

A Season of Thanksgiving and Gratitude

Nadia Bolz-Weber may not be a familiar name to you. However, within pastor circles, denominational groups and the media, she is “the” rising clergy “super star”. Sometimes described as “A dynamic and thought provoking Lutheran pastor, writer, ex-stand-up comedian. The voice and look of today, a woman of unusual talent and honesty”. Having spoken with her and heard her preach and teach at conferences I have to agree that she is not “your usual pastor” and she is very talented. In this season of Thanksgiving and Gratitude I share with you, some of this recently published sermon by Nadia:

“Recently one of you apologetically mentioned that you have been meaning to write me a thank-you note about something... I began thinking about what a terrible thank-you note writer I am. Not for lack of trying on my mom’s part, I mean, Peggy did everything she could. And like every other kid who received a \$10 bill in their birthday card, I was expected to send a thank you note to Grandma. But it never felt like a natural outpouring of my gratitude. It felt like an obligation. An obligation I sometimes would gladly give \$10 to get out of.

Sometimes in my life I’ve not been so grateful that it naturally flowed into a note to someone. But our text for today (Luke 17:11-19) has Jesus healing 10 lepers, and one returning to give thanks to Jesus and praise to God.

And as I thought about the Samaritan Leper who was healed and turned back to Jesus, fell before him praising God, I began to realize that perhaps I do not praise God as I should. I realized this week how much easier it is for me to talk about lamenting and complaining to God and how much trickier it feels to cut loose and praise God. Maybe it is so much easier for me to long for what I want, or to resent what I have lost than it is for me to be thankful for what I have. I’m not alone. I mean when is the last time you heard a newscaster say “not a single school shooting in America this week. Praise God. Or the Nation is grateful this week for all the successful cancer treatments that have left thousands of people with a clean bill of health”

In the past I’ve written page upon page about what praise is and is not. How praise isn’t stroking God’s ego, sycophantically telling God how awesome God is – as though God has low self-esteem. How thankfulness is not an obligation like the thank-you note to Grandma – but is an act of freedom that doubles the joy of what was received. So, I thought that what I really needed on a spiritual level was to actually praise God. But you are totally free to listen in:

“God, For your earthy approachability to all us broken winged birds I give you thanks and I dare to recognize you as God who is real and actively redeeming me and them and all of creation. For every other gift which I am too blind to see that totally comes from you -Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Amen”

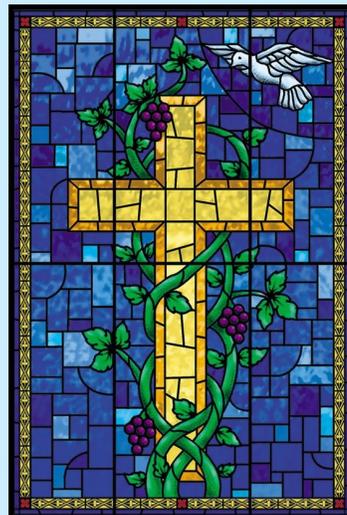
I find that I recognize and echo many of Nadia’s points .So I want to offer my personal prayer of Thanksgiving. But you are totally free to listen in:

“God, For a congregation which loves and cares and is passionate and active about your love and spreading your love. Thank you. For the recent Confirmation class who share their youth, vitality, faith, and hope with us. Some who were taught your Name and nurtured in this place. Some though nurtured in other places responded to your Spirit active here. Thank you. For the talented people surrounding me, the new members you give us, all the challenges and opportunities your God-given call and vision brings us. Thank you. For the people’s continued generosity of time, talent, money and resources. Thank you. For all the blessings which I fail to see or can’t quite call to mind at this moment. Thank you For this Season of Thanksgiving and Gratitude and the coming Joy of Advent and You’re taking of flesh and blood. Thank you. Amen.

Meet Your Deacon...Cheryl Lilly

Cheryl and her husband Tom live in Hawthorn Woods. They have been attending RCLPC for 17 years, and Cheryl remembers first coming to our church and loving the building, the beautiful stained glass, the welcoming people and the pastor. One of her favorite memories was when she and Tom were middle school youth group leaders.

