

Pastor Jim's Thoughts and Prayers – November 2019



Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving fast approaches and Christmas is just around the corner... I find myself asking... where did the year go? Looking back since last Thanksgiving I'm thankful for all of the wonderful blessings God has given me. I'm reminded of the chorus of an old hymn I heard as a child, "Count Your Many Blessings":

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Here's a short list of my blessings. As you read them, I hope you'll think of your blessings.

- I'm blessed to have a wonderful and loving Mom, sister and son. I'm able to talk with them each day. I've also been blessed with so many other family members who've gone on to heaven and I look forward to being with them again one day.
- I'm blessed to be a part of our loving, caring church family. As your pastor, I meet so many amazing people. You invite me to be a part of your lives in wonderful ways. Thank you!
- I'm blessed to live in the United States of America, the greatest country on earth. I realize I often take for granted the freedom to worship God that people in other countries must risk their lives to enjoy. When I visit the World War II Museum here in Eldred, I'm reminded that "freedom isn't free."
- I appreciate how I'm blessed to know about God's love and have the gift of Eternal Life that comes from my relationship with Jesus. I realize my awareness of God's love is a gift I received because so many people shared the story of His love and invited me to be a part of church families that surrounded me with Christian love. As a child growing up in the church, I received the gifts of time, talent, resources and compassionate love from so many wonderful caring people.

How about you, when you stop and "count your blessings," what are the ways God has blessed you? Who are the people that are a blessing to you?

As Thanksgiving approaches, I hope each of us will pause and "count our blessings and give God thanks!" May we all hear God's call to be a part of our loving, caring church family and continue the tradition of sharing the story of God's love. I pray each of us discovers new and exciting ways that God is calling us to be a blessing to others. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Church!

Love and Prayers,
Pastor Jim

P.S. We are all invited to attend the Community Ministerium Thanksgiving Service Sunday evening, November 24 @ 6 PM. It will be held this year at St. Raphael's Church. Following the service, we will have a time of refreshments and fellowship at the Coleman Center.