

# EBENEZER HAPPENINGS



# NOVEMBER 2025



The Monthly Newsletter of  
Ebenezer Reformed Church  
Morrison, IL

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## Ebenezer Reformed Church

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Our Mission: Helping people  
find & follow Jesus

Dear Ebenezer Church Family,

As we step into November, we are reminded of the importance of gratitude and reflection. This season gives us many opportunities to appreciate God's blessings in our lives, the warmth of our church family, and the ways we have grown together throughout the year. The falling leaves and crisp air serve as gentle reminders of change, renewal, and the ever-present grace that surrounds us all.

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."** (Psalm 107:1) These words encourage us to pause and give thanks for all that God has done and continues to do within our hearts and our community.

November is also a time to look ahead. With Thanksgiving approaching, we are called to share our thankfulness not only in words but through acts of kindness and service. Let us continue to lift each other up, support our community, and remain steadfast in prayer for those who are facing challenges. Your generosity and compassion have made a difference, and I am grateful for each of you.

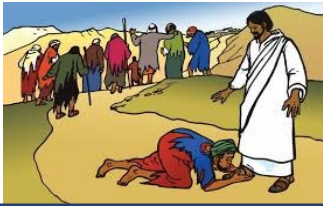
**"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."** (Hebrews 10:24) Let these words inspire us as we serve and encourage one another throughout the month.

I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to all members to join us for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16, immediately following the worship service. This is a valuable opportunity to come together, celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, discuss our vision for the future, and make important decisions as a congregation. Your presence and voice matter, and I encourage everyone to attend, participate, and help shape the direction of our church.

Let us continue to walk together in faith, trusting that God is leading us into a new season filled with hope and promise. May your November be blessed with peace, joy, and the company of loved ones.

A Joy to Serve You,

## Sunday Worship - November 2025



2

**Series:** Seven Things God Loves (Part 6)

**Sermon:** "God Loves Gratitude"

**Scripture:** Luke 17:11-19

**Speaker:** Pastor J.T. Bean



9

**Series:** Seven Things God Loves (Part 7)

**Sermon:** "God Loves a Cheerful Giver"

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9:1-8

**Guest Speaker:** Pastor J.T. Bean



16

**Series:** Heaven Yes, Hell No (Part 1 of 2)

**Sermon:** "What the Bible Says About Heaven"

**Scripture:** Revelation 21:1-5

**Speaker:** Pastor J.T. Bean



23

**Series:** Heaven Yes, Hell No (Part 2 of 2)

**Sermon:** "What the Bible Says About Hell"

**Scripture:** Revelation 21:6-8; 22:14-15

**Speaker:** Pastor J.T. Bean



30

**Series:** Christmas at the Movies (Part 1 of 5)

**Sermon:** "Christmas According to George Bailey"

**Scripture:** Matthew 1:1-17

**Speaker:** Pastor J.T. Bean

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



**NOV 2 - All Souls' Day** - We will take time during the worship service to remember all of our "dearly departed" Ebenezer members and friends for the past year.

**NOV 9 - Veterans Day Recognition** - All living Veterans of the Armed Services are welcome to join us to be honored. We'll also sing a few patriotic hymns.

**NOV 16 - Annual Meeting** - All members and friends are invited to stay after worship for our annual mtg. to vote on new elders and deacons, and to approve next year's budget. A potluck meal will follow the mtg. in the fellowship hall.

**NOV 23 - Hayride to Church!** - Kids are invited to jump on the bandwagon!

**NOV 30 - First Sunday of Advent** - The Christmas décor and hymns begin!



# November 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. ↓						1 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
2 Youth/Education Team Mtg. 10:45am	3 Exec. Team 3pm	4	5 Women's Bible Study 1:30pm AfterShock 5:30-7pm	6 Worship Team Mtg 5:15pm	7	8 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
9 Veterans Day Recognition during 9:30am worship service	10 Eld/Deac 6pm Consistory 6:30pm	11 Veterans Day	12 AfterShock 5:30-7pm	13 O.M.E. Task Force 3:30pm	14	15 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
16 Annual Meeting after worship + luncheon in Fellowship Hall	17	18	19 Ladies' Aid 1:30pm AfterShock 5:30-7pm	20 Don VanDerLeest Birthday Bash 5pm at Forest Inn	21	22 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
23 First Sunday of Advent 30	24	25 Staff Mtg. 10am	26 NO AFTER-SHOCK Thanksgiving Eve Worship 6pm in fellowship hall	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28 Church office closed today	29 Men's Bible Study 7:30am

