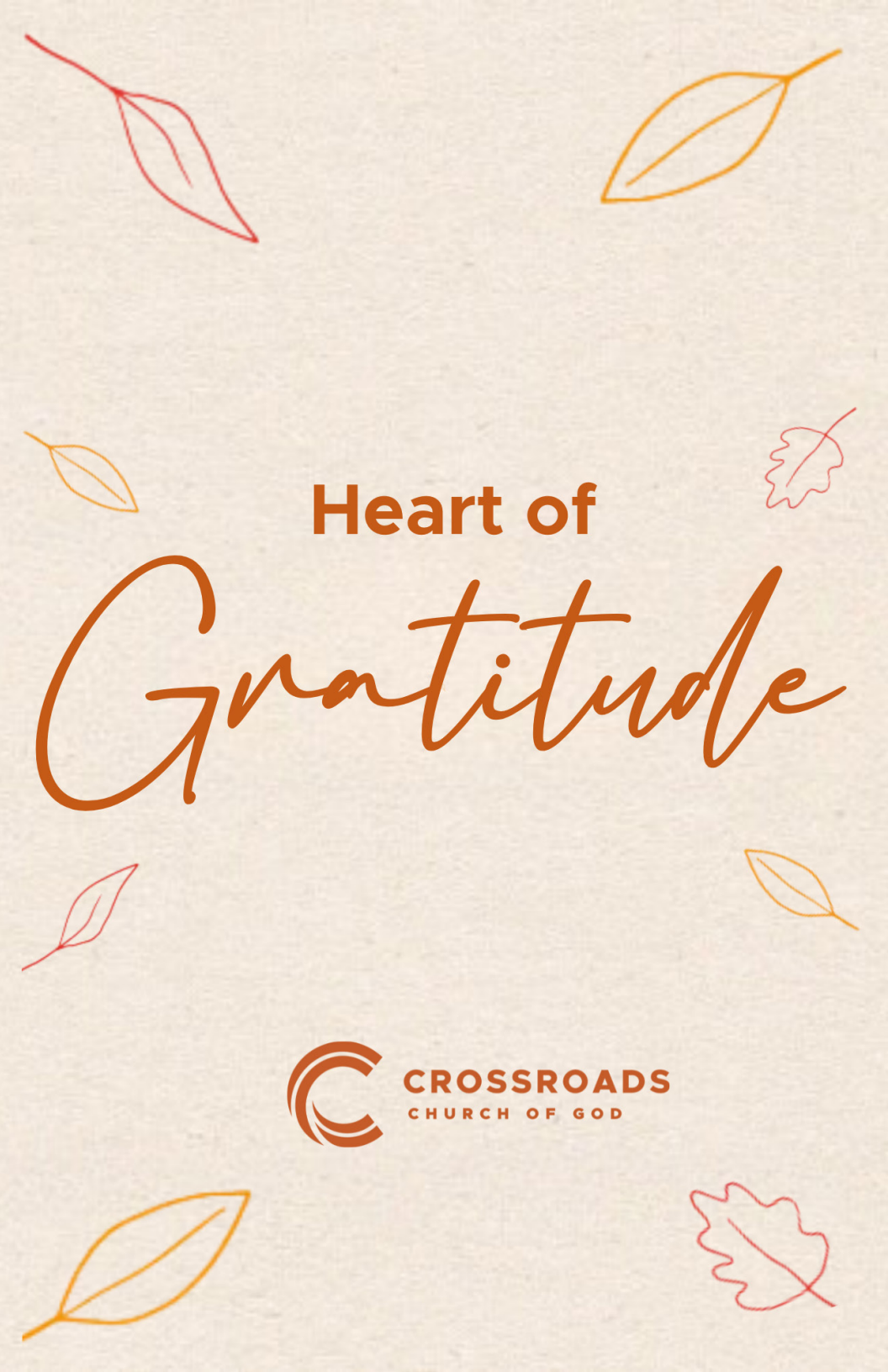




Heart of

Gratitude



**CROSSROADS**  
CHURCH OF GOD



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Pastor Brian Robertson

## INTRODUCTION:

### INTRODUCTION

We are told in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to give thanks in all circumstances. It is easy to feel and express gratitude when things are going well, but what about those times when things are not? With so many tragic things happening, it can be easy to lose sight of the goodness of God.

As Apprentices to Jesus, we are learning to live with His perspective on all things. Gratitude is a characteristic of someone who sees their life in light of eternity and the good things God has done (and is doing). That is not to say that gratitude is automatic. We grow in our capacity for gratitude as we come to see God as the giver of all things - in "Him we live and move and have our being."

