MARANATHA INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

A HEART OF THANKSGIVING

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” — Psalm 107:1 (NKJV)

Dear Maranatha Family,

As we enter the month of November, our hearts naturally turn toward Thanksgiving. But for us as believers, thanksgiving is much more than a holiday we celebrate once a year—it is a way of life.

When we look back, we can all see the faithfulness of God. There have been victories and blessings, but there have also been challenges, unexpected changes, and seasons when we simply had to trust Him. Through all of it, one thing has remained the same: **God has been faithful.**

This month, let us intentionally slow down and remember what the Lord has done. Let us thank Him for His provision and protection, for our families, for our church family, and most of all, for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. May November be a month when gratitude fills our hearts, our homes, and our church. We truly have so much to thank God for!

One of the blessings I am especially thankful for is the opportunity we have to come together as one church family. There is something beautiful when different generations, languages, and backgrounds gather under one roof with one purpose—to worship Jesus. We will begin November in that spirit on **Sunday, November 1, at 11:00 AM**, as we come together for our Unified Service, followed by coffee and fellowship. During the service, **Phil Hauze of Gideons International** will also take about ten minutes to share with us about their ministry and the work of placing the Word of God into the hands of people around the world.

Our young people are one of the most valuable investments we can make as a church. Every prayer we pray for them, every word of encouragement we give them, and every opportunity we provide for them to encounter God is an investment in the next generation. During November, our youth have an exciting opportunity as they attend the **Momentum Youth Convention**, something they look forward to each year. They will travel to **Springfield, Illinois, on November 20 and 21**, and I ask you to keep them in prayer. Let us believe that they will not simply attend another event, but that God will speak to their hearts, strengthen their faith, and draw them closer to Him.

To help make that opportunity available to all of our young people, the Youth Ministry will hold a **Bake Sale on Sunday, November 1**. Homemade and store-bought desserts are needed and can be brought to the church foyer before the service. All proceeds will go toward scholarships to help our youth attend the convention. Thank you for helping us invest in their lives and their future.

And while we are talking about Sunday, November 1, here is one practical reminder: please remember to **set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, October 31**, as Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday morning. We look forward to seeing you as we worship together!

As followers of Christ, our faith is not limited to what happens inside the walls of the church. We are called to be salt and light wherever God has placed us and to take seriously the responsibilities and opportunities He has given us in our community. With that in mind, **Election Day is Tuesday, November 3**. I encourage everyone who is able to participate thoughtfully and prayerfully. Voting guides are available in the foyer with information about where candidates stand on important issues.

Jesus also reminds us that loving people is not only something we say—it is something we do. Sometimes a visit, a song, a prayer, or simply spending time with someone can remind them that they are seen, valued, and loved. That is the heart behind our **Better Together Ministry outreach on Saturday, November 7**, when we will visit two senior living communities in Oak Lawn and Orland Park. We will share songs, an uplifting devotional, games, snacks, fellowship, and prayer, and each resident will receive a special goody bag. Please join us in praying that God will use this time to richly encourage, comfort, and bless every resident we encounter.

“Let all that you do be done with love.” — 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NKJV)

As we enjoy the freedom to gather every week, worship openly, carry our Bibles, and speak freely about Jesus, we should never forget that many of our brothers and sisters around the world do not have that same freedom. They are part of the same Body of Christ, and when one part of the Body suffers, we should remember them and stand with them. On **Sunday, November 22**, we will take special time during our service to **pray for the persecuted Church around the world**. Let us ask the Lord to strengthen those who are suffering, protect them, encourage their families, and give them courage to remain faithful to Christ.

A thankful heart also becomes a generous heart. When we recognize how much God has provided for us, we begin to look around and ask how we can be a blessing to someone else. During this Thanksgiving season, we have an opportunity to do exactly that through our **Evergreen Park Food Pantry collection**. Please bring non-perishable food items to the church foyer on **Sunday, November 22**. What may seem like a small gift to us can make a meaningful difference to a family in need.

Of course, thanksgiving should never be limited to one day or even one month. Scripture teaches us to give thanks in all circumstances, and gratitude should be part of our lives throughout the entire year. But November gives us a special opportunity to stop, look back, and remember just how good God has been to us.

That is why, before we gather around our Thanksgiving tables with our families, I would love for us first to gather around **the Lord's Table as one church family**. On **Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 PM**, we will have our special **Thanksgiving Unified Communion Service**. We will worship together, share Communion together, and take time simply to say, "Thank You, Lord," for His goodness, His mercy, His provision, and His faithfulness throughout another year.

As we go through this month, may thanksgiving become more than something we celebrate. May it become the posture of our hearts. Let us be thankful in the good days and the difficult days, when we understand what God is doing and even when we do not.

We are thankful for what God has done. We are thankful for what God is doing. And by faith, we are thankful for what He is going to do!

Please take a look at our November calendar for the other services, Bible studies, ministries, and opportunities to fellowship together throughout the month.

Pastor Rania and I love and appreciate our Maranatha family, and we pray that you and your families have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

With love and appreciation,

Pastor Nader Kawar
Senior Pastor
Maranatha International Church