

St John Church of Christ

October 13, 2019

Order of Worship

Worship Leader: Jerry

Gathering Song: No. 77 Glorify
Thy Name

Welcome: Tom

Scripture Reading: Ned

Psalm 103:1-5

No. 4 To God Be the Glory

No. 129 Amazing Grace

No. 517 Heaven Came Down

No. 770 Dear Lord and Father
of Mankind

Prayer: Chris

No. 176 Lamb of God

Communion: Orrin

assisted by Fred, Gary, Darrell

No. 853 When We All Get to
Heaven

*(Children may go to Children's
Bible Hour during the singing of the
last verse)*

Lesson: Simon and the Shady
Lady – John

No. 915 I Am Resolved (1st Verse)

Prayer: Richard

(CCLI #244012t9)



Maybe Papa Was Right

John McKeel

My grandfather was a huge influence in my life. He was a very small, dark Oklahoman, but had a ready wit and loved a good story. Papa was also very wise. For example, he noted that only fat people eat diet food, so if you want to avoid being overweight, you should avoid diet food – at least according to my grandfather. Likewise, Papa was a practical man. He insisted, “Life is uncertain so eat dessert first.” Papa also insisted that we should pray after meals instead of before so we would know just how thankful to be. It turns out, Papa wasn’t too far off base.

The Jewish people, based on Deuteronomy 8:10, say the blessing after the meal!

“When you have eaten, and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.”

On the other hand, Jesus gave thanks both before (Luke 24:30), but he also gave thanks afterwards (Luke 22:20). So why do Christians say their “blessing” over the meal before enjoying it? Some scholars believe the practice is tied to Jews and Gentiles eating together. It must have been very hard for someone like Peter, a Jew, who had never eaten anything “unclean” (Acts 10:14), to enjoy a meal of forbidden food! (Galatians 2:12). Perhaps that’s why Paul told Timothy, “For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

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because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.” In other words, prayers make the food acceptable to eat, so it would make sense for Peter to pray before the meal.

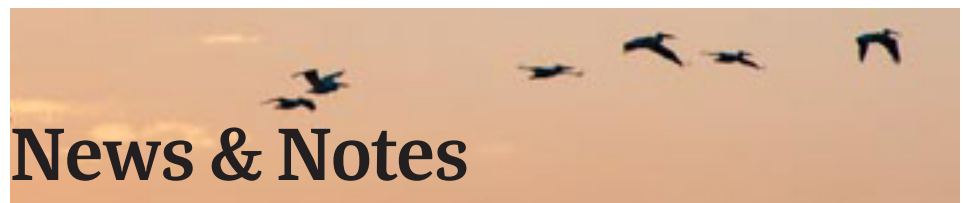
But whether we pray before, after, or both, thanking God for our food is a wonderful practice. First, it cultivates an “attitude of gratitude” – an essential Christian virtue. I remember watching an old Walter Brennan movie where Brennan played a cantankerous old farmer. As he dug into the family meal, his wife chastised him and insisted they say grace before they ate. I’ll never forget his bitter prayer: “Lord, we ploughed the field, planted the seed, hoed, watered and harvested the crop, but we give you thanks anyway.” His prayer reflected his sad character. How much sweeter is a thankful spirit!

Second, thanking God for our meals teaches us to depend on Him Who provides us with food, and shelter and clothing (Acts 17:25).

Finally, saying grace is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children to pray. Don’t you remember how special you felt when your father asked you to lead the family prayer at the dinner table? So, go ahead. Take a moment to bow your head and thank the Lord for his love at every meal – even if, as Papa advised, it’s after dessert.

Great Quotes

“Do not pray for easy lives,” said Phillips Brooks. “Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.”



News & Notes

Men’s Retreat

The annual Men’s Retreat begins tonight and runs through Tuesday. It will be held at Silver Maple camp, The cost is \$75. Grady King from Irving, Texas will be the featured speaker.

Wednesday Night Bible Studies Resume

Wednesdays are going to be special this fall. First, we will have a community Bible study at 2:00 in the afternoon in the Fellowship Hall. John will be teaching from the book of Ephesians.

Then on Wednesday nights at 6:30 P.M., join us for pizza. At 7:00 we’ll sing a few songs, share in prayer and then the children will begin an exciting class in the Fellowship Hall while the adults will move upstairs for a lively small group discussion class on Spiritual Warfare. The program will end promptly at 8:00 P.M.

To kick it all off, on October 30TH, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 P.M. we’re hosting TRUNK OR TREAT.

Trunk or Treat

During Trunk or Treat, costumed children and their parents will enjoy pizza, cocoa and games in the Fellowship Hall followed by visiting the trunk of decorated cars in the parking lot to receive treats!

This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join in the fun. It’s also a way to kick off our Wednesday night Fall Bible studies. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m.

For Your Prayers

Please offer prayers of thanksgiving! Carol’s surgery in Kansas City last Thursday went “very smoothly” according to the surgeon. Barring any complications, she should come home soon.

Please remember Marla’s cousin, Rick Toland, who is struggling with cancer.

Gayle has asked that we pray for her friend, Eddie, who is facing a terrible choice. Should he allow his leg to be amputated, or risk losing his life? Please pray!



Fun at the Stafford Oktoberfest Main Street Parade