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Our Saviour's Good News

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our Saviour Lutheran Church welcomes all people to a safe place to grow in faith and serve the Lord Jesus Christ

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Happy Thanksgiving



All Saints Solemnity November 1

"The glorious company of the apostles praise Thee. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise Thee. The white-robed army of martyrs praise Thee. All the saints and elect with one voice do acknowledge Thee, O Blessed Trinity, one God!" -- Feast of All Saints (November 1), Antiphon at Lauds. from the *Te Deum*

Origin of All Saint's Day as a feast of the Church:

What makes this feast so important that the Church celebrates both the night *before* All Saints and the day *after* it?

The Church has always honored those early witnesses to the Christian faith who have died in the Lord. (The Greek word for "witness" is martyr.) During the first three hundred years Christians were severely persecuted, often suffering torture and bloody death -- *because they were faithful*. They refused to deny Christ, even when this denial might have saved their own lives, or the lives of their children and families.

The early history of the Church is filled with stories of the heroic faith of these of witnesses to Christ's truth. The stories of these saints -- these baptized Christians of all ages and all states in life, whose fidelity and courage led to their sanctity or holiness -- have provided models for every other Christian throughout history.

Many of those especially holy people whose names and stories were known, the Church later canonized (that is, the Church formally recognized that the life of that person was without any doubt holy, or sanctified -- a "saint" who is an example for us.) The Church's calendar contains many saint's days, which Catholics observe at Mass -- some with special festivities.

But there were thousands and thousands of early Christian martyrs, the majority of whose

names are known only to God -- and throughout the history of the Church there have been countless others who really are saints, who are with God in heaven, even if their names are not on the list of canonized saints.

In order to honor the memory -- and our own debt -- to these unnamed saints, and to recall their example, the Church dedicated a special feast day -- a sort of "memorial day" -- so that all living Christians would celebrate at a special Mass the lives and witness of those "who have died and gone before us into the presence of the Lord".

This feast that we know as All Saint's Day originated as a feast of All Martyrs, sometime in the 4th century. At first it was celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. It came to be observed on May 13 when Pope St. Boniface IV (608-615) restored and rebuilt for use as a Christian church an ancient Roman temple which pagan Rome had dedicated to "all gods", the Pantheon. The pope re-buried the bones of many martyrs there, and dedicated this Church to the Mother of God and all the Holy Martyrs on May 13, 610.

About a hundred years later, Pope Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a new chapel in the basilica of St. Peter to all saints (not just to the martyrs) on November 1, and he fixed the anniversary of this dedication as the date of the feast.

A century after that, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration of All Saints to November 1 for the entire Church. The vigil of this important feast, All Saint's Eve, Halloween, was apparently observed as early as the feast itself.

The festival was retained after the Reformation in the calendar of the Church of England and in many Lutheran churches. In the Lutheran churches, such as the Church of Sweden, it assumes a role of general commemoration of the dead. In the Swedish calendar, the observance takes place on the first Saturday of November. In many Lutheran Churches, it is moved to the first Sunday of November.

The Meaning of Thanksgiving Day and History of the Holiday

As Christians, we can reclaim Thanksgiving. Rather than just being a day where we eat too much and strategize our Black Friday sales plan of attack, we can go back to our historical and spiritual roots as we give thanks to God.

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States starting in 1789. In 2023, Thanksgiving in the US will be on **Thursday, November 23rd**.

In the United States, Thanksgiving is historically a day to praise and thank God for our blessings and ask Him to heal the nation's wounds. It was also a national day of penitence to humbly repent for our sinfulness and selfishness.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving:

As a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

Meaning of Thanksgiving: Praise to God

In the Bible, thanksgiving means devotion, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. Thanksgiving is to glorify God as an act of worship, giving thanks for all things as part of God's providence. **Allabouthistory.org** gives a beautiful definition of Thanksgiving as primarily about relationships:

The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationship. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and man. Upon their arrival at New Plymouth, the Pilgrims composed The Mayflower Compact, which honored God. Thanksgiving begins with acknowledging God as faithful, earnestly giving Him thanks, in advance, for His abundant blessings.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 107:1)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High. (Psalm 7:17)

History of the First Thanksgiving

Abraham Lincoln wasn't the first president to declare a national day of thanksgiving for the people of the United States. In 1789, George Washington proclaimed "a day of public thanksgiving and thanks" to thank God for his protection and as the source of all that is good. In his proclamation, he wrote,

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be — That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks — for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation...

Thanksgiving in the United States is often traced back to 1621 when the Plymouth Colony settlers and the Wampanoag shared a meal celebrating the harvest. Their trial began in 1620 with the voyage of the storied *Mayflower*, a 65-day-long ordeal in which 102 men, women, and children crossed the stormy Atlantic in a space the size of a city bus.

Then followed a cruel New England winter for which they were ill-prepared. Due to exposure to starvation, their number dwindled rapidly so that by the onset of spring, half of them had died. Fourteen of the eighteen wives had perished, and widowers and orphans abounded. The Pilgrims could celebrate in this setting as a testimony to human resilience and heavenly hope.

Yet celebrate they did, sometime in the autumn of 1621 after God had granted them a bountiful harvest. It's an inspiring story, and it's good for Christians this Thanksgiving to remember it. I don't know about you, but I am always encouraged when I sit down with Christian friends and hear how God has sustained them in hard times.

