

Thanksgiving Sunday  
Sunday, October 11, 2015



**Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Lutheran Church-Canada

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5 (519)742-5812 [www.holycrosskitchener.org](http://www.holycrosskitchener.org)

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## Thanksgiving Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Divine Services

9:45 am - Sunday School and Bible Classes for All Ages

3:30 pm - Slovak Congregation Service

Opening Hymn

**Come, Ye Thankful People, Come** *LBS #892*

### Invocation & Opening Sentences

*Pastor* Children of God, our good and gracious God first brings us to faith, makes us His own, and continues to wash our sins away. Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

*People* **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . .**

*Pastor* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Pastor* Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
*People* **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

*Pastor* Give thanks to the God of gods,  
*People* **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

*Pastor* Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
*People* **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

### Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

*Pastor* God defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.

*People* **For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**

*Pastor* We have not done our duty. We have not thanked Him as He deserves. We have not praised Him as He deserves. We have not served Him as He deserves. We have not obeyed Him as He deserves.

*People* **We have taken His gifts for granted. All too often we have forgotten the One who gave those gifts. We have sinned. We pray to our Lord Jesus Christ: Be merciful to us, sinners.**

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

*From his abundance*

*we have all received*

*one gracious blessing*

*after another.*

John 1:16 (NLT)

*Pastor* Jesus has redeemed us, lost and condemned people, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. As a servant of Christ, I forgive you for all your sins! Be at peace; your guilt has been removed from you as far as the east is from the west!

*People* **Amen.**

**Hymn**

**We Praise You, O God** *LBS #785*

**Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:21-27**

<sup>21</sup>“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! <sup>22</sup>Fear not, you beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield. <sup>23</sup>“Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before. <sup>24</sup>“The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. <sup>25</sup>I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. <sup>26</sup>“You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. <sup>27</sup>You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

*Pastor* This the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

*Pastor* This the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*(Church Choir)*

*“A Celtic Thanksgiving”*  
by J. Paul Williams, Joseph Martin

**Holy Gospel - St. Matthew 6:24-34**

*Pastor* The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

*People* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>Jesus said “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. <sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

<sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup>“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

*Pastor* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day**

**Gracious God you send Great Blessings** *LSB #782*

**Sermon**

St. Matthew 6:24-34

**“THANKSGIVING FREEDOM”**

**Confession of Faith** (from Luther’s Small Catechism)

*People* **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

*Pastor* What does this mean?

*People* **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

**He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.**

**He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**

**This is most certainly true.**

**Parish Announcements and Gathering of Offering**

**Hymn** Give thanks with a Grateful Heart *LSB #806*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Lord’s Prayer**

*All* **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Benediction**

*Pastor* The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

*People* **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** For the Fruits of His Creation *LSB #894*

**Officiant**..... Pastor Roland Syens  
**Preacher** ..... Pastor Nolan Astley  
**Organist** ..... Jennifer Massicotte  
**Church Band** ..... Jack Kahl (*director*)  
**Church Choir** ..... Jennifer Massicotte (*director*), Heather Schein (*piano*), Jacob Drung (*drum*)  
**Sound Operators** ..... Ken Griffin (*8:30*), Chris Bohl (*11:00*)

**Prayer Concerns:** In our prayers we *give thanks* to God for all His blessings to us. We especially give thanks for our good land and ask God to grant us good and wise leaders. We also ask Him to  **bless the mission of the church**, here and throughout the world, that all may come to faith in Christ. Closer to home we ask God to grant healing to **Linda Elgie** who is receiving intensive care following a severe heart attack, and we ask God to grant healing to those who struggle with cancer and other infirmities of body, mind or spirit.

**A Harvest Display** of fruits, vegetables and non-perishable groceries adorns the church on this Thanksgiving weekend. We’re deeply grateful to folks who brought in foodstuffs, to those who took time to arrange it so attractively, and to those who will distribute these items to families in need. God bless you, one and all!

**Monday Evening Services** have concluded for this year and will resume again May 2016.

**Coming Events...**

**Confirmation Sunday** is coming up in two weeks on **Sunday, October 25**. We encourage our members to attend as usual and support our young people in their faith journey this day. Our schedule for the day is: **Divine Worship Service with Public Witness Statements at 8:30 am; a reception time for our whole church family at 9:45 a.m.** (classes are in recess and Sunday School hosts a whole-school video); followed by **the Festival Service with Rite of Confirmation at 11 a.m.** We treasure your presence on this special day.