Cheryl grew up in Kansas living on a farm and kept busy working with the horses and cattle and the county fair every summer. She was in college in Kansas studying home economic education when she met Tom. She changed fields and received her nursing degree, overcoming her fear of needles. When Cheryl is not busy keeping up with her twin teenagers (Ryan and Marin), she enjoys playing volleyball, and she Tom like biking. When their children completed eighth grade, they all went to Europe and visited Germany, France, England, and Ireland. Cheryl loved Ireland and would like to return one day for a much longer visit. One of her amazing accomplishments this year was competing in the Diaper Bank's Dancing with the Stars with her husband. They represented RCLPC well with grace and style!



Cheryl's Deacon family consists of:

Joan Black

Joy Martin

Jerry & Cindy Russo

Karl & Raj Dencker

Cindy Miller

Ellene Schmidt

Patrick & Tina Kay

Bob & Kathy Novak

Lori Thompson

Lisa Krchak

David & Pam Palmer

MJ Towne

25th Annual RCLPC Cookie Walk!



It is time to have some fun and start baking those cookies, bars and candies for our 25th annual Cookie Walk. Please bake as many cookies as you are able to and keep in mind this year we are going to miss one of our top bakers due to surgery. She usually bakes about 75 dozen! Awesome!!! If each of us could bake a few extra dozen this year, that would be a big help. If you would like to bake early we have reserved our church freezer for you to use. Please make sure your cookies are marked "Cookie Walk". The Cookie Walk is all about giving of our

time, sharing in fellowship, and showing God's love to our community. This years profits will benefit our church budget, Fairhaven School in Egypt, PADS lunches, Living Waters and our youth mission trips. There are many other areas to help with the Cookie Walk and sign ups are on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place outside the office. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Nancy Blakely. Thank you for helping with this wonderful mission!



CROP WALK 2016

RCLPC members always amaze me. I was overwhelmed by the support for the Walk. Fred Neuschel was out early, marking the Walk. Other RCLPC workers came early and set up the Easy Eats (at least 1200 cans of vegetables and chicken broth were carried from the basement and arranged for assembly of the 200+ family meals and delivered to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry by Mike Rugh and Tom Lilly). Al Popp was busy with his

camera, Scott Iddings provided much appreciated music, Adriana and Darryl Bessant inflated balloons for the walkers, Karen Hutchings handed out maps and water, Alice Haznedl and Bill Weller collected letters for *Bread for the World*, and John Dillon sent the walkers on their way with prayer. Others remained to assemble Easy Eats and arrange tables for the returning walkers. Those in the kitchen (Cheryl Lilly, and others) provided cookies, made coffee, lemonade, and displayed everything beautifully and deliciously. Nancy Blakely was my right hand woman and also filled the cooler with ice and bottled water, donated by Amy and Steve Connell. Cheryl Brincks and Ellene Schmidt tried to keep track of all the RCLPC people who worked, walked, and participated. There were more than 50. I cannot thank all of you personally, but I am so really delighted. The RCLPC Teams and Anna Larsen's RCLPC Youth Team raised a total of \$3800 to help end hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice. Joyfully submitted by MJ Towne

The total raised by the CROP Walk : \$18,909!

New Beginnings Update

The New Beginnings Team completed its delivery of the New Beginnings report in a joint Elder and Deacon meeting on October 23rd. With this delivery, the New Beginnings team is dissolving. The New Beginnings report suggested that we have a new initiative to make sure that we make progress on our goals with the launch of the Working on our Vision program.

We will use this title to help you tie programs and activities to suggestions and ideas from our New Beginning process. Examples of actions this year include the improvements to our foyer, bulletin boards, TV displays and our new education curriculum called Spill the Beans.

We added a section to our web page to help keep you up-to-date. It is on the About Us page, <http://www.rclpc.org/aboutUs.html>. We also plan on using our Facebook page to enhance our communication. If you haven't done so already, please click on the Find Us on Facebook link on the website and like us.





Christian Education and Opportunities

Adult Education Offerings

In November, the new class on “Finding your Spiritual Type” will be offered by Fred Neuschel. This is a book from the Alban Institute entitled, “Discover your Spiritual Type.” It describes four basic spiritual types and helps people explore their own type as well as recognize and appreciate that there are other types that can offer new perspectives and enrich their own spirituality.