(Thanksgiving cont'd on page 3)

(Thanksgiving cont'd from page 2)

Remembering the Pilgrims' story is a lot like that, although the testimony comes to us not from across the room but across the centuries. The celebration lasted for three days. Here's how settler Edward Winslow described their thankful hearts, *And although it is not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.*

The tradition of giving thanks continued spontaneously in the colonies.

Winslow wrote at length about the occasion that *the Pilgrims* would have remembered as their first Thanksgiving Day in America. It occurred in the summer of 1623, nearly two years after the event that we commemorate. During that summer, a two-month-long drought threatened to wipe out the Pilgrims' crops, and the prospect of starvation in the coming winter loomed over them.

Governor Bradford "set apart a solemn day of humiliation, to seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer, in this great distress." The Pilgrims gathered for a prayer service that lasted some 8-9 hours, and by its end, a day that had begun hot and clear had become overcast, and for the next fourteen days, a steady, gentle rain restored the parched earth. "But, O the mercy of our God," Winslow exulted, "who was as ready to hear as we to ask." (excerpted from The First Thanksgiving We Don't Remember)

Some historians link the pilgrims' Thanksgiving celebration to the holiday of Sukkot, also called the Feast of Tabernacles in Leviticus 23:33. Other scholars point out the Puritans' debate of having a fixed date to give thanks; instead, they would proclaim special days of prayer. While the link between Thanksgiving and Sukkot is uncertain, there is no doubt that God calls his people to give thanks.

Thanksgiving Bible Verses

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! We give thanks to the Lord for His goodness and His love." Psalm 100:4

"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!" Psalm 95:2

Our choice to give thanks should be based on God's name and His character — His righteousness, goodness, and love. "I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High." Psalm 7:17

God's steadfast love is the number one reason we should give thanks. "...Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord."

The phrase "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" is found in six different verses (1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 107:1, Psalm 118:1, 29, Psalm 136:1, Jeremiah 33:11).

In case we missed how important this is, Psalm 136 repeats this three times:

Give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever. 136:2
 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His steadfast love endures forever. 136:3
 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever. 136:26

"... I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1

"Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation." Psalm 111:1

"... O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!" Psalm 30:12

Thanksgiving Reminds Us to Be More Than Grateful

For many people, the Thanksgiving holiday is a time to be grateful. Interestingly, the word "grateful" is not in the King James Version of the Bible and is listed only once in the New International Version (NIV) and the English Standard Version (ESV). Similarly, "gratitude" is only listed a few times in the NIV and once in the ESV.

What's wrong with being grateful? Gratitude is an attitude. Giving thanks is an action. Gratitude appreciates the blessings in one's life, but on its own, it is insufficient. Christians are called to be doers of the word (James 1:22). We must go beyond being grateful and be intentional about giving thanks.

(Thanksgiving cont'd on page 4)

(Thanksgiving cont'd from page 3)

The Bible commands us to give thanks. "Give Thanks" appears in the Bible over 128 times in 62 verses. In the majority of these verses, "Give thanks" is imperative. As believers, we are to actively thank God for who He is and the great things He has done. The command to give thanks is not based on our circumstances but on who God is. We are to thank God in anticipation of what He can do.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

Christian Meaning and Significance of Thanksgiving

As Christians, we can reclaim Thanksgiving — rather than just being a day where we eat too much and strategize our Black Friday sales plan of attack — we can go back to our historical and spiritual roots as we thank God. We can follow Abraham Lincoln's example by repenting and asking for God's forgiveness for our personal sins and our nation's perverseness.

We should seek to reconcile with others and apologize for the harm we have caused. Our actions should reflect our grateful hearts. We should thank God for the people that are in our lives. We can acknowledge God's blessings by enjoying a meal with friends and family.

We can share the grace that God has given us by serving the homeless or inviting people who have no place to go on Thanksgiving.

Just having an attitude of gratefulness is not enough. We must say "thank you" to God for the kind and beautiful things He has done for us. When we thank God for the good things in our lives, we honor His provision, protection, and steadfast love. Saying "thank you" by praising Him, worshiping Him, and honoring Him for what He has done for us is an appropriate response to God's kindness.

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign." Revelation 11:17

Thanksgiving Prayers

A Simple Prayer for Thanks.

Dear God, I want to pause this Thanksgiving Day and thank you for the blessings surrounding me. For another day, for family, friends, for food on the table. You are the source of all good things, and we praise you for the simple things that bring us joy. Help us keep our eyes on your this day and every day so our lives may be filled with praise and joy. Amen.

A Thanksgiving Meal Prayer for Blessings Past and Present.

Lord God, we gather around this table to humbly thank You for all that You have given us this past year – not just what is on this table, but who is sitting around this table. Thank you for life and laughter, health and happiness, relationships and memories. Thank you, too, for the lessons learned and the tears we've cried because of Your ability to grow us through them.

