

CLEAR WATER CURRENT

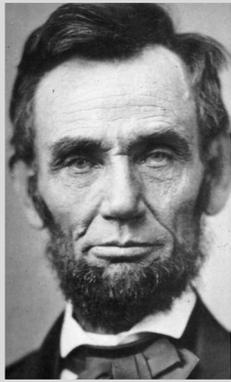


November 2018 Newsletter



Give Thanks. . . .

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday it is interesting to read the original proclamation of this holiday by President Lincoln. In the midst of the Civil War Lincoln was optimistic about the state of our nation and saw all of the good things that God was doing for the Union despite the war. Here is a portion of the proclamation.



The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. [Here Lincoln recounts many good things that God has done for the nation] No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States . . . to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

There may be many harmful things happening in our own lives, just as there were in the life of the Nation in Lincoln's day. But we should follow the example of the great president and while acknowledging our own failures and our lack of worthiness, give thanks to God for the many good things that are also happening in our lives. And let us pray that our wounds and the wounds of our nations be healed so that we can all experience peace, harmony, and tranquility.

- - Pastor James Embree



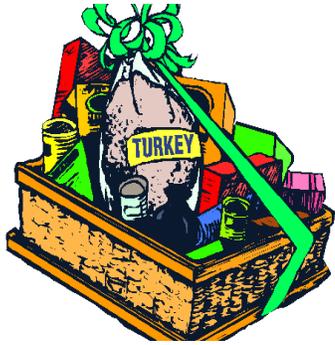
The 30-day Kindness Challenge

What is kindness? It's recognizing and meeting someone's needs because you care. Our main application from the sermon on kindness during the Fruit of the Spirit sermon series was the 30-day Kindness Challenge. It's not too late to start. Choose someone with whom you want to have a better relationship and then practice these three actions for the next 30 days:

1. Say nothing negative about that person, either to them or about them to anyone else.
2. Each day find one positive thing you can praise or affirm about that person and tell them and tell someone else.
3. Each day do one small act of kindness or generosity for them.

AROUND THE BEND

Wendler Thanksgiving Dinners - Due Nov 15 and 18



Help provide Thanksgiving baskets to 13 Wendler Middle School families. Pick up a card at church with a few of the items to purchase that will complete a Thanksgiving meal. Bring your items in on Thursday Nov 15 or Sunday, Nov 18.

Another way to participate is to write an inspirational note in a Thanksgiving card for one of the families. Pick up a card at the offering table that will go with one of the baskets.

Men's 24-hour Getaway - Nov 16-17



Guys, unplug from the rat race and head down to Kenai Lake Friday evening for a 24-hour men's getaway. Dinner will be ready when you arrive. We'll have a beach walk to get to know one another followed by some Bible teaching. After breakfast Saturday, we'll have another time of study and then play with chainsaws and axes...ha! We'll be back in Anchorage before dinner. Sign up by the offering box or contact Steve Gordon 907-441-4572. Cost: \$20.00

Socks of Love - due Nov 25

Parents of Elementary aged kids! The elementary class will be doing a service project on Sunday, November 25th, where they will stuff a pair of socks with products for the homeless. We'll have Andrea McCormack come speak to the kids about how their service project will help those in need. Please help us gather the needed supplies for our "Socks of Love"! The church will supply the socks, and we are asking the kids to bring in any of the following items to fill them with love from now until then: Travel sized and/or small enough to fit into a sock with other items: Chapstick, lotion, wipes, toothbrush and paste, comb, chewy granola bars, hand warmers, etc.



Upcoming Events:

Membership Class - Dec 2
Welcome Lunch - Dec 9
Kid's Christmas Puppet Show - Dec 16
Christmas Gifts for Wendler Families in Need - Dec 16
Solstice Tree Tour at Kincaid - Dec 16
Christmas Eve Service - Dec 24, 5:30 PM

CARE CONCERNS

Prayers and Speedy Recovery

Oliver Ketterer had kidney surgery. Parents are LeAnn and Doug. Brian Whitson is recovering from surgery.