Intergenerational Education Opportunities

On November 20th, Pastor John leads the next class of a new education series for Adults, High School students, and Confirmands. All are heartily invited to attend. The Intergenerational class will meet every 3rd Sunday, and its theme will be -- Those BIG Words. Class Location? Fellowship Hall

Youth Education Opportunities

In Sunday School for Pre-K through High School, the focus for fall with our “Spill the Beans” curriculum has been Promises, Promises and that continues into October. Watch the bulletin board and our Facebook site for a trivia contest and some ideas for at home discussions.

New Confirmation Class

In September, we kicked off the new confirmation class. In November, they will participate in the Intergenerational class and have class on November 13th.

Middle School Youth Group

November 11th, the Middle School Youth group is planning to bring their favorite soup to share, and share in an evening of soup, games, devotions and s'mores. The youth will play games and have a devotion while the parents share in their parenting experiences and laughter. Check out the bulletin board and web site for more details.

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group will go on their annual retreat to Covenant Harbor November 11th-13th. Please check the bulletin board and web site for more details.



Upcoming News for Children's Sunday School

As we near the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, which is a time filled with hopes, dreams and visions, the children's Sunday school program will continue using our new curriculum "Spill the Beans". As we journey through these seasons in our Sunday school classes, please keep in mind some important dates to remember.

11/20 - Third Sundays with Pastor John, high school meets with adult education.

11/27 - Thanksgiving weekend - no Sunday School. Advent begins.

12/16 - Parents Night Out - Children ages 6 mos. to 13 years are welcome for an evening of fun festivities and a great night out for parents.

12/18 - Children's Christmas Pageant during the 9:00 and 11:00 services. During 10:00 Happy Birthday Jesus Party fun. Third Sundays with Pastor John, high school meets with adult education.

12/25 - Christmas - No Sunday school.

1/1/17 - New Years - No Sunday School

1/15/17 - Third Sundays with Pastor John, high school meets with adult education.

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Notes from Pastor John...

A Graceful Thanks Filled Welcome to 11 new members!!!

At the Session meeting on 10/24 we were blessed and delighted to vote the following people into full membership:

Olivia Harrison , Henry & Arleen Quinn, Chris & Erin Kerwood with Jackson & Mathew, Bill Prim, Donna Kelly, Bill & Judy Morefield, and Ryan Johnson & Megan Hammerich and daughter Lennon

We give thanks for each of these wonderful new members!





Help Wanted!

Once again, RCLPC will be hosting a Parents Night Out on December 16. Help with everything from volunteer coordination, marketing, activity planning, food purchasing and more is needed.

If you have some time to spare to make the event super fun for the kids and a fabulous gift for their parents, please contact Raechel Sowa at rhsowa@yahoo.com. A planning meeting will be held the first week of November.

2017 Presbytery meeting locations

February 14, 2017

Au Sable Grove,
Yorkville

April 4, 2017

Westminster, Rock-
ford

June 13, 2017

Willow Creek Presby-
terian Church, Caledonia

September 12, 2017

First Presbyterian, Manteno

November 13-14, 2017

Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, Oregon



Seventh Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

(Vegetarian Buffet)

Monday, January 16, 2017

7:30 to 9:30 am

At D'Andrea Banquets

(4419 US Rte 14, Crystal Lake, IL)

Tickets: \$20 / Students: \$10

(Available through many area churches, synagogues,
mosques, temples, etc.)

Phyllis Unterschuetz, Keynote
C0Founder and President of
Race Story ReWrite Project

Racial Conditioning Workshop
Free

Monday, January 16, 2017

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Conducted by Phyllis Unterschuetz

Reserve your space by emailing
interfaithchats@gmail.com

(Donations of any amount will be appreciated)



A SPECIAL INVITE FOR THE WOMEN OF RCLPC

Right around the corner is the holiday time. That means shopping, wrapping gifts, baking, family visits, and a very busy schedule for most people. Well, we would like to give a gift to the women of our church . . . the gift of time.

Time to slow down your hectic calendar a little bit, time to relax with other women of the church, and time to welcome in the Advent with a lovely, meaningful, and fun evening. It is a night just for the women, and it will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 2 in Fellowship Hall. There will be festive Christmas decorations, appetizers, a special program, a wonderful dessert, music, and time to focus on the true meaning of the season. Please mark your calendars now for an evening to enjoy . . . our gift to you!



Questions? Contact Gretchen Holder or Kathy Rabe.