Thank You for Your comfort and presence in light of good days and bad. Thank You for what we have now, what we had yesterday, and what You will continue to give tomorrow. Let us never take that for granted, but to always be grateful for every good and perfect gift that comes from You. May we have hearts full of thanksgiving today and every day of our lives. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Amen. ~ Cindi McMenamin



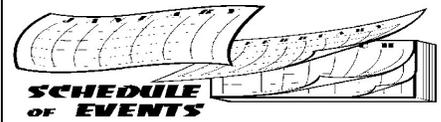
Happy Thanksgiving



November 2023



Sunday School: 9:45 pm
Church Service: 11:00 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Week Nov 19-25			1 All Saints Day	2	3	4 TIME TO FALL BACK
5 For All the Saints All Saints Day Observed.	6	7 Prayer Group Election Day GO VOTE	8	9	10 HONORING OUR VETERANS	11 Veterans Day
12 24th Sun after Pentecost	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 25th Sun after Pentecost	20 Council Meeting	21	22	Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Christ the King Sunday	27	28	29	30		

NOVEMBER IS

- National Hospice Month**
- Lutheran World Relief** (see p 6)
- **November 1— All Saints Day**
- **November 4— DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS: Nov 5**
Set time back 1 hour
- **November 5—All Saints Day- Rite of Remembrance**
- **November 7—ELECTION DAY-GO VOTE**
Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm
- **November 10—Veterans Day celebration** at Court Square (see p 15)
- **November 12— 24th Sunday aft Pentecost**
- **November 19—25th Sunday aft Pentecost**
Deadline for Christmas Shoeboxes (p 14)
Bible Sunday—Nov. 19
BIBLE WEEK—NOV. 19-25 (see p 14)
- **November 23—Thanksgiving Day**
- **November 26—Christ the King Sunday**

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Canned Pinto Beans, Blackeye Peas Canned Meat.**



CHOIR PRATICE
4:00 PM
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS



Birthdays

- 2 Betty Clemmer
- 4 Sarah Wooten
- 8 Anna Lowery
- 17 Becky Messick
Danny Wilson



- Bill Trudnak
- Ben Trudnak
- Ethan Petzold
- Allie Trudnak
- Stephen Lowery
- Jacob White
- Brett Lowery
- Easton Finger
- Joanna Trudnak

Holy Communion Schedule:



ALL SUNDAYS

Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte: OSLC Member
- Communion Asst: OSLC MEMBER
- Lay Reader: Yvonne Finger
- Worship Asst: Yvonne Finger
- Greeters: Members of OSL
- Ushers: Members of OSLC
- Collection: Steve Digh
- Devotions: November 20
Alice Vlaservich



See form inside

Deadline: Nov 26
Cost: \$20 for 10"

ORDER YOUR
POINSETTIAS

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- November 5 Open
- November 12 Open
- November 19 Open
- November 26 Nick Vlaservich

A NEW FLOWER CALENDAR will be posted on the first door in the hallway of the Education wing. So watch for it and please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your loved ones.

ADVENT

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

CHRIST



What is an Advent wreath?

As Christians, we use symbols to express visually the basic tenets of our faith and as reminders of the pilgrimage of our life in Christ. Symbols can have heightened meaning for us when associated with particular seasons of that journey. One such symbol is the Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the Middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world.

This symbolism can be just as strong for us today. As is the case with all symbols, they speak most loudly to remind us of God's promises of life when they are drawn directly out of our daily experience and environment. One should consider using only natural materials from God's creation when making an Advent wreath. Evergreens come in many varieties and may be treated with a flame retardant substance. Branches of holly, laurel, and other green shrubs, which retain their freshness longer than pine, may also be used. The circular shape, a symbol of eternal life, is most important. Using an alternative shape, such as a log, would diminish the meaning of the symbol, which is no longer a circle.

There is no one prescribed color for the candles, although several traditions are current. Four natural colored candles are always appropriate and symbolize the Light for which we wait. Four deep purple candles, a sign of the penitential nature sometimes attributed to the season, may be appropriate. Congregations that use blue as the liturgical color during Advent would be consistent to use blue candles. The older practice using a pink candle on the third Sunday in Advent is no longer consistent with the current lectionary.

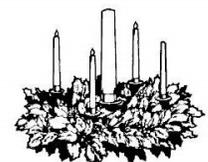
Liturgical renewal in the last decades of this century has shifted the focus of these four weeks to one of hope and expectation of the coming of the Christ. This hope looks forward not only to celebrating the child in the manger, but even more to Christ's coming in glory at the end of time—a continuation of the eschatological emphasis of the last Sundays after Pentecost. Candles in rich royal blue are symbolic of this hope. Coincidentally, these two colors, purple and blue, have long been associated with the same ideas: the symbolic colors of royal blood and of longing; the natural colors of the dawn before the sun rises and the deep shades of midnight. The size of the Advent wreath should be appropriate to the size of the worship space. Although the wreath should not draw attention away from the font, the table, and the ambo, it should be of sufficient size to make a strong statement about the meaning of the season. It may be hung or placed on a table or stand but it is never put on the altar.

Because the Advent wreath does not carry with it liturgical action or significance, it should be lit simply and unobtrusively, perhaps before the service when the other candles are lighted. It is also appropriate to light the candle after the Old Testament reading during the singing of the psalm or as a part of the entrance rite immediately following the entrance hymn. Blessings for the Advent wreath may be found in *Sundays and Seasons*. Some congregations like to accompany the lighting of the Advent wreath with an appropriate song. Consider using a different stanza of the same hymn, such as "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (*ELW 240*), each week.

The Advent wreath is also appropriate for daily use in home devotions. The making of the wreath can be a family activity, using materials gathered from the yard or garden. Resources for use of the Advent wreath in the home, including suggestions for assembling a wreath, are among those listed below.



First Sunday of Advent,
November 26



THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

The Christian Church Year is living history. It is ancient events to life each year. It is history that is as alive as the Church itself.

The Church Year is a cycle of festivals and seasons. Christians around the World and throughout history have shaped their faith and marked their lives by these events.