Births



Keira born September 26th
to Tracie and Josh Berkland



Isabella Mae born October 26
to Angela, Wes and sister
Harper Martin

John Stott's Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus,

I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit,

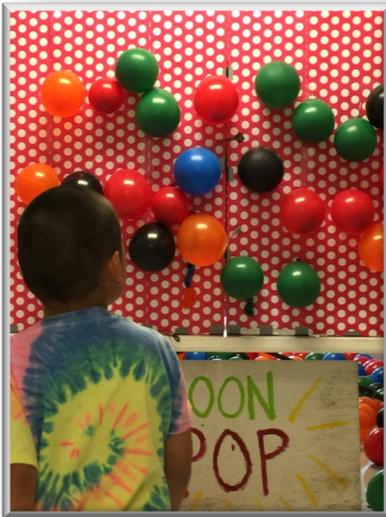
I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



RECENT MINISTRY REPORT

Wendler Back-to-School Party on Aug 15

Great job Clear Water Church hosting another terrific party for Wendler Middle School. It's an effective way of having personal contact with students, parents, and staff and let's the school know we care for and appreciate them. We served over 400 people at this event. Thanks to Kyle Wilson organizing this impactful event and thanks to Jeff and Sandi Bentz for cooking the tasty pulled pork.



Our 5th Anniversary was Sept 9



We celebrated 5 years on Sept 9 with: a video reviewing the last year, singing, looking ahead to God's calling on each of our lives in this next ministry year, and eating lunch together. Thank you, Steve Gordon, for cooking fabulous chicken dijon. Clear Water Church started weekly meetings in September 2013 at Wendler Middle School with 60+ attendees. Thanks to the vision of Mike and Sabrina Merriner we have influenced hundreds with the significance of the gospel and have a regular attendance of over 200. We now have six elders (Greg Balcao, Bill Burgess, Jon DeHart, Steve Gordon, Ken McCormick and Greg Moody) and two pastors (James Embree and Mike Merriner). This next year we're seeking to make church more accessible to more people with a Thursday night service.



Thursday Night Worship Kicked off on Sept 13



On September 13th we stepped out in faith to begin a Thursday night service with a children's program. Sunday morning doesn't work for everyone all of the time. One-third of the workforce works on weekends, many kids sports programs fall on Sunday, and the Alaskan outdoors often call us to get away on the weekends. Thursday Church is everything you get on Sunday just on Thursday at Wendler Middle School, 7pm. Even if you attend on Sunday, get the word out to your friends and co-workers about our Thursday night worship service.

Welcome Lunch held on Sept 30



Welcome lunches are a time for new people to meet with the pastors over lunch. Thirteen people attended, asked questions, and in a informal atmosphere learned more about Clear Water Church. Thanks to Lana Lofquist-Taylor and Tara Lofquist for providing a delicious meal.

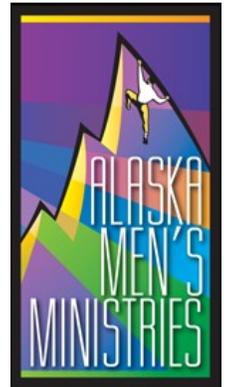
Membership Class held Oct 7



James Embree, Community Life Pastor, met with individuals to discuss church membership. It is exciting to report since September 2018 we have added six new members to Clear Water Church. Erik Bronczyk, Aubrey & Wesley Burgess, Kevin Glynn, Brad Puff, Abigail Schneck. Be sure to welcome them.

Men's Summit "Turning Wounds into Weapons" held Oct 13

Several men from our church attended a one-day conference. The workshops were designed to help men find wisdom and victory in various areas of life. Trent Shoemake was the keynote speaker for "Reckless Love in a Reckless World" and "From Hurt to Hero." Thank you Steve Gordon for your involvement with the Alaska Men's Ministries and our church.