## NOVEMBER Birthdays

11/1 Adam Behrens  
11/1 Emily Szabo  
11/2 Elmer Huizenga  
11/3 Doris Bull  
11/6 Emily Brooks  
11/8 Melinda Hamstra  
11/9 Karen Zuidema  
11/9 Sharon Reisenbigler

11/11 Glenda Jansma  
11/11 Kim Hunter  
11/12 Ruth Rosenow  
11/13 Ryan VanZuidem  
11/14 Scott Allison  
11/15 Deb VanZuiden  
11/16 Marvin Tichler

11/18 Roger Schipper  
11/20 Jody Bland  
11/21 Cindy Hoogheem  
11/21 Don VanDerLeest  
11/21 Jim Workman  
11/22 Irma Brands  
11/22 Scott Pruis

11/23 Scott Meurs  
11/24 Jennie Gowan  
11/26 Bernita Schaver  
11/27 Brooks Brackemyer  
11/29 Patricia Huisenga  
11/29 Ron Wilkens  
11/30 Kim Schaefer

➔ Please contact the church office to make sure your birthday is on our list.

♥ Also: If you are married, tell us your wedding anniversary.

## **Ladies Aid**

Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, November 19th at 1:30. The program on Thanksgiving will be provided by Pat Pessman and Peggy Tucker, and Mary Vos will provide refreshments.

## **Women's Bible Study**

Please join us for a Bible Study the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Our leader is Doris Bielema. In November we will meet on the 5th.

## **Men's Bible Study**

The Men's Bible Study is open to young and old. We meet every Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your Bible. Coffee and donuts will be served. We are currently studying the book of Joshua.

## **Mid-High Bible Study**

The Mid-High class is meeting again in the Upper Room. We're in the middle of a 7-week video series entitled: "Not a Fan". It's about teens becoming committed disciples of Jesus.

## **Heaven's Express**

"Children's Church" for grade school kids is back in session. Kids will start practicing for the Christmas "shadow play".

## **AfterShock**

This Wednesday Night ministry for pre-school through Middle School is in full swing. Meals and Bible lessons are each Wednesday from 5:30-7:00 pm.

## **Consistory Mtg.**

The Elders and Deacons will meet on Monday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. The Consistory will meet immediately after. meetings—at 6:30 p.m.

## **Prayer Concerns**

● Pray for those who need restored health, healing, and encouragement: Wally Peterson, Sandi Gorzney, Marguerite Clark, Ruth Rosenow, Ron Wiersema, Keith Morine, Neva Baar, Fred Hadley, Barb Geerts, Elmer Huizenga, Diane Boelkins, Jeg Weets, and Joyce Wilkins. Pray also for those with special needs or unspoken prayer requests, as well as our shut-ins and nursing/assisted-living residents.

● Pray also for our military men serving in the U.S. Armed Forces:

**Elijah Bean** (Air Force)

**Gregory Bush** (Air Force)

**Tyler Haan** (Air Force)

**Brevin Prujs** (Navy)



● Pray for our missionaries:

Andrew & Sophia Pitcher with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Roger & Sue Scheenstra in Africa, Ben & Kelita Johnson in Honduras, and Jeff & Chelsea Lampen in Germany, Angel Lopez in Mexico, and Joel & Seiko Lovestrand in Japan.

● Prayer is available after each Sunday worship service. There is always an elder there to meet in the prayer room to pray about whatever concerns are on your heart.

● Contact the pastor or church office to put a prayer request on the email "prayer line". Prayer requests will be sent out as soon as the pastor is able to do so.

● Join us for the annual "Thanksgiving Eve" Worship service at 6:00 on November 26th in the fellowship hall. The service will include songs led by Craig and Kathi Sipes, and a time of communion at the Lord's table.



## November Meetings At-a-Glance

Sun. 11/2 - Youth/Ed Meeting, 10:45 a.m.  
 Mon. 11/3 - Executive Cmt, 3:00 p.m.  
 Wed. 11/5 - Women's Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.  
 Thur. 11/6 - Worship Team, 5:15 p.m.  
 Mon. 11/10 - Elders & Deacons, 6:00 p.m.  
 Mon. 11/10 - Consistory, 6:30 p.m.  
 Thu. 11/13 - O.M.E. Task Force, 3:30 p.m.  
 Sun. 11/16 - Congregational Meeting, 10:45  
 Wed. 11/19 - Ladies Aid, 1:30 p.m.  
 Wed. 11/26 - Thxgiving Eve Service, 6 p.m.