Thomas Merton once said, "to be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love. Every moment of our existence is a gift of His grace. Gratitude takes nothing for granted. It is never unresponsive. The grateful person knows that God is good not by hearsay, but by personal experience."

In this series, we are inviting one another to experience the goodness of God in everyday ways.

Spend some time this month seeking to find ways to express gratitude and you will find yourself growing in capacity to love others and lay aside contempt. A heart of gratitude is a better way of living.



## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: GRATITUDE SCAVENGER HUNT

Our life with God is more than a religious duty once a week, it entails our whole life. Likewise, a heart of gratitude is not meant to be relegated to the season of 'thanksgiving' but to be a part of a life surrendered to a good and beautiful God. We encourage you to be on a 'scavenger-hunt' throughout the week of things for which you can be grateful. Be fun and creative!

### Items to be looking for:

- good conversation with a friend
- wake up early to watch the sunrise
- stretch as far as you can – give God thanks for your movement
- as you eat a meal, consider the people who have contributed to your food (farmer, processor, delivery, grocery store, clerk, etc.)
- a red light, grateful for the pause in your day
- have a hot drink (coffee, tea, hot chocolate)
- take a walk around your house – notice all the conveniences you have
- review your life with God, say a prayer of gratitude for forgiveness offered through Jesus
- as you go into work, be grateful for the opportunity you have before you
- write a note to someone letting them know you are thankful for them



**Available Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Gifts are to be returned by Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Instructions are included on the back of the cards**



***Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> @ 2 to 6pm  
at Crossroads***



Scan the QR code to sign up for a time slot:



***Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm, in the Lobby***

Covenant Partners are those who want a deeper life with God in their spiritual formation at Crossroads. All are invited to a special evening to hear about God's faithfulness through the church updates and to fellowship with others over dessert.

# SENIOR ADULT LUNCHES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>***  
***Fazoli's on Elida Road***  
***@ 11:30am***

Connect with other senior adults for lunch, conversation, and fellowship. For any questions, please contact either Sharon Hooker, 419 - 303 - 2221 or Terri Ward, 419 - 234 - 4067

## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

### GRIEF SHARE

Surviving the Holidays is a two-hour event designed to give grieving individuals encouragement and practical strategies for navigating the season.

**In Person Event:** Crossroads Church of God  
**Address:** 775 South Thayer Road, Lima, OH 45806  
**When:** Saturday November 15, 2025  
**Time:** 9:30am to 11:30am

**Facilitators:** David and Denise Mooney  
**Contact Information:** [dcmooney1@icloud.com](mailto:dcmooney1@icloud.com)

**Scan QR Code to join:**

***Last Day to Sign Up is***  
***Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>***



# CROSSROADS CHOIR REHEARSAL

*6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are invited to join your voice  
with others in our Crossroads Choir!*

*A fun way to worship our great God through music.  
Always looking for more voices to join.*

**@ 6:30pm, in the Chapel**

**Upcoming Dates for Choir Rehearsal:**

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Pizza & Snacks Provided

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**@ 4pm**

Come join us as we decorate the church for the Advent season! It is always a great time to kick off the holidays together. We will have pizza and snacks provided, so bring yourself, your family, and your Christmas cheer!


**WEEK 1: PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME**

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

NOV. 2, 2025

**WORSHIP RESOURCES**
**Call to Worship:**

“How lovely is your dwelling place,

Lord Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh cry out

for the living God.

Even the sparrow has found a home,

and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may have her young—

a place near your altar,

Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

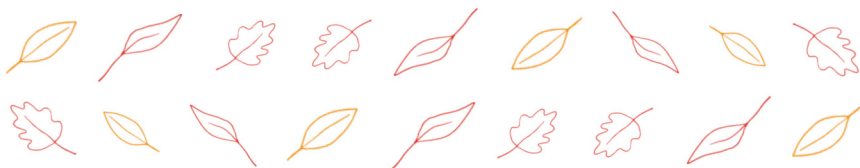
Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

they are ever praising you.”

**Psalm 84:1-4 NIV**
**Community Prayer:**

Zion Lutheran - Dan Gutman

Echo Ranch - Randy and Allyson Alderfer



## SERMON NOTES:

## SERMON NOTES

**How do you praise His holy name?**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Week 1: Praise His Holy Name

Read Psalm 103

1. Why do you think the Psalmist tells himself to 'Bless the Lord'?
2. Why is it easier to point out what is going wrong than what is going right?
3. What are some reasons given in the Psalm to bless/praise the Lord?
4. Why is obedience tied to praising the Lord (see Psalm 103:20-22)?

