



The West Hampden Baptist Church

MESSENGER

“Behold, I will send my messenger...” Malachi 3:1

574 Western Avenue, PO Box 398
 Hampden, Maine 04444
 (207) 862-6070
www.westhampdenbaptistchurch.net
 Pastor Michael W. Lynn

Volume 18, Issue 4

FALL MESSENGER

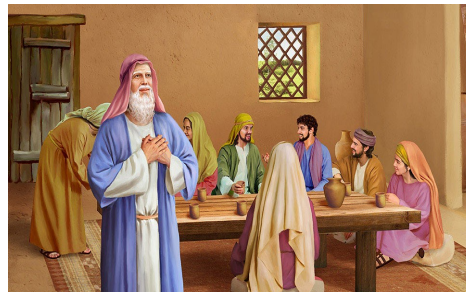
Fall 2022

Giving Thanks for the Salvation Through Golgotha's Cross

Matthew 26:26-28 and I Corinthians 11:24-26

By Pastor Michael Lynn

For what did Jesus give thanks? We have examined previously 2 examples of Christ publicly giving thanks. In Matthew 11:25 Jesus gave thanks for the simplicity of the Gospel's message. Then in Matthew 14:19 we see Him giving thanks for the sufficiency of God's provision. We come now to Matthew 26:26 where we find Jesus giving thanks for the salvation through Golgotha's



cross. When we observe the Lord's Supper as a church family, we are given the opportunity to “preach” a sermon. We do not speak verbally a message, rather we show visibly a message. I Corinthians 11:26 says, “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.” The word “shew” can also be translated “proclaim” (NASB) or “give witness” (Darby). The Amplified Bible reads, “You are representing and signifying and

proclaiming...” Just what message are we proclaiming by our actions? Obviously we declare faith in Christ as we partake of the symbols representing His broken body and shed blood. We not only look back to the cross in reflection (or retrospection), but we also look ahead in anticipation of His coming again. I want us to see that there are 3 different terms used to describe this ordinance. Why does Paul use 3 expressions for the same event? As we consider each term, note the distinction between them that give us insight into the meaning of this ordinance.

Note our **invitation**, that is, we are to come to the “Lord's Table” (I Corinthians 10:21). “The table of the Lord is the table at which the Lord presides, and at which His people are His guests” (Hodge). Christ invites us to Himself (see John 6:37; 7:37; 10:9; 14:6). Christ invites us to come, not only to salvation, but to sanctification and service (see Matthew 11:28-30). Let me illustrate it this way: How do you get to eat at the Lynn's table in our home? You come as our invited guest. So then, are you able to come to the Lord's Table as one of Christ's invited guests? In other words, have you come to Christ in salvation?

Note also our **participation**, that is, we are to commune at the “*communion*” table (I Corinthians 10:16). Communion means “to have in common, to participate and have partnership with.” We have “partnership” with the blood of Christ – the cup of blessing signifies our communion with His blood (note, it does not become His blood). We have “partnership” with the body of Christ

– “*the bread which we break*” indicates that it is still bread, yet it signifies our communion with His body, broken for us. Therefore, the word “*communion*” expresses our attachment to Christ and to one another. “Christians “partake alike” (commune) in the benefits of the blood of Christ; they share the same blessings; and they express this together, and in common, when they partake of the communion. Can you commune with Christ and fellow believers because you have something in common? In other words, are you able to commune with Christ spiritually because of a personal relationship with Him? And can you commune with others because you are in fellowship with them?

Note the third term used for this ordinance - our **commemoration**, that is, we are to celebrate at the “*Lord's supper*” (I Corinthians 11:20). “The supper instituted by the Lord, one to which He invites the guests, and that which is celebrated in commemoration of His death” (Hodge). We look back to His death, as we reflect on the cross. We look ahead to His return, as we rejoice for the crown. Therefore, can you celebrate in this ordinance, recognizing the death, burial, resurrection, and coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ? In other words, are you able to share in these elements because you know you are saved?

