Victorious Thanks
By Pastor Erin Bouman

Twelve years ago, just this time of year, my husband Tim and I came back to the U.S. for a “missionary furlough.” We had been living in rural Tanzania for two years, serving as teachers at a Lutheran school, and we would be returning to work there for another two years. Our trip back to the U.S. was a chance to connect with various churches that supported the Tanzanian school and reconnect with our families, including introducing them to our infant son, John.

We made our way to Chicago, where Tim’s grandparents lived. We would stay at their apartment for several days and see other relatives in the area. It soon became clear that renting a car would be a necessary element to this plan, and so we all went together to a car rental place. We entered the agency, went up to the counter, and took a look at different options. I remember taking a deep gulp of air when I saw the rates. My mind had become familiar with a very different economy and as a whole I was in a bit of culture shock. Our teaching salary was more than generous in Tanzania—but more than tight in the U.S., and costs of our time stateside had been steadily accruing.

We got out our credit card, but then Tim’s grandparents reached over and moved it away. They insisted on paying for it all themselves. I remember feeling sheepish. I was humbled by such generosity from people I hardly knew. I remember that we tried to refuse, and then said how we wanted to pay them back. They would hear none of it.

Then, I remember, they said something—something I will never forget. “In the course of our lives,” they said, “we have been recipients of great generosity. So many people have given things to us, done things for us, things we could never repay. Though we cannot pay them back, we can be generous to others. It gives us great joy to do this. We hope you, too, will also be generous and give to others.”

Much more than that expensive rental car, what a gift it was to hear that. What a gift to know people who said that, and who lived like that.

Tim’s grandmother, Victoria Bouman, died three years ago on Christmas Day. I think of her at Christmas time. Life, to her, was a delightful gift that she had received. Life was something that she too was delighted to give.

I think of Vicky the first Sunday of November, All Saints Sunday, together with so many others who are no longer with us on this earth. We gather for worship and they are still with us. As we worship in our sanctuary, they are worshipping around the throne of God, and we are in communion with them. Their words and witness still are with us. We can never forget them.

I think of Vicky when we as a church talk about giving, about stewardship—something we’ll be doing a lot this month. Money may seem a mundane matter to bring up in worship. Talking about finances and offerings can even make us uncomfortable. I was uncomfortable in that car rental office, twelve years ago. But in a place as mundane as that office, someone said something to me and did something for me that was a witness of God’s generosity.

We can never pay God back, but we can live our lives with and as delighted thanks, generously giving to others. We can say with the apostle Paul, we can sing with the chorus of Handel’s Messiah, “But thanks be to God, who gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
AROUND THE IPLC COMMUNITY

Church Council Transitions: At our annual meeting, we gave thanks to outgoing Council members: Holly Lundquist, Dawn Bensen, Pat Deseneck, Sarah Stumme, Don Hamilton, and Dennis Sherlock. We also reelected David McKenzie and Eleanor Kepp, who are eligible and have agreed to serve another term; and elected new Council members: Sarah Clausen, Bill Sherlock, Phil Bole, Nancy Hall, Eleanor Barrett, and Larry Lundquist. Thanks for your leadership and partnership!

All Saints Sunday: Naming Loved Ones, Bell Banner On Nov. 2 we celebrate All Saints Sunday. We’ll remember people who have died, naming them aloud in worship, ringing bells, and processing with our special All Saints Day Bell Banner. Please e-mail the office names to speak aloud on All Saints Sunday. You may also write the name of someone who has died and attach it to a bell (you can bring in their own small bell, or use bells provided) and tie it to the banner that is now in the narthex.

Parenting Group: As we read The Blessing of a Skinned Knee by Dr. Wendy Mogel, we’ve been discussing children’s attitudes towards parents (“The Torah has passages that require us to love God, love our neighbors, and love ourselves—but nowhere does it say you should love your parents! ... God recognized that children are not naturally inclined to treat their parents with respect, so he commanded it. Rude children are nothing new.”) and parent’s attitudes towards children. (“Children are both a loan and a gift from God—a gift that comes with strings attached. Our job is to raise children to leave us.”) Join us for these and other great conversation starters about parenting, 9:30-10:15am in the Chapel.