## Menu for November:

- 5 Baked ziti, salad and dessert
- 12 Meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans
- 19 Chicken nuggets, tator tots, corn

## Bible Lessons for November:

- 5 Conquering Jericho
- 12 Archan's Sin and the Defeat of Ai
- 19 Taking the Land

All kids are invited to come on the hay ride on Sunday November 23rd. Meet at the far west end of Park Street at 9:00 a.m. Come to worship and join the Heaven's Express class.

## Nursery Schedule

Nov. 2 - Beth Milnes & Kinlee Prins  
 Nov. 9 - Shawn & Kevin Soenksen  
 Nov. 16 - Jackie & Alicen Wiersema  
 Nov. 23 - Angie Tichler & Allison Weaver  
 Nov. 30 - Jackie & Alicen Wiersema



## Sunday Greeters

Nov. 2 - Pat P & Doris B  
 Nov. 9 - Harvey Z & Barb D  
 Nov. 16 - Karen L & Jane H  
 Nov. 23 - Doris B & Deb A  
 Nov. 30 - Marcia B & Marilyn T



## Welcome Center

Nov. 2 - Michael & Marcia Blean  
 Nov. 9 - Keith & Joyce Hamstra  
 Nov. 16 - Dave & Darlene Schipper  
 Nov. 23 - Berne & Pat Pessman  
 Nov. 30 - Jack & Susan Bland



## Tech Team

Nov. 2 - Jenny & William P  
 Nov. 9 - Scott M & Phil A  
 Nov. 16 - Gregg W & Todd K  
 Nov. 23 - Scott M & Jovie P  
 Nov. 30 - Gregg Wiersema & Todd Kullerstrand



## Fellowship Hour

Nov. 2 - Deb A, Lavonne D, Doris B  
 Nov. 9 - Garry & Judy Seaman  
 Nov. 16 - Ken & Glenda Jansma  
 Nov. 23 - Annual Meeting  
 Nov. 30 - Sharon Reisenbigler



## Bell Ringers

Nov. 2 - John Dickey  
 Nov. 9 - Josh Gowan  
 Nov. 16 - Jeff Weaver  
 Nov. 23 - Nicholas Weaver  
 Nov. 30 - Jefferson Weaver



*\* Please call the church office if you'd like to be added as a volunteer on any of the service teams.*



## Missionary Spotlight

### Andrew & Sophia Pitcher

**Dear Friends,**

*Thank you for praying for our week-long training camp last month for sign language Bible translators in South Africa! The LORD blessed our time together. Half of the group of more than 100 Deaf Christians from all over southern Africa spent the week learning about using sign language Scripture to evangelize and plant Deaf churches, while the other half followed a translation training we facilitated along with the SASL team and two other brothers from Kenya and Zambia.*

**Praise God** for a safe and successful journey to South Africa last month to train sign language translation teams from 8 southern African countries for Sophia's recent publication, in the latest volume of Gorgias' Press series *Perspectives on Linguistics and Ancient Languages*

**Please Pray** for the South African Sign Language (SASL) team as they translate the remaining portions of the Book of Acts for Andrew and Sophia as they consider and process what they learned about the needs of 8 sign language Bible translation teams at the training camp in South Africa last month

**Please pray** for the SASL team as they work to develop a healthy and productive pace for translating the remaining portions of the Book of Acts. Acts will be the first complete book of the Bible published in SASL!

*For His Glory and Our Joy,*  
**Andrew & Sophia + Violet (17)**



**From Ryan Karp—Chosen People Ministries—dated this past Wednesday—10/15**

This is his personal update on the “bad and then good news” in this email—again, fit it in if you can—otherwise you could announce it during morning worship?

“After my accident last month, I was preparing for surgery, an expensive and daunting prospect. BUT GOD led me to a doctor who questioned the need for surgery, instead offering natural healing. While waiting, I was mostly immobile with my foot raised and iced. Suddenly I developed severe breathing issues and back pain. I could barely speak a sentence without needing another breath! A hospital visit revealed blood clots in my leg and pulmonary embolisms in my lungs! I was hospitalized for 3 days and only later realized had those clots reached my heart or brain, the story could’ve ended very differently. BUT GOD intervened! After my release, my podiatrist encouraged me to unwrap my foot and try walking. To my amazement, healing had begun, and no surgery will be needed! I’m walking better every day—and breathing normally. HALLELUJAH!”