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**WEEK 2: PRACTICE OF GRATITUDE**

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

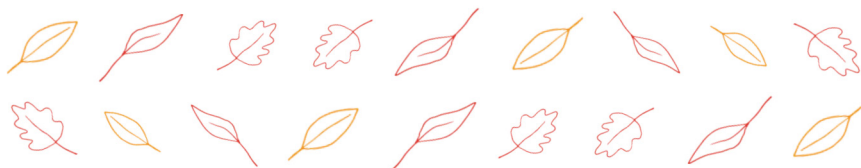
NOV. 9, 2025

**WORSHIP RESOURCES****Call to Worship:**

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

**Colossians 1:15-20 NIV****Community Prayer:**

Great Lakes Church - Katherine Smith  
Heart To Honduras - Randy Bargerstock



## SERMON NOTES:

## SERMON NOTES

**What are some practices of gratitude you will do?**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

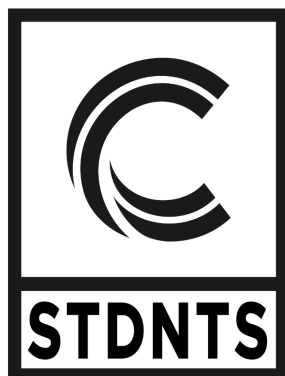
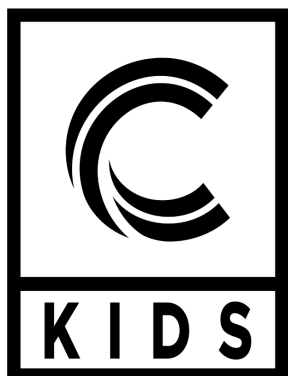
## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Week 2: Practice of Gratitude

## Read Philippians 4:11-13

1. How does discontentment rob us of joy?
2. How are joy and gratitude connected?
3. Paul says he has 'learned' to be content. Why is this something we must *learn*?
4. What do you think of this quote: "A heart of gratitude is one that is full of the abundance of God and not from scarcity." (See Philippians 4:19)?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



We have been so blessed to see more and more young families joining us on Sunday mornings! It is incredible to watch how God is moving and working within our church community. As our family grows, so does our opportunity to care for and invest in the next generation. To do that well, we need adults who are willing to step in and serve on Sunday mornings—from our nursery all the way through high school.

We currently need servants in the nursery (birth–1 year), 2–3 year-old class, 4–PreK class, elementary, middle school, and high school. If you are ready to make a difference and help us care for these families, please reach out to Pastor Jake at [jake@limacrossroads.org](mailto:jake@limacrossroads.org).

Thank you for helping us create a place where every child can experience the love of Jesus!

***Scan the QR Code to sign up:***





# COMFORT IN GRIEF

***Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm  
in the Chapel with Childcare available***

A reflective, communal worship event that recognizes the pain and grief experienced by some during the Christmas season. This service will offer a safe and caring space for people to mourn a loss and find comfort and hope through scripture, prayer, music, and candle lighting.




# ALL CHURCH CAROLING

***Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm***

A wonderful Christmas tradition of spreading Christmas cheer by singing loudly so everyone can hear!

Join with others as we bless our neighbors by singing and coming to Crossroads for snacks, fellowship, and hot chocolate.

# Christmas Eve Services

***Plan to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us***

Invite family, friends, neighbors,  
and co-workers to join you at  
one of our special services:

***3 & 5pm - Family Services***  
(Childcare for Kindergarten and younger)

***11pm - Unique Candlelight Service***  
(No childcare)



# FORMATION RETREAT

Friday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

Saturday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9am

**“An Attentive Life”**

**Special Guest: Rob Loane**

President of VantagePoint3

(author of The Journey course)

“We do not learn by experience ... we learn by reflecting on our experiences” (Trevor Hudson).

Taking moments to be attentive to the movement of God in our life lays the groundwork for an experience of a with-God life that brings goodness to our days.