In conducting this ordinance, we usually read I Corinthians 11:23-28. Following a time of proper instruction, there needs to be a time of prayerful examination (:28). This includes asking, “Do I have the assurance of

(continued on page 3)

Schedule

October

TBA	Deacon's Meeting	6:30 PM
10	Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day	
12	Missions Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
15	Fall Facility Cleanup	8:00 AM
16	Stillwater HC Service	2:30 PM
27	Services at Westgate	9:45 AM

November

TBA	Deacon's Meeting	6:30 PM
6	Daylight Savings Time ends	
8	Election Day	
9	Missions Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
11	Veterans Day (Thursday)	
17	Services at Westgate	9:45 AM
20	Stillwater HC Service	2:30 PM
24	Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)	

December

TBA	Deacon's Meeting	6:30 PM
14	Missions Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
18	Stillwater HC Service	2:30 PM
22	Services at Westgate	TBA
24	Christmas Eve Service (Sat)	6:00 PM
25	Christmas Day (Sunday)	



Missions Conference, 2022

By Hattie Stickney

"The Harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38

The 2022 West Hampden Baptist Church Missions Conference was scheduled to begin on September 5, 2022. However, the Lord blessed us with a single young woman on her way to Romania. From there, we hosted eight missionaries, some that we currently support, and two who were new to our Church. With the Pandemic virtually over, we were able to have everyone that was available to present in person. We did have one who joined by Zoom.

Our first guest was Olivia West, on deputation with Baptist International Missions, Inc., on her way to Romania. She will be joining up with the Tyler family, already in country. Her role will be to assist in the church ministry, but also work in the college and other teaching opportunities as they arise. Olivia went on a short-term missions trip to the country and felt that the Lord was calling her there to better use her training in education. Olivia is currently at 76% of her support, and is hopeful to be in the mission field by the end of 2022 with 100% of her support. Her prayer requests were housing arrangements in Romania, a vehicle to get back and forth from the school and home; that her visa process is smooth, and that she is able to find a suitable medical and healthcare program.

Our next missionary is very local. Travis Pelletier, serving with Ratio Christi on the University of Maine campus in Orono. We currently support Travis and his family. He has multiple roles on campus, but his primary duty is directing apologetics discussions on campus. To assist with that mission, Travis is leading local campus evangelism, teaching at weekly campus meetings, planning curriculum and providing service in local Christian churches. Travis is currently at the 88% support level, and one of his prayer requests is for additional funds for outreach programs and upcoming gospel sharing events on campus. Also he asks prayer that there would be even more opportunities made available through clubs on campus.

Next, we hosted Kevin and Michelle Brown, General Director of Armed Forces Baptist Missions in Chesapeake, Virginia. Kevin is a twenty-six year veteran of the United States Army. While serving in the Army, Kevin gained a burden for the soldiers under his command and that they might come to know the Lord as their Savior. Local churches are very important with his ministry, as they provide the preachers and teachers on the ground for men and women stationed at home in the United States and in foreign countries with the Gospel. Kevin shared two start-up ministries in England and Colorado Springs that sound very exciting when you think of the future. Kevin and Michelle are currently at 81% of their support level. Their prayer request is for sufficient language training overseas, easy access to bases and to have a positive impact on the base community, and continued prayer for all our Military leaders.

Cathy Hodsdon, with Baptist Mid Missions, and serving with Bibles International is always a treat to have in our church. Cathy continues to work on translations, but not as extensively as she has over her forty-six years of work. She continues to host translators, continues to converse via the internet with in-country translators, all while developing materials for translators to use to do their jobs better. We currently support Cathy, and she has indicated that funding is sufficient for her needs. One of her prayer requests is that God would give her wisdom on what is next, as she has indicated that she will retire in 2023.

Our next missionary is a new one to West Hampden Baptist Church. Daniel and Angie Schiffbauer, on deputation with Baptist International Missions, Inc, to a country in Europe. Because of the sensitivity of their chosen field, we are assisting by not naming the country for their safety. Dan was saved later in life and was called to be a preacher. He was pastoring a church in Kansas City when God called him to his chosen field. In the country there is a great need for the Gospel to be shared. One of the ways that Dan and Angie hope to reach the local people is through Daily Vacation Bible School, and they are in prayer for opportunities to work with the local youth in other ministries. The Schiffbauers are currently at 58% of their required support. Their primary prayer request is language studies, as it has been estimated that it could be up to four years before they are fluent in the language. Other prayer requests include materials appropriate for DVBS, their housing in country and health care while they are in Europe.

While we support Child Evangelism Fellowship, Central Maine Chapter, we were blessed to have Kathryn Johnston, Director

of Camp Jireh and Children's Ministry Coordinator. Kathryn started by reminding all of us that CEF of Central Maine reaches out to five counties and approximately 45,000 children through several programs that include Good News Clubs and Camp Jireh Day Camp. It was quite evident that Kathryn is extremely excited about what God is doing for the Ministry and some of the miraculous gifts that have been given to CEF to carry out their mission. Good News Clubs are popping up in many locations, but there is a need for more teachers and workers. Kathryn also told us about the issues with the State of Maine, and how the organization is working through them. She had many prayer requests. First and foremost is the need for better facilities to meet State requirements and the financial needs to pay for the changes. This will always be the prayer that God would provide teachers and workers for the many programs, and that God would grant the increase in attendance as we come out of the Pandemic.

