# BWC LAMPLIGHTER for NOVEMBER 2025

Number 26 Issue 5

#### **Pastor Mark's Minute:**

"Faith and Fear both ask you to believe in something you can't see.

The one you choose writes your future." -Anonymous

God says "Do not fear" hundreds of times throughout the Bible. But what does that mean? Are you wrong to feel fear when you're not sure how to pay your bills or when you get that dire health diagnosis or your kid is struggling or when your job is on the line?

No. You're not wrong. God wired our brains to experience fear. It is a primary emotion. There is a reason and purpose for our fear as we respond to triggering stimuli. When God says, "Do not fear" he is not commanding us to shut off a part of our brain. He didn't create us to be emotionless robots.

The real issue God wants us to wrestle with is where we go with our fear. What do you do when you are afraid? How do you deal with your fear?

I pray you will take each and every one of them captive and deposit them on the altar before Almighty God.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 Simply put, God wants us to come to him. Fear can paralyze us. When we are afraid yet

remember we are in His presence, He helps us take the next step of faith and either defeat fear or live effectively with it! Unfortunately, no one will be able to totally escape fear in this sinful, broken world. Fear is real. It can be paralyzing. It is powerful; thankfully God is more powerful. Let me write that again, God is more powerful than any and all of your fears. He has the power and desire to be with us in the midst of our fears. Remembering this will enable to us to take the next step of faithfulness in our lives. How? Because God is with us. You may not be able to defeat your fear, but the God living in you can. Isaiah 41:10 reminds us, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

On the next page are a few more verses about fear. When you have fear, I encourage you to read, recite, memorize one or all of these verses, and the power of Almighty God will help you to defeat any fear you might face.

I love you very much and can't wait to see you this Sunday if not before!

(continued from the front page)

Great verses to encourage the fear right out of you: **Psalm 23:4**: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." **Philippians 4:6-7**: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." **2 Timothy 1:7**: "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." **1 John 4:18**: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. Because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears has not been made perfect in love." **Proverbs 29:25**: "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."

## Welcome our newest member: DESSIE CHRISTIAN

#### **FAITH COMES BY HEARING**

"Dear Pastor Mark & BWC Family,

For more than ten years, your church's steadfast generosity has been a pillar of strength for this mission. Your prayers, partnership, and giving have echoed across nations—bringing light, freedom, and the hope of Jesus Christ to countless hearts.

We give thanks for your enduring faithfulness and praise God for your obedience To His Great Commission. Thank you for standing with us as we labor together toward Vision 2033.\* Your legacy as a church will echo into eternity. Serving Jesus Christ and His people with you."

--Jerry Jackson, President and Founder

\*The Year 2033 marks the 2000th Anniversary from, Jesus Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost. 2033 will be a Celebration of the Greatest Jubilee of all Jubilees to be celebrated by all Christians and People of Goodwill!

Our Mission: To record and provide the Word of God in every language that needs it.

If you would like to support the work of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ around the world, please write 'Bible' on your check or giving envelope and drop it in the wooden box at the back of the sanctuary.

## PS Any dollar you give to Faith Comes by Hearing before Christmas will be doubled because of a generous matching donation.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

## TIME CHANGE: November 2nd

It's the time of the year when we change our clocks. Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 2<sup>nd</sup> so you can be to church on time.

#### **COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP: November 2nd**

We come together to pray for our kids and our community the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month @ 5:30pm-6:30pm in the sanctuary @ BWC.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Our Ladies Bible Study meets on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm in the Youth Room. Ladies of all ages are welcome.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Our men meet on Sundays, @ 6:30pm in the upstairs classroom at church. Men of all ages are invited.

#### MEALS-ON-WHEELS: November 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

BWC is blessed with the opportunity to deliver meals to our local friends and neighbors the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>. If you can help from 10:30am-11:30am any day, Monday-Friday, please sign up.

#### PRAY & VOTE: November 4th

Your vote does make a difference and your prayers make an eternal difference.

## **AWANA:** November 5th, 12th & 19th (Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:30pm)

Awana is a fun program for kids ages, 5 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is every Wednesday night from 6:00pm-7:30pm during the school year. While at Awana the kids are able to learn Bible stories, memorize verses, enjoy a snack and games with their friends and win prizes. Be sure to have your youngster join us this Wednesday @ 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Awana will NOT meet Wednesday the 26th due to Thanksgiving.

