



JOIN US FOR A

Thanksgiving Potluck

NOVEMBER 17, IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP

THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE THE TURKEY
SIGN UP IN EITHER ATRIUM FOR SIDES AND DESSERT

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Information:

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Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 722772
Norman, OK 73070



Letters to My Church

Start Up, Step Up, Double Up.

This November I'm departing from the lectionary for the first time to preach a Generosity Campaign. The next four weeks I'm going to preach on A Generous Creation, A Generous Salvation, A Generous Community, and A Generous Inheritance. I'm excited to explore generosity in a multifaceted way, but just as no conversation about generosity or spiritual health can be limited to finances, neither can it be excluded either.



Jakob Topper
Senior Pastor

How we use our money is profoundly spiritual. A great time to talk about it is now while we are \$4,000 ahead of budget, because we can do so without guilt or mixed motives.



We have solid financial footing because we've made real sacrifices. We no longer have a full time youth minister, our missions budget was cut nearly in half, and other ministries are down 3-5%. Yet, God has been faithful to us as we've sought to be faithful to God, and we continue to do kingdom work that makes me proud to be at NHC. And if we want to continue this good work then we must keep growing into a more spiritually mature and financially healthy church.

Therefore, as a part of the Generosity Campaign, we're challenging all of our members to start up, step up, or double up by the end of November.



For those who don't yet financially support the church, we're asking you to **start up** by beginning to give something. The long term health of our church needs you, but we don't need you to give beyond your means. Today it is enough to start giving what you can.

For those of who do give regularly but haven't been able to tithe, we're challenging you to **step up** your giving by just 1%. Since we're in this journey together for the long haul, we hope that suggesting a 1% increase will require sacrifice, but it won't leave families in a bind.

And for those who are able, we're challenging you to prayerfully consider a **double up** by giving an extra gift toward paying down the principal on our building debt before we renegotiate the loan this January. Every extra gift between now and the end of the year will go directly and immediately toward building debt relief. Every dollar counts.

Because of our history, we cannot afford to be anything but open and honest about finances if we want to still be a flourishing congregation in 10, 20 and 30 years. If we're to get there, then paying off debt and cultivating generous stewards in younger generations are top priorities. You older generations have carried the burden faithfully for a long time, and you're not finished yet. We still need to pay for what we've built so as not to cripple the younger generations before they've really even begun. But we're planning and giving toward our future today, and NorthHaven, our future is bright.

Your grateful pastor,

Jakob

NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.



Food Baskets for Native American Churches

deadline for donations: Sunday, November 17

List of items we are collecting....

- Canned hams that do not need refrigerating
- Large (5 lbs.) bag of corn meal
- Large bag of flour
- Large bag of rice
- Canned sweet potatoes (or yams)
- Can of corn
- Can of green beans
- Bag of ground coffee (1 lb.)
- Bag of candy for kids



NorthHaven Crop Walk Team 2019

This was NorthHaven's third year to participate in the Cleveland County Crop Walk. Thank you to our 2019 Team for a successful fundraising year. Our goal was \$1,500 and we raised \$1,600 of which 25% will benefit our own Food and Shelter for Friends here in Norman. Thank you to all those who donated to this worthy cause. Hope to have an even bigger team next year!

Team Members: Karen Bowles, Bethany, John & Merry Dorean, Pamela Duncan, Jay Liang, Randy & Sheri Ridenour, and Alyssa Topper



- November 1: Janet Dulin
- November 1: Cindy Rieger

- November 2: Josh Lockett
- November 2: Angela Paganoni
- November 8: Norma Franke
- November 8: Joyce Krause
- November 9: Mike Bumgarner
- November 15: Autumn Lockett
- November 15: Van Tran
- November 15: Maryann Wilson

- November 17: Teri Jordan
- November 17: Carol Lockhart
- November 18: Vickie Hill
- November 20: Don Schooler
- November 20: Clay Tarter
- November 30: Keri Fullbright

THANKFUL...

National Adoption Day, celebrated on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, falls on November 23rd this year.

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. For years my grandmother and her six siblings, their children, and their grandchildren gathered together to celebrate Thanksgiving. Turkey, pie, and dozens of cousins to play with left me with such great memories and a complete love for the holiday.

The Thanksgiving of 1998 however was one of the most anxious days of my life. Two weeks before Richard and I had learned that we had been matched with a birth couple and were officially expecting a baby girl due four months later. We had chosen her name and I had already hit the baby department at least once.

I was also finishing up the thank you notes from our wedding two months prior. You read that correctly, two months. Anticipating we would be on a waiting list for several years, we had met with an adoption attorney early – y'all know I'm a planner!

Not in my plan was that, on my first major holiday as a wife, I would also be an expectant mother. Not in my plan were the thousands of

dollars we were in debt to my grandmother after a hefty payment to the attorney. And absolutely, most definitely not in my plan was MY baby crossing state lines. Our birth parents were traveling out of state for Thanksgiving and our daughter was, of course, along for the ride. I felt so completely out of control.

Reality is that, no matter what name you associate with as a parent, biological, adoptive, or foster, we are never in control. God wasn't concerned that half the nursery was painted or that I had tiny little clothes on tiny little hangers. In the short time before our daughter was to be born, He had a lot of work to do making me into her mama.



It was that Thanksgiving when I learned the most important thing about being a parent is full dependency on God. I prayed that entire long weekend for seat belt use, careful driving, and that our birth mother wouldn't change her mind after visiting

her family. Not only did God see me through that first parenting scare, He continually walks beside me in my journey as a mom.

Thanksgiving is still my favorite holiday and I'm ever so grateful for birth parents who gave us the gift of parenthood and for a God who teaches dependency.

In Christ's Love,
Kim

