

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

The Messenger—November 2025

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Dear Church Family,

As we approach a season of thanks, I felt it appropriate to highlight the people in our lives that may be easily overlooked or even forgotten. It is not to make us feel guilty; rather, it's a reminder that it takes very little to give others something to be thankful for. I'm reminded of this scripture as I prepare another message on The Sermon on the Mount from **Matthew 7:12**, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

One of my unique privileges as a pastor is spending time with people at some of the highest and lowest moments of their life. Though I know my role as clergy implies the power and presence of God to someone in need, I often feel ill-equipped to comfort someone who has lost a spouse of more than half a century, or they themselves face a grim health diagnosis. I imagine you may have experienced this as well.

Yet, the most precious thing that the Lord repeatedly reminds me is that often the ministry of being present is more important than anything else we could do in seemingly helpless situations. The comfort of scripture and prayer should always be part of the equation, but it's incredible how grateful people are for a few moments of my time when I visit them.

This is a call to remember those in the life of our congregation who are shut-in, homebound, or otherwise unable to be part of our regular worship and ministry life together. It's also an encouragement to remember that during this season of thanks, it takes very little to give someone in our sphere of influence something to be thankful for. Instead of quickly blowing through casual conversation with the bank teller, take an extra thirty seconds to let them be heard or noticed. Go through a regular check-out rather than the self-checkout, and smile as you talk to the cashier. Pick up the phone for five minutes and call someone who is on your mind that you haven't talked with in a while. The small and simplest possibilities are endless.

I hope that we can notice this Thanksgiving season the small yet mighty ways we can be the hope and encouragement someone needs. These small moments matter. Because we have Jesus, we carry the hope of the world, to the world. May we share that hope generously, without reservation.

Bless and be blessed,

Michael



UPCOMING Events



Sunday, November 2nd Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship with Rick Vogeley & communion
Children's Church with Courtney Plyler

Tuesday, November 4th Election Day
Bible Study 9:30am
Ministry & Mission Meeting 6:00pm
Admin. Meeting 7:00pm

Saturday, November 8th PEO-A Gala 2:00-5:00pm

Sunday, November 9th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Children's Church with Michelle Turner
Congregational Meeting after worship
Deacon's Meeting after worship

Tuesday, November 11th Bible Study 9:30am
Session Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, November 12th Presbytery Meeting 6:30pm at Sandy Lake Presb.

Thursday, November 13th Staff Meeting 10:00am

Sunday, November 16th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Children's Church with Christy Litrenta

Tuesday, November 18th Bible Study 9:30am
Promise of Life Mother's Group 10:00am

Saturday, November 22nd Christmas Parade/Float

Sunday, November 23rd Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Children's Church with Amy Plyler
Decorate for Christmas after worship
Youth Group Early Thanksgiving

Office Hours for this week are:
Monday & Tuesday 9:00am—4:00 pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Closed

Tuesday, November 25th Michael at Prayer Breakfast at the YMCA 8:00am
No Bible Study

Michael will be off November 26th through December 1st

Thursday, November 27th Thanksgiving Day
Happy Thanksgiving

LOOKING AHEAD:

December 19th
Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

December 21st
Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24th
Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm



Deadline for December Is November 18th

"The Benefits of Gratitude

Thanking God glorifies and magnifies Him, but did you know it also benefits us? Giving thanks:

1. Refocuses our attention on His provision and faithfulness,
2. Relieves anxiety by shifting our burdens to Him,
3. Refreshes our relationship by focusing on Him, not ourselves,
4. Reinforces our faith by remembering His past faithfulness to us,
5. Rejoices our spirit by bringing us a sense of joy.

Although gratitude is always beneficial, it is not necessarily easy. But shifting our focus and thanking the Lord for all He has done for us is the fastest way to change our attitude and reenergize ourselves to push thru whatever challenges we face."

(In Touch, October, 2025, p.23.)

Scripture: "Oh give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His Name; Make known His deeds among the peoples," (Psalm 105:1)



CHRISTmas Parade

Christmas Float & Parade

The church is entering a float in the New Castle Christmas Parade on **Saturday, November 22nd**. Small, wrapped candy is needed to be handed out at the parade. Bins will be available in Circle Drive.



Attention all of you who love to decorate for Christmas! We will be decorating our beautiful church and sanctuary on Sunday, November 23rd, after church. We can use all able bodied men, women, and children who are available for a little while after the service. People will be there to give directions so don't be concerned if you've never helped in the past. Many hands make light work, as they say! A light lunch will be served to all who stay to help. Please mark your calendars and join us as we "deck the halls"!

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Staff:

Pastor Michael Spicuzza

Terri Nystrom, Office Administrator

Dr. Jane Karski, Organist

Sally Mescall, Nursery/Pre-K Worker

Charlie Antonelli, Custodian

Gabe Danko, Seminary Intern

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Ruling Elders:

Jen Conrad

Taylor Lubinski

Cindy Lyons

Nancy Natale

Janice McConnell

Christy Litrenta

Bob Turner

Bill Nesbitt

Ed Conti

Sam Plyler

Elinore Snyder

Tom Reynolds

Christmas Program Sunday, December 21st

Part assignments and practices for this year's youth Christmas Program, "Manger Tales," will start in Fellowship Hall Sunday, October 26th, and will be held each Sunday through December 14th during worship, with the performance on December 21st during worship in Fellowship Hall, followed by cookies and cocoa reception.

These practices will be for children in Third Grade and up for the cast and leader and reader parts, as well as younger children who wish to participate in the choral parts being added as practices progress.

Dress Rehearsal will be Friday, December 19th in the early evening.

We are very excited to present the good news of the birth of Jesus from the animals' perspectives to everyone!

If you have any questions or would like to help out, please see Nancy Natale, Kali Anderson, or Courtney Plyler.

Mission Spotlight

November—Arise/CCAP

Since 1981, Arise has worked to empower and advocate for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, and other serious crimes.

Arise inspires to educate citizens to create safer communities and break the cycle of violence.

Services provided by Arise include a 24/7 Hotline, counseling for individuals/ families/groups, parenting classes, and community education. Advocacy services such as transportation, court preparation, and safety planning are available.

Arise offers safe-short term emergency shelter, transitional community based housing and rental assistance for permanent housing.

Community outreach and professional trainings are also provided.

Arise is currently collecting household items to include: toilet paper, plastic silverware, disposable containers, dish rags, dish/ laundry soap, wash cloths, towels, pillows/pillow cases, blankets, and twin/full size bed sheet sets. Clothing needs are for socks (men/women/children), undergarments (children/men/plus size women), and children's clothing (all sizes and genders). Items can be dropped off between 8:30 and 4:30 at Arise 1218 W. State St. New Castle 16101.

The Adopt an Angel Christmas program is underway to provide Christmas assistance to both individuals and families.

Current fundraising events are the 3rd Annual Monte Carlo Gaming Night on Nov. 21 at The Villa and Bingo on Feb. 2, 2026 at the Cathedral. Money raised from these events go directly into Arise services and programs.



Fall Youth Group Activities

11/23 Early Thanksgiving

Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Collection (Month 7— November 2025)



Cornbread—box

Pudding—box

Quick Oats

Chocolate Cake Mix

Shredded Wheat Cereal

Rice Sides—packet

Men's Deodorant

Confectioner's Sugar

Women's Deodorant

Vegetable Oil

Coffee/Reg. or Decaf—can

Onion Soup Mix