**Cost: \$20/person**

**Where: Crossroads Church of God**

**Scan the QR Code to register:**



**WEEK 3: GRATITUDE PERSPECTIVE**

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

NOV. 16, 2025

**WORSHIP RESOURCES****Call to Worship:**

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

**Psalms 100 NIV****Community Prayer:**

In Faith Ministries - Michael & Kim Lyons  
International Justice Mission (IJM) - Gary Haugen



## SERMON NOTES:

## SERMON NOTES

**SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:**

SERMON NOTES

**How has gratitude given you a new perspective on life?**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Week 3: Gratitude Perspective

Read Philippians 2:1-5

1. What connection is there between gratitude and servanthood?
2. How does a focus on eternity change our gratitude in the present?
3. How would you describe someone who is ungrateful?
4. What do you think of this quote: “it is not joy that makes us grateful, it is gratitude that makes us joyful.”?

[illegible]

**WEEK 4: GRATITUDE IN WORSHIP**

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

NOV. 23, 2025

**WORSHIP RESOURCES****Call to Worship:**

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
*His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to the God of gods.  
*His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:  
*His love endures forever.*

to him who alone does great wonders,  
*His love endures forever.*

who by his understanding made the heavens,  
*His love endures forever.*

who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
*His love endures forever.*

who made the great lights—  
*His love endures forever.*

the sun to govern the day,  
*His love endures forever.*

the moon and stars to govern the night;  
*His love endures forever.”*

**Psalms 136:1-9 NIV****Community Prayer:**

Cable Road Alliance - Eric Stevenson  
 Heartbeat of Lima - Chelsea Sunderland

SERMON NOTES:

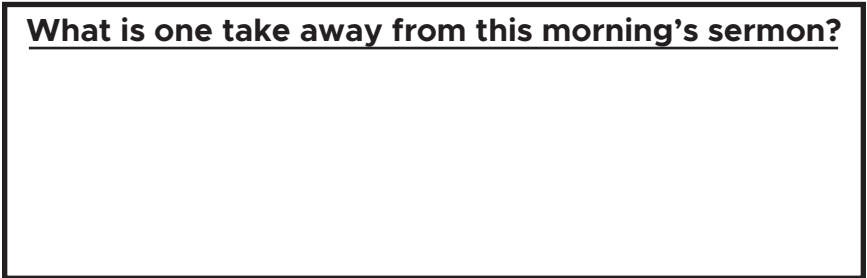
SERMON NOTES

Lined area for sermon notes.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

What is one take away from this morning's sermon?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Week 4: Gratitude in Worship

## Read Hebrews 12:28-29

1. How would you describe your worship experience?
2. How does gratitude give shape to our worship experience?
3. How might gratitude overflow into generosity?
4. In what ways have you been challenged to grow in a heart of gratitude?

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# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT LT



Families of Learning Tree & Crossroads Kids are invited to come together for a Family Movie Night

***More information coming soon***

## DESSERT AUCTION

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Time - TBD

## DINNER ROUNDS

**Looking for a fun way to connect  
with others at Crossroads?**

Dinner Rounds are monthly informal gatherings around a dinner table to casually connect and deepen relationships. Many have found these gatherings to be life-giving and a place to be known. Families are encouraged to bring kids when possible – it is a great way to put into practice hospitality for one another and build cross-generational relationships. We will be starting a new round of Dinner Rounds in early 2026. Look for more information soon!



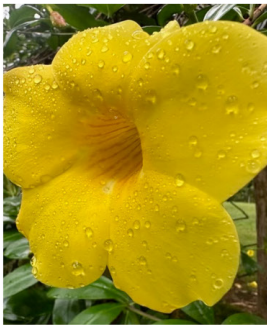
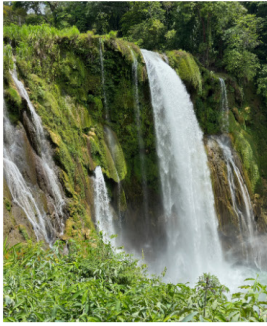
# HONDURAS

## 2026

Summer 2026 we are heading to Honduras to join our partners for mutual encouragement as we join with our friends in Posas de Agua for their continued growth. Serving across cultures reminds us of the heart of God for the nations. We proudly partner with Heart to Honduras to see flourishing communities all around the region and pray with them to see hope restored in rural Honduras. An informational meeting will be scheduled soon!

Sign up for more information:







# “Inviting people to **apprenticeship** to Jesus”

**Sundays:** 9 & 10:45 am

**Online:** 10:45am

**Follow Us:**



**Address:** 775 S Thayer Rd. Lima OH 45806

**Phone:** 419-229-4074 | **Website:** [LimaCrossroads.org](http://LimaCrossroads.org)