Piano Fund—Keep the Keys Coming! The response to the last phase (“Buy a Key!” of the Piano Fund Campaign has been amazing. Thank you to all who have supported this project—and then have supported it yet more. We’ll send the piano off for repairs with a special service during worship on Sunday November 16th. The piano will return after a few months of restorative work and the final payment of our bill. We are close to our goal, but you can still contribute! You can use a special yellow envelope, marking the memo line “Piano Fund” or go online to www.iplcServe-and-Give.

Sunday School Children to Sing on Sunday, November 23: It was wonderful hearing the Sunday School children sing “Jesus Loves Me” in church in October. Nice job soloists & duet singers! All the children will sing again in church on Sunday, November 23.

Pizza & Pledge Sunday, November 23: Bring in your pledge card and celebrate stewardship on Sunday, November 23rd with a pizza party after the 10:30 worship service. Be on the lookout for special mailings, inserts, and testimonies the Sundays prior!

Hanging of the Greens- Saturday Nov. 29th The Worship Team invites everyone to join us Saturday, November 29th at 10 am for the “hanging of the greens”—getting the church ready for Advent and Christmas. This is a great activity for families—bring children and grandchildren! There’s beautiful, meaningful decorations to arrange and plenty of treats to share.

Confirmation Students Volunteer at the Irving Park Food Pantry: 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Students will participate in a Service Project Tuesday, November 11th at the Irving Park Food Pantry. We’ll meet at IPLC at 5:45, then head over to the pantry, which is located at Irving Park United Methodist Church.

New Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Narthex, Training Sessions Nov. 9 & 16: An AED has the capability to assist in the revival of an adult or a child. This device, now located in our narthex, does not require extensive training prior to use in an emergency situation, but congregation members may become more familiar it at one of two special training sessions, led by David Hall after worship on Sundays November 9 & 16.

IPLC Women’s Book Club Mark Thursday, November 20th on your calendar. We will be making our selections for 2015 at Jan’s home. Send Gina Jahrke gjaehrke@comcast.net the title of your book, author and a one or two sentence description of the book. It will be included in our list of selections for the 20th. Happy reading!

DONNA JEAN HOLMQUIST AWARD

The Service Team each year is asked to recommend to the council a member’s name that has provided long term service and leadership to IPLC. This outstanding volunteer receives the Donna Jean Holmquist award—who was herself an outstanding volunteer. In the Narthex of the church there is a list of those who have received this award.

Our recipient this year joined IPLC in 1970--44 years ago. Over these many years she has served IPLC well—in a wide variety of ways from planning worship as part of the worship team to acting as Magic Mushroom Director. She has served 26 years on the church council acting at different times as President and Treasury (which she is now.) She sings in the Chancel Choir and plays bells. As a member of the Miriam Circle she has also served as president. She has been a member of the stewardship team, a delegate to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, on the IPLC Finance committee, the church planning 20/20 committee, a previous call committee and most recently on the 4057 Harding Project better known as the gym. Above all she has a strong faith and love for IPLC. Our recipient this year is Sharon Iverson. We thank her for her faithful service.
Online Giving Strengthens Stewardship: We’ve updated our website! Go to www.iplc.Serve-and-Give. If you have not already signed up to give offerings electronically, consider this important way of supporting our mission and ministry. Electronic giving provides a steady flow of support for the church and can help you grow in your stewardship. You can still participate in rite of offering during worship! Use the green “Electronic Giving Cards” located in the pews. Thanks!

Annual Meeting Approves Repairs & Fundraising for Gym: The Educational Building (Gym) has served the church’s mission well for nearly 80 years. It is used extensively for a broad variety of activities, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, MAP program, recreational teams and classes, community and church events, and fundraisers. However, despite occasional repairs and updates the exterior and interior condition of the building has significantly deteriorated.