The first half of the Church Year (Advent through Pentecost Day) recalls event in the life of our Lord, making them real for us in the present.

The rest of the Church Year (Pentecost Season) focuses on discipleship — the new life in Christ in which we are living and growing. The community of believers, the Church, keeps observing the Church Year because it celebrates God's redemption.

When Christians observe the Church Year's festivals and seasons, we

- learn the words and acts of God that have changed history;
- remember the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord for us;
- participate in these saving events through which our Lord creates his Church and transforms our lives.

The Church Year revolves around three great festival days — Christmas, Easter and Pentecost — and the seasons that connect them — **Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Pentecost or Ordinary Time.**

Advent Season

4 weeks of preparation for Christ's coming.

Epiphany Season

4 to 9 weeks of thanks for Christ's revelation to the world, including the Baptism of Our Lord.

Holy Week

Palm or Passion Sunday follow by The Easter Triduum (the three days beginning with the Lord's supper on Maundy Thursday and ending on Easter Sunday)

Pentecost Season or Ordinary Time

2 dozen weeks from Holy Trinity Sunday to Christ the King Sunday. The festival of All Saints is celebrated late in this season.

Christmas Season

12 days of celebration of Christ's birth, leading to Epiphany, the "*Christmas of the Gentiles*"

Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday followed by 40 days of preparation, concluding during Holy Week

Easter Season

Easter Day followed by 50 days of rejoicing, including Ascension Day leading to the season's climax Pentecost Day.

Now we have done a complete cycle of the year and start the Advent Season again on November 27.



American Christians Should Stand with Israel under Attack

While we pray for peace, we need moral clarity about this war.

RUSSELL MOORE - -OCTOBER 7, 2023

Americans awoke this morning to reports of war in the Middle East, as the terrorist group Hamas attacked the state of Israel in unspeakably brutal ways. As our screens fill with imagery of fire raining down from the skies, of families grieving the kidnapping and murder of their loved ones, we know that—just as for our own country in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks—this evil day is just the beginning of what is to come. As we pray for peace at the beginning of this war, American Christians should do so with the moral clarity to recognize Israel's right and duty to defend itself.

Some might assume that evangelical Protestants automatically support Israel based on eschatological views that cast the modern state of Israel in some role in biblical prophecy. For some, this is indeed the case. Many of us, though, don't share those beliefs. We believe the promises of God are fulfilled in Christ, not in the 1948 Israeli Declaration of Independence. Many of us are quite willing to call out Israel when we believe it is acting wrongly. We don't believe the Israeli Knesset is somehow inerrant or infallible.

But even with those disagreements, American Christians should be united in support of Israel as it's under attack.

Some Christians, to be sure, are pacifists who believe any military action to be wrong. Most Christians throughout church history, however, have held to some form of just war theory, which holds that war is always awful, but—under certain, very limited circumstances—can be morally justified.

Jesus interacted with soldiers (Matt. 8:5–13) and called them, as others, to repent of sin. But he never spoke of military service itself as a sin. The apostle Paul wrote of the role of the state to “bear the sword” against “the wrongdoer” (Rom. 13:1–4). This authority is hardly boundless. Every state is accountable to the justice of God and, if it acts unjustly, is subject to the judgment of God. The very Roman government of which Paul wrote was pictured later in Scripture as a “beast” state to be opposed (Rev. 13:1–18).

When acting justly, though, the state has not only the right but the *responsibility* to protect itself and the lives of its citizens.

Sometimes, especially in the early moments of any war, we may be uncertain about who is right and who is wrong. There is no such moral confusion here. Hamas—and its state sponsors—attacked innocent people, as they have done repeatedly in the past, this time employing a force and brutality previously unseen.

We should expect any just state to respond with force to an attack like the one Israel has suffered—but here, that impetus is heightened by the unique circumstances that led to the formation of the Jewish state. Many tried to appease a bloodthirsty German Reich even as it carried out the worst genocidal atrocity in the history of the world. After those butchers were defeated, and the state of Israel established, Israel faced constant threats to its very existence, often in terms of the very same antisemitic tropes weaponized by the Nazis about the so-called “Jewish question.”

As Americans, we should stand with Israel under attack because it is a fellow liberal democracy—and a democracy in a region dominated by illiberal, authoritarian regimes. As Christians, we should pay special attention to violence directed toward Israel—just as we would pay special attention to a violent attack on a member of our extended family. After all, we are grafted on to the promise made to Abraham (Rom. 11:17). Our Lord Jesus was and is a Jewish man from Galilee. Rage against the Jewish people is rage against him, and, because we are in him, against us.

No one wanted to wake up to war in what was already a tinderbox of the world order. But war has come, and we should recognize terrorism for what it is. We should also recognize the justice of a forceful response to that terrorism. However we read the prophecy passages of the Bible, and however we disagree on world politics, American Christians ought to stand together with Israel now.

Russell Moore is the editor in chief at Christianity Today and leads its Public Theology Project.





What about from the Latin word novem, nine, Because this had been the 9th month of the early Roman calendar.

Turkey trivia,

Facts about the Turkey-and all American bird are turkeys native to the Americans yes turkeys originated in the new world pacifically wild turkeys are native to Mexico. It's a funny history European explorers brought wild turkeys home with them in early 1500s. The birds were domesticated in Europe and later brought to North America by English colonies: Note that *domesticated turkeys* have white-tails; *wild turkeys* have dark-tipped tails.