**\* As a church family we rejoice with Ryan—and are already looking forward to having him come for a visit with us—possibly next year at our 2nd Mission Conference!**



## Walking with Resthave

	2024	2025
Rides	279	307
Miles	106	117
Mondays	16	15

**THANK YOU** to our 19 unique volunteers in 2025. Let's go for more volunteers and riders next year!



## **Ebenezer Quilters Every Monday and Tuesday morning.**

If you're into arts and crafts you are invited to come join our creative team of quilters. Contact Glenda Jansma or call the church office to inquire about serving with the Ebenezer quilting crew.



## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

## **Music Rehearsals**

Craig Sipes will be rehearsing with singers and musicians on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Contact Craig at (815) 631-3376 if you are interested in playing an instrument or leading the congregation in singing.

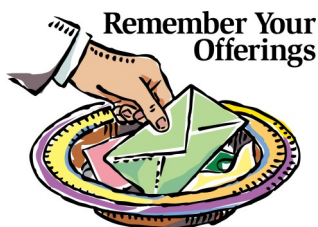
## Giving & Attendance

Here's an update on our numbers  
for the month of October

Date	Attendance	Offering
October 5	130	\$7,774
October 12	133	\$4,439
October 19	126	\$5,704
October 26	158	\$5,402
	<b>Avg. 137</b>	<b>Total: \$23,319</b>

### **OCT Breakdown:**

General Fund: \$23,319  
Aftershock: \$610  
Assistance: \$100  
Tithe.ly (online giving): \$2,343.<sup>74</sup>



**Total: \$26,982.74.<sup>74</sup>**





## Join the E-mail List

Stay informed of everything that's going on at Ebenezer: J.T. sends out a weekly **"Note From the Pastor"** as well as regular prayer chain emails as they come in to him. To get on the list, simply email Pastor J.T. and request to be added: [pastorjt@ercmorrison.com](mailto:pastorjt@ercmorrison.com)

## Note & Disclaimer

All *Ebenezer Happenings* article submissions need to be received by the 21st day of each month to guarantee inclusion in the next edition. We apologize for any missing or inaccurate information within this newsletter. If there are additions or corrections to be made, please call the church office at (815) 772-2472 or e-mail Sue Bond at [office@ercmorrison.com](mailto:office@ercmorrison.com)



-  Keep up with current happenings, watch videos, and browse through photos and new posts.
-  Be sure to **"Like"** the Ebenezer Reformed Church Facebook page.
-  **"Share"** our posts to help spread the word about what's happening here.
-  Watch the Sunday morning Live-stream and post a comment to let us know who's watching and where you're watching from!

This newsletter is a publication of:

### **Ebenezer Reformed Church**

309 E. Park St. | Morrison, IL 61270

Phone: (815) 772-2472

♦ **Rev. J.T. Bean, Lead Pastor**  
[pastorjt@ercmorrison.com](mailto:pastorjt@ercmorrison.com)

♦ **Sue Bond, Office Manager**  
[office@ercmorrison.com](mailto:office@ercmorrison.com)  
Office hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-1p.m.

### **Sunday Morning Worship:**

Worship Celebration - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hour - 10:45 a.m.

Youth Bible Study Hour - 10:45 a.m.

***Helping people  
find and follow Jesus***



2025 Consistory

**Elders:** J. T. Bean, Ken Jansma, Phil Ardapple, Martha Kophamer, Jan Renkes, Barney Habben, Keith Hamstra

**Deacons:** Marcia Blean, Pat Pessman, Jenny Patton, Darlene Schipper, Brian Tichler, Dave Weber

2025 Executive Team

J.T. Bean (Pastor)  
Ken Jansma (Vice President)  
Marcia Blean (Deacon Chair)  
Dave Weber (Treasurer)  
Martha Kophamer (Clerk)

**Elders Meeting Minutes** - October 13, 2025

**Attendance:** Keith Hamstra was absent.

**Devotions and Prayer:** Pastor JT read James 1:5 followed by questions, discussion and prayer.

**Membership Requests:** Tyler and Kaylee Renkes and Jerry and Pil Scott were present requesting to join ERC. Expectations for Church Membership were reviewed followed by Profession of Faith Questions for Membership. **M/S to approve these four candidates for membership to Ebenezer Reformed Church. M/C.** Installation will be on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Martha offered prayer before the candidates were excused.

**Constitutional Questions:** The constitutional question was answered in the negative.

**Grieving Members:** Discussion occurred.

**Sacraments Update:** 128 people were served during the service on October 5. 12 at Resthave and 6 home visits with a total of 146.