## YOUTH GROUP: November 5th, 12th & 19th (Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:45pm)

Our Youth Group members are selling Hickory House Popcorn until November 5<sup>th</sup>.

(Flavors and prices: Butter Blast \$9 - Cheddar Me Cheese \$13 - Salted Caramel \$13 - Butter Pecan \$13 - Sweet Cinnamon \$13 - Frosted Blueberry \$14 - S'mores \$15)

They are also selling some beautiful 2026 Christian Calendars. They make great Christmas gifts and are only \$10.00 each. Check them out with one of our youth or see Pastor Pam.

## No Youth Group on the 26th due to Thanksgiving!

## **COMMUNION SUNDAY: November 23rd**

We will remember all that Jesus did for us as we take communion on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### THANKSGIVING POT LUCK: November 23rd

Our Thanksgiving meal will be November 23<sup>rd</sup> after our morning service. The Turkey will be provided. Bring yourself, your family and friends, and your favorite Thanksgiving ham, side dish, or dessert. Yummy!

#### **DECORATING for CHRISTMAS / ADVENT: November 23rd**

We will be decorating the church for the Christmas Season on November 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:00pm. You are highly encouraged to join us. Many hands make light work!

#### THE GIVING TREE: November 23rd to December 14th

"Give, and it will be given to you. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

Our Missionary Giving Tree is how we are able to encourage our missionaries at the Christmas Season. Here is how it works: Beginning November 23<sup>rd</sup> the Giving Tree will be in the lobby. On it are cards with each missionary's name, the gift idea, and the price. Pick out a card, take the 1<sup>st</sup> copy with you, put your name on the 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of that card and leave it on the tree. Then bring your financial gift to the church on or before December 14<sup>th</sup>, and we'll collect them and send them off to each missionary for Christmas. Because shipping is so expensive, we'll collect the money you give, and send it to each missionary and they will do the shopping.

Our missionaries are: Burgos - Asia, McFredericks - Czech Republic, Wuertz - Ecuador, Webbs - Honduras, Thompsons - Spain, Culvers - Austria and Chelsey Horkman - Senegal

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE: December 24th @ 9:00pm

Our theme for this Christian Season is: "When Heaven Came Down."

Each week we will feature a different gift that Heaven delivers to us that will lead us right up to the manger on Christmas morn. Invite a friend and join us each Sunday at 10:30am.

\*If you would like to be part of our Advent Reading and Candle Lighting one Sunday during the Christmas Season, contact Pastor Mark to sign up.

#### YOU CAN GET TO KNOW GOD

Acknowledge your need: Understand that all people have sinned and are in need of a savior.

Believe in Jesus: Have faith that Jesus is the Son of God who died for your sins and rose again.

Repent: With His help, turn away from your sins and commit to a changed life to honor God.

Ask Him in: Invite Jesus to come into your heart and life to be your Lord and Savior through prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is your Son, that He died for my sins, and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord,

from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen."

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. *His love endures forever*. Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever*. Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever*.

"...to him who alone does great wonders, *His love endures forever*...who by his understanding made the heavens, *His love endures forever*...who spread out the earth upon the waters, *His love endures forever*...who made the great lights—*His love endures forever*...the sun to govern the day, *His love endures forever*...the moon and stars to govern the night; *His love endures forever*." *Psalm 136:6-9* 

#### Thanksgiving Trivia

- 1. Which U.S President made Thanksgiving a national holiday?
- 2. Which U.S state consumes the most turkey every Thanksgiving?
- 3. What happens at the end of Thanksgiving parades?
- 4. How many people were at the first Thanksgiving meal?
- 5. What do you call a female turkey?
- 6. Which U.S State has the most turkeys?
- 7. True or false: Turkeys can fly.
- 8. How long did the first Thanksgiving meal last?
- 9. Which U.S state first adopted Thanksgiving as an annual holiday?
- 10. According to the Guinness World Records, how much does the heaviest pumpkin weigh?
- 11. When was the first Thanksgiving NFL football game?
- 12. Which countries recognize Thanksgiving as a national holiday?

Answers: 1. Abraham Lincoln 2. California 3. Santa Claus appears 4. Approximately 140 5. Hen 6. Minnesota 7. True 8. 3 Days 9. New York 10. 2,624.6 pounds 11. 1934 12. Canada, Grenada, Liberia, Saint Lucia, USA

## BELLEVILLE WESLEYAN CHURCH

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