Why do turkeys gobble?

Only male turkeys or Toms can make a call known as a “gobble,” and they mostly do it it's spring and fall. It is a mating called and attracts the hen. Wild turkeys gobble when they were surprised by loud sounds and when they settle in for the night. The wild Turkey can make it like 30 different calls!

Could the Turkey have been the national bird?

Ben Franklin thought the Turkey would be a better national symbol than the bald eagle, According to the Franklin Institute, he wrote a letter to his daughter.

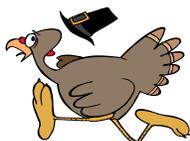
“For my own part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character: he does not get his living honestly... like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing... he is generally poor, and often very lousy. Besides, he is ranked as a coward; the little king-bird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district..., For in truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the Turkey was particular to ours...”

How much Turkey does a person eat per year?

The average person in the United states we'll eat 15 pounds of Turkey this year.

What's that weird wobbly thing on a Turkeys Neck?

The loose red skin attached to the underside of the turkey's beak is called a wattle. When the male Turkey is excited, especially during mating season, the wattle turned a scarlet red. The fleshy flap of skin that hangs over the gobbler's beak is called a snood and also turns bright red when the bird is excited. The wobbly little thing on the Turkey's chest is the Turkey's beard add is made-up of keratin bristles. keratin is the same substance that forms hair and horns on other animals.



Happy Thanksgiving



2023 NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS LASZLO MISSION LEAGUE has ministry in Papua New Guinea

Our Saviour Congregation sponsors two students in Hauna Village, PNG, a boy, Bendomas Roy Wangi and a girl, Azimah Thomson. Please pray for these children. Their whole village is very poor, but they are overcoming since the missionaries have been there. Shirley Killosky is still there, but is getting ready to retire. They live in the jungle. If the river water gets low or floods this affects their lives greatly. They fish for meat, use the river for travel, and use its water in many ways. They plant gardens of vegetables that sometimes get washed out or flooded. Sago paste, scraped from the center of a sago log makes staple food. They still live in thatched roof huts, and cook over open fires.

They have built many buildings for the community: a school, church, medical center, sheds for men to work, such as to use machinery to shell rice to sell, or saw logs to sell. Some of the men go up river as trained teachers to help students in others villages to hear God's Word and to teach the children the basics of education.

The village is Christian and has made a huge difference in the lives of the people. The men no longer go to war with their surrounding tribal peoples, but help them and help in their own village. The families co-operate together to get and prepare food, shelter, and have fellowship. The school teachers tell Bible Stories and sing Christian songs as well as teach the basics of education: reading, writing, and math.

What a privilege to be sponsors for this ministry – LASZLO MISSION LEAGUE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, HAUNA VILLAGE – the two students that we sponsor so they can go to school.

Would you and your family like to sponsor a child so he/she can go to school? Go to on and look at the opportunities: www.laszlomissionleague.com. Please remember to pray for the children and the adults.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

God is calling all of its members of OSLC to assist Him in our worship service. Sign-up sheets for worship assistants for the calendar year of 2024 are posted in the hall way in the Education section of the church. So be a **doer** and **participant** of your service and sign-up. **THANK YOU!**



The Dallas/High Shoals Christian Ministry is in desperate need for the following thru Thanksgiving;

- canned pinto beans
- blackeye peas
- canned meats

SO PLEASE HELP! THANK YOU!

A Stewardship Minute

“As Thanksgiving Day approaches, take time to think about your reasons for being thankful. How deep are they?”

Thanksgiving is a special day for us all to take time to thank our loving Creator for all that makes life worth living on God's earth. We can thank God for salvation through Christ. Thank God for loving families, for caring friends, for opportunities to learn, labor, and serve in this free land. Thank God for our churches and this wonderful land we call home. Oh, how blessed we are living in this endowed and hallowed land! We are privileged

to not only enjoy the innumerable benefits of our country, but we Christians are also given the opportunity to work on behalf of God's kingdom. However wonderful our nation is, there are still great needs among us. Consider those millions who do not yet know Christ and the glorious salvation he offers. Think of the poor among us. Consider the slums in our teeming cities. Our work is cut out for us!

Thanksgiving should not only be a time of giving gratitude to God, but also a time of remembrance of those who need to be redeemed. The Danish novelist, Anker Larsen, decided to take God and God's work seriously. He looked around him and seeing the

vast needs of those in spiritual trouble, Larsen vowed to report to God daily with the words: “What orders do you have for me today?” Truly thankful Christians are those who use whatever gifts and talents they have in the service of God.

Prayer: You but open your hand towards us, O God, and all our needs are met. Give us grateful hearts and show us where and when we are to serve in the name of Christ. **Amen**



HOW TO HONOR VETERANS



Coming home from war can be a difficult experience for veterans. Soldiers who experience combat are often changed in ways that most civilians cannot comprehend. In a recent study conducted by the University of California, San Francisco and the San Francisco VA Medical Center, it was found that 31 percent of soldiers returning from Iraq between 2001 and 2005 were diagnosed with mental health and/or psychosocial challenges. The most common diagnoses include post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, adjustment disorder, depression and substance abuse disorder.

Many soldiers who return with war injuries - from lost limbs to blindness to brain damage and countless other disabilities that can make even simple, everyday tasks incredibly difficult. Often such injuries make finding and maintaining employment nearly impossible.