**Please Note...**

**Stay Tuned...**This week you will receive a pamphlet from Concordia Lutheran Mission Society in your pigeon hole which provides an overview of the CLMS 2015 Mission Projects. We encourage you to take a look through the pamphlet and stay tuned for an announcement from your Board of Missions as to how we plan to get involved.

**Volunteer Opportunity!** The nursery is looking for volunteers to help with little ones. We would love to have you join the team; it is on a revolving basis, based on your own schedule of availability for the 11:00 service. You will need to have Abuse Prevention training, if you haven't already done so. Please contact Anita Syens for more information at 519-896-7574 or rasyens@hotmail.com

**Today’s Education Hour...**

**Nursery through Grade 6/7 students** will begin the Book of Exodus today with turmoil for God’s people, but His plans to deliver wrapped up in a baby named MOSES.

**Youth** will continue studying 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians...more good stuff. Join us!

**YABS** will be led by Oleg today... Study of St. Augustine – God did some AMAZING teaching through this man’s life and writings – be blessed by learning more about him!

**Adult Bible Class** will focus upon Philippians 1:3-11, Paul’s prayer of thanksgiving for the church at Philippi.

## Last Week at Holy Cross...

<b>Sunday/Monday Attendance:</b>	122 & 162 & 20	Total 304	('14 – 335)
<b>Sunday/Monday Communion:</b>	96 & 134 & 18	Total 248	('14 – 268)
<b>Adult Bible Class:</b>	Pupils: 43 Staff: 1	Total 44	('14 – 53)
<b>YABS:</b>	Pupils: 4 Staff: 2	Total 6	('14 – 5)
<b>Youth Bible Class:</b>	Pupils: 10 Staff: 2	Total 12	('14 – 7)
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Pupils: 38 Staff: 16	Total 54	('14 – 53)

**Memorial:** In memory of **GARY LEMON** to *Griefshare* from Marlene Lemon. In memory of **ANDREW BALLENTHIN** to the *Church Choir* from Gladys Musselman.

## Weekly Calendar

Monday, October 12 to Sunday, September 20, 2015

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> , Church Office Closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	Small Group Bible Study, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> ..... <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Board of Parish Education, <i>Panel Room</i> ..... <b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> ..... <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Junior Confirmation Class, <i>Panel Room</i> ..... <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Senior Confirmation Class, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> ..... <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Board of Elders, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> ..... <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Board of Young Peoples, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> ..... <b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i> ..... <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Prayer Group, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> ..... <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Candidate Class #4, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> ..... <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Board of Evangelism, <i>Parlour</i> ..... <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Praise Singers, <i>Church</i> ..... <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Cantata Choir, <i>Church</i> ..... <b>8:00 p.m.</b> Church Choir, <i>Church</i> ..... <b>9:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Circuit Youth Event, <i>Youth Room, Downstairs, Church</i> ..... <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Small Group Bible Study, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> ..... <b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Holy Communion Service</b> , <i>Church</i> ..... <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Sunday School, <i>Downstairs</i> ..... <b>9:45 a.m.</b> Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i> ..... <b>9:45 a.m.</b> YABS, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> ..... <b>9:45 a.m.</b> Youth Bible Class, <i>Youth Centre</i> ..... <b>9:45 a.m.</b> <b>Holy Communion Service</b> , <i>Church</i> ..... <b>11:00 a.m.</b>

# EVANGELISM SEMINAR

Please note that the sessions will be Video Taped

## JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION

### How to Be an Everyday Missionary

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
322 East Avenue, Kitchener, ON

## Saturday, November 21, 2015

9 am to 3 pm

Lunch Provided      Freewill Collection for lunch and speaker

*see [holycrosskitchener.org](http://holycrosskitchener.org) for more info and video*

# GREG FINKE

**WILL ALTER THE WAY YOU SEE YOUR LIFE AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS**  
and take you beyond living your life *for* Jesus to living life *with* Jesus. Simple, powerful and applicable insights show you how to be on mission and recognize where Jesus is already at work in your neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. You will feel both relief and hope. You may even hear yourself say, "I can do this!" as you start responding to the everyday opportunities he is placing in your path.



**GREG AND SUSAN FINKE** founded Dwelling 1:14 to help Jesus-followers connect in their neighborhoods, workplaces and schools for discipling and missional living. They offer coaching, consulting and training experiences for congregations and their leaders in discipling, living missionally and multiplying missional communities. Greg and Susan enjoy life as neighborhood missionaries in League City, Texas.

[www.dwelling114.org](http://www.dwelling114.org)