At our annual meeting Sunday, October 19th, the congregation approved extensive work on the exterior, to ensure the building is “weather tight” and strengthen the structural integrity of the building for years to come. Repairs will also enhance the look of the exterior facade and restore the building roughly to its original appearance. We plan to send the project out for bids in the early winter, with work to begin when the weather improves. Important maintenance and safety repairs are already going on in the gym interior.

Funding for gym improvements will come from sale of the 4112 property, together with a capital campaign. You are the Stewards of the IPLC mission. We request your prayerful consideration in supporting the repair and renovation of this valuable asset through the Capital Campaign. Additional interior improvements are dependent upon the results of the fundraising campaign.

IRVING PARK FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present Handel’s Messiah in a sing-along format on December 7, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The performance will feature professional soloists and a chamber orchestra. The audience is invited to be the chorus! The Fine Arts Committee last held a Sing-Along Messiah in 2009, which was attended by over 125 people. Chorus scores will be provided. There’s no prior singing experience required!

The performance is free of charge, but donations are welcome. A lavish holiday reception will follow the concert.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is celebrating its 20th season of bringing affordable, professional productions to the Irving Park community and is sponsored by Carlson Community Services. The mission of Carlson is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace” “Now as you excelled in my giving in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking” (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis; our November campaign is entitled, “Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at IPLC.

Just what does it mean to be empowered by God? Jesus said that His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). That not only happened as he said it would, but we, too, receive God’s power by his grace through our faith in Christ as the holy Spirit takes up residence in us.

As we experience God’s power through faith in Christ, our hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. Scripture is full of evidence that all that we have comes from God. God is our source. God is the creator and sustainer of life. God is the provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water which sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again his abundant power as he “richly provides us with everything” (1 Tim. 6:17).

And what should be our response to God’s provision for us? According to 2 Corinthians 8:7, we respond by “faith,” implicitly trusting God to provide all that we need. We respond by “speech,” sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. We respond by “knowledge” through the study of God’s Word. We respond in “complete earnestness,” that is, through a demonstration of the sincerity of our love for the Lord. And we respond by excelling in the “grace of giving.”

As an example of what it means to give by grace, the apostle Paul points to the Christians at Macedonia. These were poor people — dirt poor, poor as the proverbial church mice — who were commended by Paul for giving beyond their ability to give. How could they do that? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 8:5 — “ . . . they gave themselves first to the Lord.” Giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the wallet, purse or pocketbook. Giving begins in the heart.

In fact, this principle goes back to God’s instruction to Moses in Exodus 25:2, “ . . . from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me.” This principle is still in operation today. As we give our time, talents and treasure to the Lord, we do so by God’s grace because we have already given our hearts to Him.

“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” That was true of the Macedonian Christians. May it also be true of us here at IPLC.
In case you missed it, IPLC’s “old” and “new” came together during a wonderful Sunday morning worship service on Oct. 12.

Ten new members were presented to the congregation and welcomed into the life and ministry of the IPLC congregation. The newcomers are Angie Casillas, Dave Heidorn and Liz Brown, Chris Richard, Golriz Zamyad (Goli), Gerard Curtis, Eun Hye Chu (Hyeny), Kirsten Gettings and Natalia Mercado and Luis Nieves. Their names are now officially in the church record books.

During the Children’s Sermon, Pastor Erin Bouman dusted off one of IPLC’s ancient record books, one so old that it included names of people who were at IPLC when our church building was under construction in 1916, only 98 years ago.

When Pastor read one of the names of the newly baptized babies (Beda Elizabeth Friberg) from the almost century-old book, and told the children that the little baby was sitting behind them in the third row, the expressions were priceless. Lifelong IPLC member Elizabeth Greenslade gave the children a big smile and a wave.

