

According to bible suite. com the word "harvest"

occurs 109 times in the New Testament. Jesus used the harvest as a metaphor for the judgment of souls at the end of the age. As a pastor I understand the correlation. How much of what we do on earth will end up in Heaven? Time will tell. Some years the harvest seems plentiful; others, not so much. And Jesus warns us in Matthew 13 that not all that appears to be genuine bounty actually is; there are tares among the wheat.

When people ask me "How is church, Pastor?" I hesitate to say. Sometimes things seem grim, at other times promising. We will have to wait to see what treasures, what souls await us in Heaven.

Until then, let us not become weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up. [Galatians 6:9] Let us thank God, who is Lord of the Harvest, for his provision, his providence, and his harvest.



Sharing God's Gift

With the beginning of Advent we begin to think of Christmas and the gift the Heavenly Father shared with us...his Son Jesus. As we enter the holiday season we can consider what gifts we can share to brighten the lives of others. A gift can have great or little value, depending on our resources; it's the thought that counts. Even if it's only a smile, we all have something we can thankfully share each day. At your house of worship this week, think about God's greatest gift and prepare your minds and hearts for the miracle of Christmas.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Matthew 24.29-44	Matthew 25.1-13	Matthew 25.31-46	Psalms 24	Psalms 29	Psalms 81	Psalms 84
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society						
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9	5	1	8	6	7	2	3	4
4	8	3	2	1	9	7	6	5
2	6	7	4	5	3	9	1	8
6	3	5	7	9	1	8	4	2
1	2	8	3	4	5	6	7	9
7	9	4	6	2	8	3	5	1
5	1	6	9	7	2	4	8	3
8	7	9	1	3	4	5	2	6
3	4	2	5	8	6	1	9	7

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"Celtic Crosses"

R	O	S	C	O	E	G	A	S	P	M	E	D		
A	L	P	A	C	A	A	B	L	E	A	V	E		
W	E	L	S	H	R	A	B	B	I	T	T	I	S	
B	A	I	T	S	L	O	A	N	S	A	D	E		
A	R	C	S	A	I	R	G	O	P	H	E	R		
R	Y	E	C	U	B	S	H	A	N	T				
		A	U	D	I	T	P	I	E	R	C	E		
S	C	O	T	T	I	S	H	T	E	R	R	I	E	R
C	A	N	O	E	S	E	R	N	I	E				
O	M	E	N	S	E	D	S	D	A	B				
R	E	P	A	Y	S	R	N	S	S	I	T	E		
S	O	I	L	E	P	I	C	L	O	F	T	S		
E	V	E	I	R	I	S	H	C	O	F	F	E		
S	E	C	D	U	N	K	O	R	I	E	N	T		
E	R	E	A	M	E	S	B	E	A	R	D	S		