Our dear friends, Jon and Mitsy Mahar, missionaries in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, joined us by Zoom. Jon and Mitsy are missionaries with Fellowship International Mission and have been a part of our missions program for many years. Many of us know them personally, and know their ministry in Japan quite well. We have been blessed with pictures of their family, especially when the girls got married. We felt the hurt when Fukushima was destroyed by a nuclear accident after a tsunami, that being Mitsy's hometown, and her loss when her mother passed last year. But they have persevered. Jon continues to serve in a church, and continues to help local pastors throughout the region. He is developing new bilingual training materials from the Bible and teaching the locals using the games and puzzles that he developed. Their funding is sufficient, especially since the dollar is currently strong in Japan. Their prayer request starts with family, that their daughter Amy and her family complete repairs from a typhoon (hurricane) that hit Amy's area and for wisdom for Amy as she begins home-schooling her children. Mitsy asked prayer for her sisters that they would come to know the Lord. Finally, the Mahars have an intern, Bree Best, and it is their prayer request that she will come on the mission full time.

Birch and Connie Champeon, currently serving with unfoldingWord ministries in support of Bible translation work. They no longer do direct translation work, rather they develop and provide the tools the translators need to ensure accurate Bibles are available in local languages. Birch explained that the process begins with a generic language Bible that

(Missions Conference, 2022, continued)

most people can understand. From there, local churches take those generic translations into areas that do not have a Bible in their own language. They work with the local people to ensure that the generic Bible is understandable to the local population. To do this, Birch develops the computer software that the churches need to go from Greek and Hebrew to the local indigenous language. Connie helps by providing some study aids for the translators to work with the local indigenous people. Birch has stated that their support level is sufficient over the course of a year. Their continued prayer request is for the work and travel they do to promote the material, and that there would be more programmers to join in the task.

Connie asked prayer for the boys, Warren studying at NBBi, and Rowan taking on-line Bible courses. Both of the boys hope to go into other professions after a foundation in the Bible.

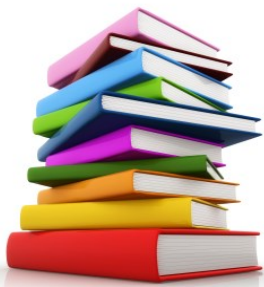
Our final guests were David and Joy Rozelle. They were quick to remember, as a church, how long our relationship has been with David. David went on to spend all three services with us talking about our role in missions, and it was appropriate that he referenced the apostles and disciples of the Lord. He drove home the idea that our mission field may make us uncomfortable, but with Jesus, all things are possible. David is the Executive Vice President of Missions with Biblical Ministries Worldwide. His primary duty is to recruit missionaries and to do that, he and Joy travel to many

schools throughout the year. David does a lot of screening and interviews with potential candidates, and currently, BMW has 17 new couples ready to go to the mission field. David and Joy are currently at 70% of their support. Their primary prayer request is David's health as he deals with the onset of Parkinson's. In the ministry, they covet our prayers for wisdom as they deal with all the candidates and for travel mercies as they travel throughout the world.

In closing, the Missions Committee would like to thank the Church family for the support they have shown for the 2022 Missions Conference. The Committee would also like to thank Pastor Lynn for all of the leg work that he accomplished to get all the missionaries scheduled for yet another great conference.

Library Notes

By Sandi Parise



The Church Library is open to the public. Both Alma Rickards and I will endeavor to provide the materials that you desire in the Library.

The process is a little different. We offer a "self-checkout" system, where we have you pick your materials, sign them out, and ask that you return them within two weeks. If you are not finished with the materials, just renew the book for another two weeks.

We are going to try this out for a time and see if this is going to work for your needs.

Giving Thanks for the Salvation

(Cont'd from page 1)

my salvation?" Are you willing to acknowledge any sin that hinders your fellowship with the Lord or with His people? Consider the exhortation given by our Lord in Matthew 5:23-26. Or do you need to publicly confess some sin that has affected this church? Now, after such examination, there can be a time of thankful meditation as we reflect upon the pain that Christ suffered, the price that He paid, and the purchase that He made. We come to the Lord's Table by Christ's invitation; we commune with Christ in participation one with another; and we celebrate Christ's death, resurrection, and soon coming again. It is a time to remember again that for which Jesus gave thanks. Here we see Him giving thanks for the salvation through Golgotha's cross!

