

November 2024



# The Messenger

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## Holy Days of Giving and Serving - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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It case you haven't noticed, it's that time of year again. With leaves changing color, the temperature slowly ebbing and the election nearly behind us, it's time to turn our attention to the festive season of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

We know it collectively as Holiday Season; that is, the season of holy days. Christmas certainly is holy. Thanksgiving should be a day to give thanks to our holy and gracious God. And while celebrating the dawn of a new year is not usually holy, it is a time to rededicate ourselves to following Jesus in the year ahead.

So, bring on the Holiday Season! And while we're at it, let's keep the season holy by making it a time of giving and serving, instead of just parties, food, music and presents.

At Broadway, we mark the holidays with two important opportunities to help people in need.

First, we will donate food and funds to fill our Thanksgiving Baskets. The baskets will go to families connected with our church who may otherwise struggle to enjoy a nice meal. We give turkeys, canned food, bread, potatoes, milk and gift cards. In recent years, we have also been able to provide a few baskets for families who are a part of Vida Eterna. It's a simple and practical way to help those in need in the name of Jesus.

Second, we will provide Christmas presents to students at Rolling Green Elementary through the Love Tree. On Sunday, November 24, anyone who would like to participate can choose a tag from the Love Tree with gift ideas for a child identified by the school as in need of special support. Our gifts will be distributed before Christmas along with a message of love from our church. Through Love Tree, we share God's love with families who might not be able to provide nice gifts for their children at Christmas.

We reach out to our community with the love and message of Jesus through these annual ministries. They are meaningful ways to help others and opportunities for us to practice generosity, a virtue that makes us more like Jesus, who gave Himself on the cross for our salvation.

For those of us who have been given so much by God, may this Holiday Season be a season of giving and serving. God's word is full of gracious promises, including this one: "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:11). It's a promise with a purpose. God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others.

In a way, that's what following and serving Jesus is all about. God shows us love, and in turn, we love the people around us. Jesus gave His life for ours, and now we lay down our lives for others.

During this season of holy days that point people to God's goodness and the birth of our Savior, let's excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7).

Thank you for your generous donations toward the Thanksgiving Baskets and Love Tree. I hope you will also join us for the Thanksgiving worship service with our brothers and sisters from Vida Eterna on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m. Later in the season, we will gather for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m.

May this be a joyful and generous Holiday Season for our church family and community.



## Birthdays

- 4 Karen Holmertz
- 7 Royce Cates
- Karen Knox
- 17 Kara Woodrow
- 19 Christine Bauer
- 22 Phil Adams, Sr.
- 23 Lillian Slack
- 29 Barbara Carlson



## Anniversaries

- 10 Jeff & Rose Peterson
- 12 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 16 Randy & Nancy Rainwater
- 22 Ron & Cheryl Carlson
- 26 Kevin & Candice McCulloch
- 28 Steve & Becky Bamberger

## Carol Circle

Monday, November 4th is the final meeting of the year for Carol Circle. We will meet at Louise Peterson's home at 11:30 am for a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share. There will be a time for fellowship, devotions and prayer requests. Let Carolyn or Louise know if you are able to join us.

## 60 Plus

Join 60 Plus for lunch on Tuesday, November 19th, at 11:30 AM at Mary's Market, 4431 East State Street. Please call Sue at church 815-399-9296 or give Karen Holmertz your reservation by November 17th. Also let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.



## Serving in November

### Counters:

Cheryl Ecklund & Jill Page

### Head Usher:

Carl Ecklund

## Remember in Prayer

**Joan Boettcher** recovering from a fall.

## Love Tree

Love Tree tags will be selected on November 24th during worship service. We will be purchasing gifts for some of the students at Rolling Green School. The tags may have many items listed but the school staff requests that you only buy one or two items. In the past some children have received six gifts and others have received one. Please keep the total of the gifts purchased to a maximum of \$40. Return the gifts, wrapped, with the tag the student has filled out, SECURED to the gifts. This is the only way the school can identify the student to whom it goes. Have the gifts back to church by December 15th.



## Congregational Business Meeting

Plan now to join us on Sunday, November 24th after worship, for the BCC Congregational Business Meeting in fellowship hall.

## Schermer Pecan Fundraiser



Schermer pecans will again be for sale. The price for either the Fancy Mammoth Pecans or the Chocolate Covered Pecans is \$14.00. This is the first price increase in seven years. Delivery is expected sometime in November. Place your order with Carolyn Augenson as quantities are limited.

## Sunday School

During the month of November the adult Sunday School class will be led by Jeff Peterson in a discussion about forgiveness. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

## Pastor's Bible Study

Each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Mike leads this interactive and challenging Bible study. The group is currently exploring the Gospel of Luke. Join us for warm fellowship, thoughtful conversation and spiritual encouragement.

## Women's Fellowship

Beginning in November we will be viewing the Chosen 4. All are welcome! We meet on Tuesday morning from 9:30 -10:30.

# November

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3 DST—fall back 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	4 11:30 Carol Circle at Louise Peterson's	5 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 	6 7:30 VE prayer & worship	7 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	8	9
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	11	12 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	13 7:30 VE prayer & worship	14 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship LT Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	18 Messenger news due in the office	19 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Mary's Market	20 7:30 VE prayer & worship	21 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	22	23
24 9:00 Sunday School Love Tree 10:15 Worship Congregational Business Meeting 11:45 Vida Eterna	25	26 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	27 7:00 Combined Thanksgiving Worship and Fellowship	28 	29	30

**November 2024  
Broadway Covenant  
Church**

3525 Broadway  
Rockford, IL 61108

Senior Pastor - Mike Mirakian  
Phone - (815)399-9296

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.broadwaycovenant.com](http://www.broadwaycovenant.com)**

## Thanksgiving Worship

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Thanksgiving worship will be a combined service with Vida Eterna on Wednesday November 27, at 7:00 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship. Please sign up in the front lobby to bring either a pie or an appetizer to share.



## Thanksgiving Baskets

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We will begin collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations for the Thanksgiving baskets. These baskets are for any member of the church or for friends of our church family who need a little extra help at this Thanksgiving time. To recommend a family, call the office with names, addresses and number of people. Please drop off any non-perishable food items in the labeled boxes at the front of the church and by the office. Make checks out to Broadway Covenant Church and mark in the memo Thanksgiving.

## Mission Report

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This month please pray for Covenant World Relief and Development. "Covenant World Relief works through local partners around the world to reduce human suffering for the most vulnerable people and support healthy communities. For more than 60 years CWRD has been the Evangelical Covenant Church's response to human suffering and injustice in the world. CWRD has many areas where they serve those in need. A few of them are Disaster Response- Natural catastrophes leave families in crisis; war and violence turn neighbors against each other. CWRD responds to their community's recovery and healing from catastrophes. Clean Water Initiatives-Through Project Blue, they help increase awareness of the need for clean water around the world and work to raise funds for global partners who are providing clean water and sanitation to more than 1 billion without access. Refugee Response- CWRD serves refugees around the world who have had to leave their homes because of war, conflict, injustice or natural disaster."

For more information see [www.covchurch.org/serve-globally/covenant-world-relief](http://www.covchurch.org/serve-globally/covenant-world-relief).