**Nominations for Consistory:** The nominations were counted and candidates contacted. Those nominated for Elders will be Jon Kophamer (2 years), Melinda Hamstra and Sandi Wilkins (for 3 years). The Deacons will be Gregg Wiersema and Randy Renkes. **M/S** to approve the nominations and take to the Consistory meeting for approval. **M/C.**

**Elder Prayer Room:** We were reminded to find someone to fill in if we are not able to cover the room on our assigned week.

**Elder Prayer Groups:** Reminder to keep in touch with those in your group having special needs.

**Minutes:** **M/S** to approve the September minutes. **MC.**

**Motion to Adjourn:** **M/S** to adjourn after closing prayer. **MC.**

**Closing Prayer:** Phil Ardapple closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Kophamer, Clerk

**Consistory Meeting Minutes** - October 13, 2025

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:35. Keith Hamstra, Marcia Blean, Jen Patton and Brian Tichler were absent.

**Devotions and Prayer:** Pastor JT read Proverbs 24:16 followed by discussion and prayer.

**God at Work:** 4 new prospective members, Recent baptisms, After Shock attendance, the hayrack rides with the kids attending church and Heaven's Express afterwards, The Sipes leading us with contemporary music, the Mission Sunday service and the sale of Eloise Bush house.

**Pastor's Report:** No report.

**Deacons Report:** Dave Weber stated the deacons present suggest that the Thanksgiving Offering again go to our local food pantry. They also recommend we donate \$500 to The Victory Center for their Thanksgiving dinner. M/S to make these donations. M/C.

**Elders Report:** Martha: (See Elders minutes.)

**Endowment:** Current balance is \$898,000.00. Ken Jansma will be meeting with the Phil Renkes family soon to receive a donation from his Memorial Money.

**Finance:** Our current assets are \$453,387.56. Martha questioned the over spending on office supplies and postage and noted our building maintenance is over budget. Dave informed us there has been additional mailings this year.

**Assistance/Memorial:** The deacons will be making a donation of \$500 to a family in need.

**Property/Insurance:** No report.

**Church Life:** The chili cookoff will be October 19th followed by playing "Blank Slate". There will be a potluck following the Congregational Meeting on November 16. Chicken and drinks will be provided.

**Worship and Music:** No report.

**Youth and Education:** Jan reported they have added an additional class for PreK/K. Lori Peterson and Bernita Schafer will be the teachers. Thank you for stepping up to the plate gals!

**Sacraments and Communion:** See Elders minutes. Next communion Sunday November 30 which is the first Sunday of Advent. We had 3 baptisms in October.

**O.M.E. Task force:** Pat Pessman shared that there will be a chili cook off night October 19. We will be playing Blank Slate. This is a fun for all ages. They will be suggesting that Ryan Karp be added to our Mission donations in 2026. The Mission Sunday service was well received and they hope to do something similar next year. We will be hosting Trick or Treat on Friday October 31. Candy donations and volunteers are needed. We will hand out candy and Bible Tracks. Trivia will be in January.

**Approve Minutes:** M/S to approve September, 2025 minutes. MC.

**Old Business:** Martha Kophamer brought a list of recent and needed large building projects. There are several big-ticket items. She suggested adding (or revising Property and Insurance) a new "Building Committee" with some non-consistory members to look at the whole church and make a list of things we need to do and make a priority list and meeting regularly. The building is old. Community dinner discussion was tabled.

**New Business:** Pat Pessman would like to thank the church for allowing the historical society to use our building for their presentation this past week. About 90 people attended. (The historical society paid for the cleaning, but we do not charge them for the use of the building.) Phil Ardapple states we need additional microphones for the increase in numbers of the praise team. Reminder of the upcoming all church prayer meeting Tuesday, October 21 at 6:00. Nominees for the upcoming year are: Elders: Jon Kophamer, Melinda Hamstra and Sandi Wilkins. Deacons will be Randy Renkes and Gregg Wiersema. This will be voted on at the Congregational meeting November 16. It's time to start working on Budget for 2026. Pay raises will be discussed after adjournment and Pastor is excused to leave.

**Adjournment:** M/S to adjourn after prayer. M/C.

**Closing Prayer:** Dave Weber closed in prayer.

**2026 Salary Adjustments:** Discussion occurred about pay scales for 2026. M/S to give 3% across the board pay raises excluding Craig Sipes who was just hired in October. M/C. Pastor Appreciation month is October. Discussion occurred. M/S to give Pastor JT a monetary gift for our appreciation. M/C. Ken Jansma will present this during our last service in October.

Respectfully submitted:

*Martha Kophamer, Clerk*