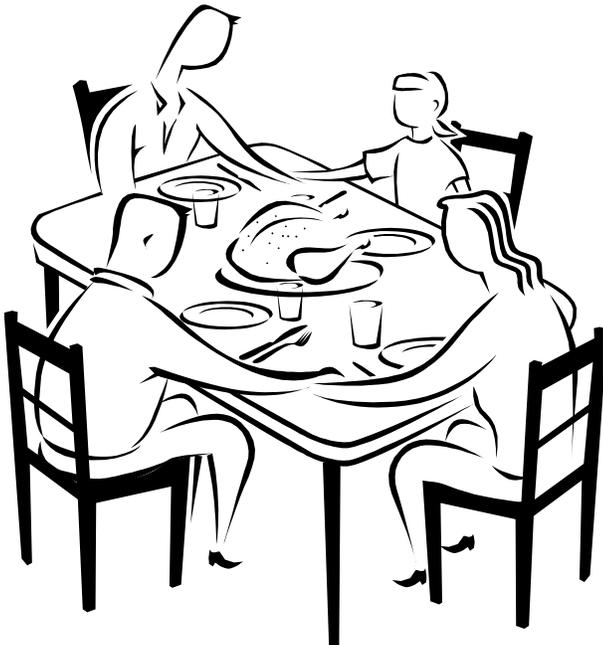




# PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

OCTOBER 2012



## O GIVE THANKS!

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

*“Jehovah lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground. Sing to Jehovah with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God.” (Psalm 147:6-7)*

On the second Monday in October, Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving. When the holiday was established as a statutory holiday by the federal government in 1957, it was declared to be “A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed – to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October.”

Thanksgiving officially was established as a day of thanks for a bountiful harvest, but everyone understands that that means not just a literal harvest of food, but also all the blessings that God has given to us. It’s a day of thanks for the good things in our lives, especially for our friends and our family, for health and happiness.

Some families on Thanksgiving Day take turns expressing what they’re thankful for. Usually we do say things like friends and family, as well as little everyday blessings that we’ve received in our lives. This is good – it is good for us to call to mind all the ways that the Lord has blessed us, so that we appreciate all those things more, and so that we remember that we have not earned them ourselves. This is an important part of Thanksgiving.

But this Thanksgiving, see if you can make a conscious effort to go beyond thanking the Lord for things he’s done for *you*. This Thanksgiving, take some time to thank the thing He has done for *others*. We can find inspiration for this in the book of Psalms. There are lots of psalms of thanksgiving, and in many of them, the psalmist expresses gratitude that the Lord has saved him personally from an enemy, or given him another personal blessing. But many of those psalms are sung as praises to the Lord for His gifts not just to the person writing the psalm, but to all His people, or all humanity. They’re prayers of gratitude for the Lord’s “wonderful works to the children of men” (Psalm 107). Psalm 147, quoted at the beginning of this article, praises the Lord for His just treatment of all people, in lifting up humble people everywhere, and casting down the wicked everywhere.

And the Lord Himself, when He was in the world, gave thanks to the Father, the infinite within Himself, not for His own sake, but for the sake of the people who would be saved. He always gave thanks before breaking bread and *sharing* it with His disciples. He said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.” His gratitude was not for Himself, but for the sake of those who in innocence received His Word.

So, when we’re thanking the Lord this thanksgiving, we should thank Him for the ways he’s blessed us and our families over the year. But we can add to that the way he’s blessed other people we know. We can

thank Him for the things he's done for other people in the Dawson Creek or Grande Prairie congregation, or in the wider world. We can even thank Him for the love He's shown even to people who we don't particularly like.

By thanking the Lord for His gifts to others, we let ourselves be reminded that the Lord's goal is not just to make *me* happy, but to give *everyone* a chance to experience true joy. And if we're thanking Him for the gifts He gives to others, it reminds us that we have the opportunity to act as vessels for the Lord's blessing to others.

True thanksgiving, although it seems to come from ourselves, actually comes from the Lord. *Arcana Coelestia* 10299 says, "Worship that begins in the person is not true worship; consequently offerings of thanksgiving, adoration, and prayer which begin in the person are not the offerings of thanksgiving, adoration, and prayer that are heard and accepted by the Lord. They must begin in the Lord present with the person." The passage goes on to say that we have to do those things *as if* from ourselves, but acknowledge that it is the Lord in us who allows us to do them.

And one way to experience that feeling of thanksgiving as coming from the Lord is to give thanks for the things that *He* would give thanks for: His personal blessings of us as individuals every day, and His blessings toward the entire human race, toward every one of His children.

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## THE CHURCH OFFICE

Starting this month, Rev. Coleman Glenn will be moving out of his home office and into the office at the church. Office hours (once I'm there) will be the same – I will try to be in the office Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and possibly later, although I may be out visiting after 3. You can reach me at the church office at 250-782-8035, or on my cell phone at 250-467-2313.

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## THANKSGIVING SERVICES

On Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving both at the Dawson Creek New Church and with the Grande Prairie circle at the church in Debolt.

In Dawson Creek, we will have a family service at 11:00 am, followed by a Thanksgiving dinner in the hall downstairs. As part of the service you are invited to bring a fruit or vegetable offering as a symbol of grati-

tude to the Lord. The offerings will be distributed after the service.

In Debolt, we will have church at 4:30 p.m., followed by a Thanksgiving supper downstairs.

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## VISIT FROM REV. JAMES COOPER

Rev. James Cooper will be visiting Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie on the weekend of October 20-21. He may be in Silver Valley for a doctrinal class on Saturday evening, October 20<sup>th</sup> (Silver Valley residents stay tuned for more information), and he will lead worship in Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Coleman Glenn will be away in Philadelphia and Toronto that weekend preparing for his wedding to Anne Grace Hurd, which will take place on December 30<sup>th</sup> in Toronto.



## THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

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[www.dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca](http://www.dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca)  
(250) 782-8035

**Worship: Sundays at 11 a.m.**

For information on services in Grande Prairie & Debolt, please contact Mrs. Lavina Scott at (780) 957-3625.

**If you have news or other information for this publication, or if you have any pastoral concerns, please call the pastor, Coleman Glenn, at (250) 782-0710 or (cell) (250) 467-2313, or e-mail [pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca](mailto:pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca).**

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 11 a.m. Traditional Service	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 11 a.m. Thanksgiving Service 4:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service (Debolt)	8 Thanksgiving	9	10	11 7:30 p.m. Doctrinal Class	12	13
14 11 a.m. Traditional Service	15	16	17	18	19	20
Rev Coleman Glenn away October 15-26						
21 11 a.m. Traditional Service 4:30 p.m. Worship and Class (Grande Prairie)	22	23	24	25	26	27
Rev Coleman Glenn away October 15-26						
28 11 a.m. Traditional Service	29	30	31 Halloween	1	2	3

**Note: All events take place at the Dawson Creek Church of the New Jerusalem unless noted otherwise.**