Even soldiers who return without health issues frequently find it difficult to return to their “normal” pre-war life. They may meet with incomprehension and even fear and anger from their friends, families or other civilians. And yet, these are the men and women who have willingly put their lives on the line for their country. While civilians may not be able to fully understand what veterans have endured and sacrificed for their country, you can show them the respect they deserve and accept them with the loving, open arms of Christ.

On November 11, millions of people across the U.S. will celebrate Veteran's Day. There are many ways you can take part in honoring our veterans, this day and any other:

- Write a veteran a thank you note, or send a letter to an entire Veteran's of Foreign War or American Legion post.
- Write a letter to a soldier currently in the Middle East
- Talk to your children about who veterans are, what they do and what their service means to our country.

If you would like more information on how you can support veterans visit www.vfwfoundation.org.



Abraham Lincoln Thanksgiving Proclamation

At this time of year 158 years ago, in the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln issued his second presidential proclamation setting apart the last Thursday of November as a day of national holiday.

George Washington was the first president to proclaim a day of thanksgiving, issuing his request on October 3, 1789, exactly 74 years before Lincoln's.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State



*Let us come
before him with
thanksgiving.*

Psalm 95:2, NIV

Thanksgiving Dinner Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day,
We bow our hearts to You and prayer

We give You thanks for all You've have done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see,
For joy and health, friends, and family.

For daily provision, Your mercy and care,
These are the blessings You graciously share.

So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

Mary Fairchild



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
Post Office Box 475
Dallas, North Carolina 28034
Phone: 705-922-4648
Email: oslcdallas@aol.com
Website: oslc-nc.org

OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a senior living/nursing home* and visit them or send them a card.

Marilyn Finger

2701 Jackson Square, Anderson, SC 29625

Hardy Feige

The Charlotte Assisted Living and Memory Care
9120 Willow Ridge Rd,
Unit 226
Charlotte, NC 28210

(If others, please let the church office know)

EVENTS for:

Agape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

Please see calendars and other information on the bulletin board or go on-line

Events for:

Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring- Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com



See form inside

Deadline: Nov 26

Cost: \$20—10"

ORDER YOUR
POINSETTIAS

If you need a Pastor,
please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805
or our office at 704-922-4648.



WOMEN'S GROUP (CLW)

Will not meet in November but instead they will meet

The home of Betty Clemmer Dec. 12 at 12:30 pm



PRAYER GROUP

WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF SHIRLEE MARAZZA

ON NOVEMBER 7 AT 2:00 PM

LET US PRAY... "Are any among you suffering? They should pray...The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up." (James 5:13-15)



PRAYER CONCERNS:

MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), LEAH Bredley(Marsha Patton;s sister-Pituitary tumor and upcoming surgery), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer) , RHONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton's mom, surgery for foot fusion), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), ROWDY and BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick new grandson and daughter) HARDY Feige (Pete's dad – chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh -cancer), MONA gardner (John Patton;s grandma-declining health), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's – cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), LESA Huges (friend of Robbie Wooten-throat cancer), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), CARL Martin (friend of Pattons-multiple myeloma plua chemo) BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), JOHN & MARSHA Patton (the in vitro procedure produces healthy baby(ies), ANDY Peeden (cancer), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, JAN Splawn (friend of Robbie Wooten- cancer) TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KENT Wilborn (friend of Robbie Wooten-heart surgery) NANCY Wilson, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).

A Special Prayer for Those Who Serve in Our Armed Forces

The following Scripture passages and prayer are for those who have experience something so horrible, or been involved in a situation so distressing, that their minds are infected by the scene.

*"I always keep the LORD in front of me.
When he is at my side, I cannot be moved." Psalm 16:8*

Heavenly Father, the evil things I witnessed and experience in combat today have caused me great distress. Please uphold and comfort me. As you raised Jesus from the tomb by your glorious power and gave him victory over death and Satan, I ask that you also uplift me, my fellow soldiers, and all those who may be similarly distressed and troubled what we have witnessed today. Especially be with those who were injured during this horrible encounter, and heal them of all their injuries—both physical and mental. I pray that you would also comfort our families, and let none of us ever forget as we carry on our respective duties in the days ahead.

*"The LORD your God is with you. He is hero who saves you.
He happily rejoices over you, renews you with His love,
and celebrates over you with shouts of joy." Zephaniah 3:17*

I ask all of this in Jesus' name – the one who "renews me with His love." Amen.



November 19-25

begins the Sunday before Thanksgiving A week devoted to encouraging people to read the Bible, in the belief that it will arouse a positive spiritual force in a world plagued with problems. National Bible Week is promoted by the National Bible Association (originally the Laymen's National Committee), a non-denominational group of businessmen founded in 1940 and devoted to the application of the Golden Rule in daily life. A huge audience listened to the NBC radio program that was broadcast to kick off the first National Bible Week scheduled for December 8-14, 1941; PEARL HARBOR had been bombed just hours before.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX) IS HERE!

What is Operation Christmas Child?

This annual project enables caring individuals, families, schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations to fill ordinary shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, sweets, and other gifts for needy children around the world. Operation Christmas Child sends a message of hope to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes.

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project. Since 1990 the project has brought the joy of Christmas to more than 47 million boys and girls throughout the world. Last year we sent 1.24 million shoe boxes from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, Internally Displaced Persons camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighborhoods. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 2020.