On Sunday, Oct. 1, 1916, IPLC hosted a “Cornerstone Service” that attracted more than 1,000 worshippers to the church under construction on the corner of Belle Plaine and Harding. “Beda” missed the big event by eight days.

Two photos from the “Cornerstone Service” are quite interesting. One shows the cornerstone being lowered to where it sits today. Pastor Joshua Oden, in his eighth year at IPLC, is seated in the middle of that photo.

A second photo was taken from the roof of an apartment building on the northeast corner of Belle Plaine and Crawford (later renamed Pulaski). That’s the location of the IPLC parking lot.

That photo shows a choir of about 30 performing (not far from the modern-day choir loft) for a sitting-room only crowd of about 1,000. The amazing thing is the church had only been finished to the first floor. No second floor. No roof. No lights. No canopy in case of rain. People can be seen lining the sidewalk along Belle Plaine, in front of construction equipment. The original parsonage is visible, as well as the mature trees on the east side of Harding.

There were makeshift pews constructed for the event, and almost every space was taken. It would have been great to see the original church building. That building was relocated to where the Educational Building would rise 20 years later. Unfortunately, the trees still had their leaves on that early fall day and the view was obstructed.

It’s fun to imagine all the hustle, bustle and energy it took to make that a special day. And it’s gratifying to know the new (and old) IPLC members will help keep that energy going as the church building gets close to its second century.

— Ralph Greenslade
Thanks to everyone who participated in Carlson Community Services’ October Trivia Night to benefit Carlson’s programs. From players to sponsors to raffle and beer donors, we are grateful for your support! And of course to Irving Park Lutheran Church for allowing us to use the gym for the evening.

Table #3 won the competition, leading the contest for much of the night. Good competitors and good sports, Table #3 donated their $150 in prize winnings back to Carlson Community Services.

The evening netted approximately $6,300 for Carlson’s programs -- The Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden and the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series.

Thanks to the following Round Sponsors and Raffle Prize donors who helped make the evening a financial success: Dorie Westmeyer, Charles Rutenberg Realty; WinTrust Bank, Mayfair Branch; Alderman John Arena, 45th Ward; Alderman Margaret Laurino, 39th Ward; Board & Committees of Carlson Community Services; Kingston Reflexology; Helen & Mark Lira; Leadbelly Burgers; Ulta; XOX Salon; Melanie & Rod Zech

And special thanks to Lagunitas Brewing Company for their generous beer donation and to event Chair Helen Lira and our many volunteers. Another fun night in the neighborhood for a great cause!

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Maya McKenzie  
1 Samuel Osorio  
2 Martin Anderson  
3 Cam Steffen  
3 Josh Van Essen  
3 Nels Wadycki  
4 Sarah Frank  
4 Heidi Lundquist  
4 Charlene Roth  
6 John Stumme  
14 Paul Clausen  
16 Kristen LeBlanc  
16 Grace Wielock  
17 Zach Rogers  
20 Karen Greenslade  
24 Ellen Anderson  
28 Ezekiel Yu  
29 Larry Lundquist

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

11/04/2000 Jessica & Daniel Bacoulis  
11/10/1990 Holly & Kenneth Grattan  
11/21/1964 Carl & Judy Nelson  
11/24/1993 Cesar & Magnolia Pulex

(Brothers and Sisters, can you spare $1?)

At the annual congregational meeting, we were asked to think about what particular characteristics of our congregational life move us and heard several fellow members share their personal thoughts verbally and on cards that were posted on newsprint on the walls of the gym.

We heard about our care and concern for each other; how the children of our Sunday school fill a teacher’s spirit every Sunday morning; how important our worship services—the music, the sermons and the warm, friendly greetings—are to people who are struggling with health issues. We heard about Carlson Community Services thankfulness that we offer the use of our facilities for 40 children in Magic Afterschool Place, the Three Brothers Garden; and the Fine Arts series. We acknowledged the generosity of our members in sharing their Time, Talent and Treasure.

