

Living Stone Prison Church And Freedom's Gate Church

Fall 2021

Mark Your Calendar
to come Worship with
us in Prison

(arrive by 5 pm and done by 8 pm)

12-5-21

Monroe Church

12-12-21

Open

12-19-21

Fusion

12-26-21

open

1-2-22, 1-9-22, 1-16-22, 1-23,22

open

Please call Lauri at 712.470.4165 to
set up a date to come worship with
us! **Visitors are always
appreciated!**

“Truly Thankful”

This season is my favorite time of the year. I enjoy getting together for gatherings with family and friends and enjoying good food around a table of fellowship. I tend not to be a nostalgic person until it comes to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. Without certain elements to these holidays, like good food, a fire in the fireplace, and time with family, it just wouldn't seem the same. This also is a time of year where people spend time reflecting on the many reasons they have to be thankful. On Thanksgiving Day, we have a tradition of going around the table and sharing what we are thankful for. Quite often the sharing revolves around physical provisions of home and food, or the blessing of having family around the table. I have learned so much this past year of what it means to be truly thankful.

Many of the men I have the privilege of walking alongside of also have feelings of nostalgia during this time of year. They long to spend time with their loved ones, fellowship together around the table, and eat good food. I know what a few people might say upon reading this... "they did the crime and this is the natural consequence for that"... This is true, but to many of the men at Living Stone Prison Church, Christ has redeemed them of their past. He has invited them to walk on a different path of redemption and grace. The reality of reflecting on what they have lost and having new spiritual eyes to see fully why can be incredibly painful, especially this time of year. Even so, we believe the Christian faith is one of hope and thankfulness even amid blinding hardship and loss.

What is there to be thankful for when you are behind razor wire and not able to fully see the people you love? Paul, in a letter to a young pastor named Timothy, reflected on the ultimate source of thanksgiving when he said these words, "I thank Him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful,

Help Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers to make meals and worship with us at Freedom's Gate Church.

Services start at 5 and we would love to have you come worship with us sometime. We worship together at 1st Reformed in Sioux Falls located at 4800 S Tomar Rd. Please use east doors.

December 2-
Inwood 1st Reformed Church

December 12-
Open

December 19-
American Reformed— LuVerne

December 26-
Open

Please call or text Ruth at
605.366.3624

All contributions can be sent to our treasurer:

Brad Whitsell, PO Box 415, Yankton, SD 57078

LivingStonePrisonChurch@gmail.com

www.LivingStonePrisonChurch.org

Pastor Dan— 605.630.1807

Pastor Jason—605.366.3615

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appointing me to His service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." What hope is there for the inmate who has been stripped of most earthly sources of joy? He can experience the same joy and thankfulness that filled Paul's heart because of the mercy he was shown by God. I've seen this in the hearts of many men at Living Stone Prison Church. Paul, a persecutor, and murderer of the church of Christ, was reconciled with God because of what Christ did on his behalf. Many of the men I minister with find the same peace in Christ that Paul did despite what they have done in a previous time. Faith in Christ is where true contentment is found. If Christ is everything, when we have Christ, we have everything.

This does not mean there are not real struggles that our fellow brothers still endure. Please continue to pray for the work inside the prison walls. Pray that during this holiday season there would be true joy and thankfulness for what Christ has done. Pray for the protection and blessing of the Living Stone Prison Church.

I find myself particularly thankful for many things this season. I am thankful for the men I have the privilege to see regularly through Living Stone Prison Church. I am thankful for God's faithfulness and goodness while walking with us through this past year. I am thankful for the many churches and individuals who have supported and partnered with us so that His work can continue. I hope each of you have a blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. ~ Pastor Dan