Your gift is powerful! Your shoe box will make a child feel special and valued, and let them know that you care about them. Choosing gifts and then wrapping and filling a shoe box is a fun and rewarding activity for all the family – especially when you know these gifts are going to be used and treasured.

From you to a child in need. Your shoe box will be hand delivered to a child in need, asking nothing from them in return. All boxes are given to the neediest children regardless of nationality, political background or religious beliefs. Operation Christmas Child empowers local overseas partners to ensure that your shoe boxes are delivered with the highest levels of integrity and respect. Where appropriate and in culturally sensitive ways, our local overseas partners will make available a booklet of Bible stories, which gives a message of hope and includes an explanation of the true meaning of Christmas – God's gift of His Son, Jesus.

**SHOE BOXES ARE DUE TO BE COLLECTED ON NOVEMBER 21.
THEY ARE ASKING FOR A \$10.00 TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE
BOX TO HELP WITH PROCESSING COSTS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
GENEROSITY.**

Thank you for caring!

DUE DATE: November 19





FIRST THANKSGIVING In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast which is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. This harvest meal has become a symbol of cooperation and interaction between English colonists and Native Americans. Although this feast is considered by many to be the very first

Thanksgiving celebration, it was actually in keeping with a long tradition of celebrating the harvest and giving thanks for a successful bounty of crops. Native American groups throughout the Americas, including the Pueblo, Cherokee, Creek and many others organized harvest festivals, ceremonial dances, and other celebrations of thanks for centuries before the arrival of Europeans in North America.

Historians have also recorded other ceremonies of thanks among European settlers in North America, including British colonists in Berkeley Plantation, Virginia. At this site near the Charles River in December of 1619, a group of British settlers led by Captain John Woodlief knelt in prayer and pledged "Thanksgiving" to God for their healthy arrival after a long voyage across the Atlantic. This event has been acknowledged by some scholars and writers as the official first Thanksgiving among European settlers on record. Whether at Plymouth, Berkeley Plantation, or throughout the Americas, celebrations of thanks have held great meaning and importance over time. The legacy of thanks, and particularly of the feast, have survived the centuries as people throughout the United States gather family, friends, and enormous amounts of food for their yearly Thanksgiving meal.

What Was Actually on the Menu?

What foods topped the table at the first harvest feast? Historians aren't completely certain about the full bounty, but it's safe to say the pilgrims weren't gobbling up pumpkin pie or playing with their mashed potatoes. Following is a list of the foods that were available to the colonists at the time of the 1621 feast. However, the only two items that historians know for sure were on the menu are venison and wild fowl, which are mentioned in primary sources. The most detailed description of the "First Thanksgiving" comes from Edward Winslow from *A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*, in 1621:

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, among other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed upon our governor, and upon the captain, and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."



Veterans Day

Honoring Veterans

on

November 10

At

10:00 am

At

Dallas Courthouse

"Honoring All Who Serv"



HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Do You Get the BLAHs During all that Christmas Worshipping???

Unsure about Santa in the sanctuary? Too much partying but not enough preparing? Don't let those "frivolous" holiday rituals turn you into a Scrooge this year. If our church's holiday traditions or practices that don't seem particularly on target with the spiritual focus of Christmas, we can do what Pope Julius did back in the 4th century. Julius reframed an existing secular practice, the celebration of the Winter Solstice, and forever tied it to a sacred observance by declaring December 25th the celebration of Jesus' birth. He literally made Jesus the Life of the party!

With a little careful intentionality, we can do the same thing with some of our less-than-spiritual holiday practices.

The Holiday Bazaar

There are churches that have received more guests at their fall rummage sale and Holiday Bazaar than in a year's worth of worship services! While this could be a time of forging relationships and spreading Good News, it seems the most contact with these visitors happens at the cash register, as people purchase Christmas knick knacks. If the purpose of such an event is to raise money for mission work, make that front and center, with signs, displays, even special speakers. Include guests in the celebration of how the church is ministering to "the least of these." Better yet, have a mission work day scheduled and invite visitors to sign up. By reframing the Holiday fundraiser as The Church living out its mission, we remind members and visitors alike that Christmas is about more than trinkets.

Santa Claus

What to do about ole Kris Kringle? Some churches allow him to visit for pictures and fun with the kids. Other churches have a strict no Santa policy. A previous pastor at a church I served allowed Santa on the premises, but not in the sanctuary. Have you ever heard the third and fourth verses to Gene Autry's "Here Comes Santa Claus?"

Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus,
Right down Santa Claus lane
He doesn't care if you're rich or poor
He loves you just the same
Santa Claus knows we're all God's children
That makes everything right
So fill your hearts with Christmas cheer
'Cause Santa Claus comes tonight!
Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus,
Right down Santa Claus lane
He'll come around when the chimes ring out
that it's Christmas morn again
Peace on earth will come to all
If we just follow the light
So lets give thanks to the lord above
That Santa Claus comes tonight!

Gene Autry has done all the reframing work for us! Why not have Saint Nick come into the sanctuary during the Children's Program, or even at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, bow before the manger, and say a few words about the gift of Jesus to the world? Or, collect canned goods for Santa to disperse to needy children here and abroad. Making use of Santa's "saintliness" makes him a great role model for the rest of us, and singing a verse or two of Gene's song might help seal the deal.