A history of our projected and actual income shortfalls for 2009-2013 was shared and we saw that that amount has decreased but is a continuing concern. This year we have already spent $40,000 beyond our income.

Our budget for 2015 was presented and once again the members present approved the spending plan which calls for budgeted expenses of $292,000. It is estimated that once again we will spend more than anticipated income and the congregational council has permission to transfer about $46,000 from our endowment funds, if needed, to pay our bills.

Have you ever set a new financial goal and accomplished it? Maybe saving for a new appliance, automobile, vacation, a child’s education, a down payment for a home . . .

The congregation treasurer is setting a reachable goal to close the gap between budgeted expenses and income. The arithmetic is not difficult. We have about 125 households in our congregation, dividing $46,000 by 125 is $368 per year and it is pretty easy to see that represents about $1 per day in a year. So $7 per week, $30 per month extra, above what you already plan to contribute will close the gap.

God blesses us with all that we have, all that we are. The church is doing the work of our Lord through your offerings— in the congregation, the community, the nation and the world.
## Partners in Worship

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<td>2</td>
<td>All Saints Sunday</td>
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<td>9:30 Jazzercise</td>
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<td>3:00 MAP</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Chancel Choir</td>
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<td>7:00 Council, Boy Scouts</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7:00 Adventure Scouts</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Worship team</td>
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<td>3:00 MAP</td>
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<td>7:00 Adventure Scouts</td>
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<td>3:00 Swedish</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>3:00 MAP</td>
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<td>3:00 MAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 Jazzercise</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7:00 Adventure Scouts</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9:30 Jazzercise</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>3:00 MAP</td>
<td>7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
<td>3:00 MAP</td>
<td>7:00 Basketball</td>
<td>7:00 Girl Scouts</td>
<td>9:00 Men’s Volleyball</td>
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<td>7:00 Adventure Scouts</td>
<td>7:00 Bells, Girl Scouts</td>
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<td>7:00 Council, Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>8:30 Confirmation at Food Pantry</td>
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### Professional Duties

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Communion Assistant</th>
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<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Acolytes</th>
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<td>Dawn Benson</td>
<td>11/2 Darcie Wadycki, Sandra Stumme</td>
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<td>Kristen Gettings</td>
<td>Eleanor Kepp</td>
<td>11/9 Sue Geisler, Lee Stein</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
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<td>Dwan Buetow</td>
<td>11/16 Lee Stein, Holly Lundquist</td>
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<td>Fred Glure</td>
<td>11/23 David McKenzie, Rich Koehler</td>
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<td>Kirsten Gettings</td>
<td>11/30 Holly Lundquist</td>
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<td>11/2 Kirsten Gettings, Rich &amp; Grace Wielock</td>
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<td>Kenton Kiser</td>
<td>11/9 Richard Koehler, Dwan Buetow</td>
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<td>David Hall III</td>
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<td>Joshua Van Essen</td>
<td>11/23 Roberta Bole, Gerard &amp; Nancy Curtis</td>
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<td>11/30</td>
<td>Roberta Bole</td>
<td>Geah Escobedo</td>
<td>11/30 High School Youth, Bill Sherlock</td>
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### Sunday School

- **9:30 AM** Jazzercise
- **10:00 AM** Chancel Choir
- **12:00 PM** AED Training
- **1:00 PM** Stewardship Dinner

### Other Activities

- **8:30 AM** Hanging of the Greens Party
- **9:00 AM** Men’s Volleyball
- **9:15 AM** Chancel Choir
- **9:15 AM** Pizza and Pledge

### Other Events

- **8:30 AM** Confirmation at Food Pantry
- **9:00 AM** Men’s Volleyball
- **9:45 AM** Basketball
Confirmation is taught by Pastor Bouman and Sandra Stumme.

Kenton Kiser, Erik Haneberg, Zach Rogers, Dallas Brodersen, and Maya McKenzie, IPLC’s 2014 confirmants.