Wendler Teacher & Staff Appreciation Dinner on Oct 25



Clear Water Church provided crock pot dinners, salad, rolls and drinks for 65 teachers and staff members at Wendler during their parent-teacher conference. A big thank you for the delicious dinners to DeeDee Aanonson, Sandi and Jeff Bentz, Aubrey Burgess, Ella Embree, Karen Gonne-Harrell, Siri Owens, Teresa Mattson Walkush, Ardy Robertson, Jessica Vetsch, Nelson and Sandy Vasquez. And thank you to Marge Olson for the October festive table decorations. And another hand of appreciation to Jaxon Bentz and Jack Hedberg for assisting in setup and teardown. What a wonderful team!

Wendler Fall Conferences While parents and students were coming and going to their conferences, many stopped by our table for a free book. We gave away 14 Manga Messiah comic book Bibles, 10 kid devotionals, and 8 *Imagine Your Life without Fear* booklets by Max Lucado.



Prayer & Worship on Nov 4



Our theme verse was 1 Timothy 2:1-2: *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. We spent time praying for the persecuted church, our government, and each other.*

Young Adult Social - Pumpkin Carving Oct 25

Young adults got creative with some excellent carvings at their weekly social. Join us at the Merriner home right after the Thursday night worship service. It's a casual get-to-know others around a fire, snacks, and sometimes board games.



Josh, the "guitar playing Dino"



Liz Paulston creation "The Cheshire Cat"



Abby Schneck and Erik Bronczyk



Melody Sarian



Liza Paulston & Aubrey Burgess

Youth Group Canned Goods Collection



On Halloween Night the youth group had their second annual "Trick-or-Canning" event. About a dozen teens went door to door asking people to donate canned goods for the Downtown Hope Center. They gave each house a card that explained that they were from Clear Water Church and gave some information about the Hope Center. About 75 cans were delivered to the Hope Center as a result of this project. The teens also had a fun time despite the cold weather and were given plenty of candy too!

JOURNEY GROUPS



Journey groups are underway. It's not too late to participate. Journey groups are the best way to connect with others and grow together spiritually. Most meet weekly in homes and are focused on a Bible study or a discussion of the current sermon series. Check them out [here](#).

IF:Table



This is a new women's mentoring ministry called IF:Table. A group of up to six women meet once a month for two hours to explore the exciting possibilities of the truths about God and how to apply them to their lives. A group leader facilitates four questions at each meeting. There is no preparation, no books; it is just you showing up. Currently, we have 8 groups. We are looking for two more women to form another group. Want to jump in? Contact Ella Embree @ 907-795-6604. New groups are

forming all the time.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE WINNERS

Congratulations to our **Sept & Oct winners!**

Sept: Ava Wood, Anne Barnett, Colton Merriner, and Siri Owen

Oct: Ellen Whitson, Eli Corwin, Reuben Vetsch, and Greg Moody

November's memory verse is [Psalm 100:4-5](#)



BIGGER Memory Verse Challenge

Research shows that Bible engagement is the most effective way to grow spiritually. Let's have some fun increasing the competition for the memory verse challenge each month.

Enter the BIGGER Memory Verse Challenge. The rules are: Enter the monthly Memory Verse Challenge at least 6 different months September through April 2019. You must

truly know at least 6 of the monthly verses and enter your name each of those months. Whether or not your name gets drawn for the monthly prize, you will be entered in the grand prize drawing.

What are the grand prizes? For those 13 and over, a \$500 Alaska airlines voucher. For those 12 and under, a iPad and Amazon gift card.

The grand prize drawing will be showcased via Facebook video in early May.

ON MISSION

Clear Water Church gives 10% of every contribution we receive back to local and global Christian ministries. Here are the ones we support monthly:

Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center
Arctic Barnabas Ministries
Free The Oppressed (Burma Free Ranger)

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Due date for next edition of Currents is November 26th

Send articles and photos to cwcoffice13@gmail.com