

# Food for the Flock

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## *Shepherd's Thoughts*

*"And thank Him for all He has done. . . ."*  
-Philippians 4:6

Dear God,

It's been a while since I sat down with you to simply say *thank you*. You know all too well that I normally come to you confessing my mess ups and with a long list of requests for myself, my family, and others. And you are so faithful in answering those requests: not always as I expect, but always beautifully and creatively.

So today I thought I'd sit down to write you a thank-you note. I'm not going to ask for anything. I just want to say *thank you*.

Thank you for my family; for godly parents and grandparents. For Lore, the love of my life, whom you miraculously brought into my life. Thank you for preparing her for me, and me for her. And thank you for making her someone who puts up with me on a daily basis. Thank you for Heather and Tyler. We are so proud of them and for the work you are doing in each of their lives.

Thank you for our church family. We are so grateful that you brought us to Gingrichs three years ago this month. Thank you for the prayers, love, support, and encouragement we receive daily from our friends here. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and serve others through our partnership in the gospel with the Gingrichs family. Thank you for how willing they are to put up with my crazy ideas. And thank you that we love each other so much.

Thank you for providing for us so generously. Thank you for good health and protection. Thank you for all the blessings of this life.

Thank you for creating us and for implanting in us the passions we love to pursue. Thank you for showing us that you long for us to use those passions to build relationships with others and to introduce them to Jesus. Thank you for helping us to discover ways to use our passions to honor you and serve others. I can't help but believe that you enjoy seeing us pursue our passions as much as we do!

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Thank you for good books. Thank you for strong English tea. Thank you for coffee. Thank you for animals that you've created for your and our enjoyment: beagles, Welsh Corgis, Yorkshire Terriers, cows, pigs, hedgehogs, duck-billed platypuses (platipi?), elk, jaguars, the nuthatches at our feeders, cats. Thank you for oaks, beeches, black-eyed Susans, corn, soybeans, apples. Thank you for jambalaya, gumbo, po-boys, and Tabasco.

Thank you for love, forgiveness, hope, and faith. Thank you for the ways you've given to us to connect with you: the Bible, prayer, fasting, meditation, retreats, service, communion, worship, singing, conversation, and Jesus.

Most of all, thank you for Jesus.

I know I don't do this enough, Lord. I need to do this more often. I need to forget the requests—as much as you love to hear them and respond. I need to simply take time to say *thank you*. You are so amazing. You are so wonderful. You are so good.

Thank you for being *You* and for loving us so much.

Your undeserving, yet grateful child,  
Jim

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## CALENDAR: NURSERY



**Operation Christmas Child:** Please sign up as a volunteer and/or to bring cookies! Sign-up sheet on bulletin board.

Mon., Nov. 14: 9-1 p.m.  
Tues., Nov. 15: 6-8 p.m.  
Wed., Nov. 16: 6-8 p.m.  
Thurs., Nov. 17: 6-8 p.m.  
Fri., Nov. 18: 6-8 p.m.  
Sat., Nov. 19: 9-12 p.m.  
Sun., Nov. 20: 12-3 p.m.  
Mon., Nov. 21: 8-2 p.m. (Packing tractor-trailers!)

Date	Nursery Staff
6-Nov	Bob Horlacher and Diane Horlacher
13-Nov	Lois Diem and Heather Schwenk
20-Nov	Diane Garrett and Gloria Frey
27-Nov	Diane Hoover and Audrey Hoover

### Newsletter

Content deadline for the December newsletter is **Sunday November 20**. Newsletters will be distributed **Sunday November 27**.



### Volunteer training for Operation Christmas Child

- Sunday November 6 following the church service.
- Bring a packed lunch. If you have any questions, contact Lore.