Faith Promise Giving

By Pastor Michael Lynn

In September, I shared a message with you on the principles of and the purposes for faith promise giving. Our Bible text was II Cor. 8:1-15, and I asked you to consider "Gracious, generous giving is the result of genuine, grateful surrender".

When we looked at the principles of faith promise giving (:1-5), we determined that giving is enabled by grace and exercised (even) in poverty. Giving is evidenced through fellowship and is expected after dedication. We know that the Macedonian believers were rich in their single-minded, selfless generosity to God & others. When talking on this topic, we looked at the three elements of freewill giving; 1) proportionate giving, "*For to their power* (ability)"; 2) sacrificial giving, "*Beyond their power*"; and finally 3) voluntary giving, "*Willing of themselves*". We know now that they gave "By the will of God". "In spite of their own desperate circumstances, these saints exhibited faith in God to care for them while they attempted to care for the brethren" (Nutz).

When we look at the purpose for faith

promise giving, four things come to mind. First, we give because of our maturity in faith. Much like the Corinthians, we are exhorted to abound (exhibit) the "grace" (gift) of giving. "The ability to give is also a gift, but, unlike the other gifts, it is an act that demonstrates all the other intangible gifts of faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence, and love" (Nutz). The grace (or gift) of giving is an indication of one's spiritual maturity.

Second, we are to give because of our sincerity of love. Giving should not be legalistic, but voluntary and spontaneous.. We need to remember that giving is to originate out of a heart of love.

Third, we are to give because of our conformity to Christ. This becomes our declaration of Christ's grace. Our demonstration of this is the basis of Christian giving. "We do it for the Lord and the brethren because of the love of God within us. To give in this manner is to be like God who gave everything in Christ" (Nutz).

Finally, we are to give because of our generosity for others. Our motive for giving is "we obey God and believe that He will meet our needs as we help meet the needs

of others" (Wiersbe). The measure of our giving is "According to that a man hath..."

So as we wrap up the 2022 Missions Conference, please consider what would the Lord would lay upon you to give to our Missions Program? We formalize this commitment through the use of Faith Promise Card. The amount is whatever the Lord leads you to give, and this can be one-time, weekly, monthly or quarterly. The other thing to remember, this is a commitment between you and the Lord, not the Church. It is my role to tell you that giving is Biblical, the amount is not.

So, as we begin another year of Missions Giving, won't you consider the Faith Promise Program? As we have heard this year, the need is out there, and we can do our part to meet it.



***Happy Fall
Y'all!***

Holiday Events

Fall Family Festival
October 29th, 4 PM to 7:00 pm—Come celebrate the fall season with us; crafts, games, food and fellowship. .

Thanksgiving
Church Thanksgiving Dinner—November 13th after the Morning Service. Please join us as we share a traditional Thanksgiving meal in the Fellowship Hall after the morning services.

Fruit and Food Baskets—more details to come, but please consider contributing food to both

Christmas:
Ladies Christmas Party—December 10th at 6 pm. Won't you join us. If you would like, please bring a gift of nominal value for the gift exchange or your Secret Sister's Christmas gift.

Social Calendar

October

8	Church Visitation	10:00 AM
10	Ladies Bible Study	10:30 AM
10	Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day	
15	Fall Facility Cleanup/Winter Prep	8:00 AM
16	Services at Stillwater Nursing Home	2:30 PM
27	Services at Westgate Nursing Home	9:45 AM
29	Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:30 AM
29	Church Visitation	10:00 AM
29	Fall Family Festival	4:00 PM
30	Fifth Sunday Singspiration	Eve. Service

November

6	Daylight Savings Time ends	
14	Ladies Bible Study	10:30 AM
11	Veterans Day (Thursday)	
13	Church Thanksgiving Dinner	After AM Service
17	Services at Westgate Nursing Home	9:45 AM
19	Distribute Food and Fruit Baskets	
20	Services at Stillwater Nursing Home	2:30 PM
24	Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)	

December

10	Ladies Christmas Party	6:00 PM
12	Ladies Bible Study	10:30 AM
18	Services at Stillwater Nursing Home	2:30 PM
22	Services at Westgate Nursing Home	9:45 AM
25	Christmas Day (Sunday)	