Living Waters for the World Update—

We have heard again from Mishell Barrios, Water Committee Chairperson for the Belén Church in Jerez, Guatemala. She reports that the system has been operating smoothly and that it has again been through its monthly cleaning. Boris and Noe have continued to prepare and deliver over 160 bottles of water. Our RCLPC Living Waters team will be making the journey to Jerez late in January, 2017, and will be reviewing how the business operation has been going, how the educational work has fared, and how the system has been performing. We will be taking, as well, two additional filters for the system.

While we are visiting with our partners in Belén, we will also be meeting with another church about 10 miles from Jerez, the Ciudad de Refugio in the village of La Felicidad. The people were very eager to have us come and visited with us when we were doing the installation in July and came to the celebration to see the system in operation. They will need to dig a well and will need to raise the roof on the building for the system. This village is up in the hills and is in the midst of coffee plantations. Jerez is in the midst of a rubber plantation. We will be meeting to establish a covenant with them with an eye on returning to do an installation with them in January/February, 2018.

Several more members of our church will be going to Clean Water U this spring to get certified and to enlarge our leadership team. We would love to encourage additional members from the church to think about going with them or going with us on the installation in 2018.

In preparation for the ongoing work with Jerez and the new project in La Felicidad, we will be repeating our Advent and Christmas display and fundraising. We will, again, be offering an opportunity to sponsor a part of the system, to buy bottles, and to give these as Christmas gifts to members of your family or your friends. We will begin this display in Fellowship Hall on Sunday November 27 and it will last through Christmas Eve. We welcome your support and participation, and your prayers, as well.

Junior High Youth Group November

Attitudes of Gratitude

NOVEMBER 11-

SOUP, S'MORES & BOTTLE FLIPPING

Location- RCLPC When- Friday, 6-8 pm

Who- Junior High Families and Youth Bring your favorite soup to share, and we will share in an evening of soup, games, devotions and s'mores.

Topic- How do you have an attitude of gratitude?



NOVEMBER 20-

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE
GLOBAL GIFT SHOP

Location- RCLPC

When- 7:30 AM- 1 PM

Sign up to be a part of the Global Gift Shop from setting up tables to being a salesperson to cleaning up, the success of this happens with you! Coming in December- Feed My Starving Children mission and a Christmas Party



Sophia Newman, Faith Statement 2016

I believe that the Bible is man's collective writing. I believe that the Bible was written by God's people, but God gave them all of the experiences to be able to write the book. I do not believe God's inspiration has any flaws. I believe the Bible is still around today because it talks about what Christians believe in, and it contains many people's experiences with God and Jesus, and different things that happen to people that believe in God, such as Job and how he never gave up on God even through very hard times, and he then gets rewarded. I believe the bible has stayed the same through each generation. Some wording has been changed so it's easier to understand, but I believe the main idea of the Bible has not been changed. I believe that God is always going to be there for everyone, whether people worship him or not, he will still be there. I believe in the trinity three in one. I believe God is in heaven watching over everyone. I believe that God sent his only son, Jesus down to Earth to save everyone from their sins, and I believe the holy spirit is there beside us guiding us through life. I believe God worked alone during the creations. I do believe that everything was created in six days just like it says in the book of Genesis. I believe that Jesus is God's only son and was born of the virgin Mary in order to save us all from our sins. I believe that he was buried and rose again. I believe that Jesus always did what was right and never made mistakes. He helped many people and healed them of their injuries and illnesses. I believe that Jesus is Lord and is equal with God. I believe Baptism is a sign to show God that you are with him. I believe people go to church because they may feel closer to God there since it's his house. I feel that you can be close to God anywhere you go. I feel close to the Lord through nature because of how beautiful it is. You can always talk to God whether it's about something good or bad. I believe everyone has sinned, but God forgives and you are able to be forgiven of your sins by apologizing to God through prayer. I believe that God will never leave you behind. He will always help you get through rough times even when you have sinned and he is there when you are happy and during the good times. I believe the Lord's Supper is an invitation from God telling us that we can come and worship him the way we are and we don't have to change ourselves. I believe the church is called to help others in need just like many people are doing with the Living Waters project and the donations received by the members of the church. I believe I am called to help other animals and people in need as well and I need to try and help them the best I can by donating my time and work for them to have better lives.