Christmas

Parties and presents. Cookies and caroling. All these activities have the word "Christmas" associated with them, but Christ is not always front and center. As leaders, we can (and must) find ways to infuse all our church's seasonal activities with the wonder, mystery, and glory of Emmanuel, *God with us*. The more mindful we are, as leaders, of our internal Advent journeys, the more we can provide a spark of faith to all our Christmas activities. So, saying Grace at a dinner party is a privilege, not a duty. It is an opportunity to remind the guests of Who it is we gather to celebrate, and why. And the concept of giving and receiving presents is, at it's core, a reflection of God's Extravagant Gift of Love, if we remember to think of it that way.

Even a plate of cookies, when delivered to a homebound member, illustrates compassion and generosity. And a chorus of "We wish you a Merry Christmas" becomes a blessing when sung from the heart. Perhaps the key to keep us from "bah humbugging" our way through the month of December is to be looking for opportunities – and they are everywhere – to bring the sacred to bear upon the secular. The lines between the two are already a little blurry this time of year. We can help bring things into focus. Remember, there's nothing bizarre about finding the Christ child where you least expect him. Even at the bazaar.

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2023

There is a story about a prosperous farmer who was a very poor financial supporter of his church, his pastor went to visit him in hopes of getting him to increase his giving. The pastor pointed out to him that the Lord had given him a fertile piece of land and had blessed him with sunshine and rain so that his crops would grow.

The preacher added, "You know, this farm and everything you have is really on loan to you from God. You should be more grateful." The farmer replied, "I don't mean to complain, Reverend, but you should have seen what a mess this place was when the Lord was running it by himself!"

Most of us can sympathize quite well with that farmer. On one level, we would probably agree that the preacher was right in saying that everything we have comes from God, but on another level we may well feel that whatever worthwhile has been made of what we have been given is our own doing.

From God's hand

There is a natural sense of pride we feel when we have accomplished something and that makes us reluctant to share the credit, even with God. But to say that all things come to us from God's hand is to acknowledge that behind everything is God. Without God's grace, blessings, and mercy, we literally could not exist. God is, in the ultimate sense, the King of our world.

There have always been people who felt as this farmer did, however. Many of the kings we read about in the Bible

were very concerned to have the record of their accomplishments widely known and revered. Some even wanted to be treated as gods themselves and have their subjects worship them.

But common people in the Bible were infected with this "look at what I've

"It is God's power to provide you richly with every good gift; thus you will have ample means in yourselves to meet each and every situation, with enough to spare for every good cause."

II Corinthians 9:8



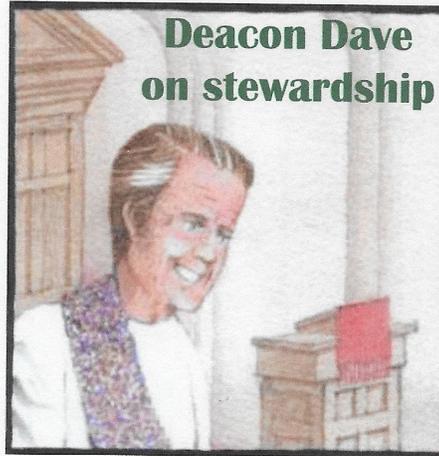
done" attitude as well. Thus, many people sought such status symbols as large land holdings, abundant flocks, several wives, and large numbers of children, especially sons.

Against this prevalent feeling, King David's attitude about his own status before God stands out in stark contrast. In his final days, as he prepared to turn the

(Continued on page 4)



Money is deeply and significantly symbolic. It isn't just a silver coin or a piece of engraved paper; it represents our time and our talents as well. It is symbolic, because when we give of our money, we are giving of ourselves. And the contrary is also true: when we withhold our money, we are withholding of ourselves.



The dictionary defines "time" as a period during which something exists or can be accomplished. We live in twenty four hour increments. We live one day at a time, one hour at a time.

We make time for work, recreation and rest. If you are like me, all of our time is accounted for. Most of us run through our days like that character in Alice in Wonderland, crying "I'm late, I'm late." I challenge you to get still for a moment and take a good long look at your typical day and count how much time you allot to the giver of life.

If you're really serious about this challenge, we agree that time is a gift given freely from our creator. It is life itself. Yet, sadly we misuse this gift. Typically, we foster the attitude of self-service, rather than other service, including service to our church.

If we are honest, we can see areas in which we can improve our response to God, for God's astonishing gift of time. You might say "I do give." I invite you to take a closer look at your giving habits. When you give, in what spirit do you give? Is it to give loudly so all those within striking range know of your gift? When you show some kindness or use your talent, are you pompous and pumped up? Then the reward

is superficial. The gift is given in the spirit of self-service. As the words of scripture remind us to be "doers of the Word, not hearers only." 

Abundant Life!

Did you ever notice how much bigger a check for \$100 looks in the offering plate than in the envelope to the electric company, or at the supermarket checkout counter? Most of us would not consider sending the power company only what we have left over. And, canned beans and white bread would be a large portion of our weekly fare if we only bought groceries with what is left over. Yet, many are willing to return to God only what is left over after we satisfy our other desires. I have actually heard church officials categorize their giving to the church with "other discretionary spending"!

Giving to the church isn't the same as giving to the poor; churches have fixed expenses too! Only a portion of what churches receive is actually used to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, etc. Yet, experience shows that members who are not generous with the church are not generous with other organizations and causes either.

Live more joyfully

It's all a matter of "an attitude of gratitude." People who acknowledge God as the source of whatever wealth they have, generally share it with pleasure and wish they could give more. People who are convinced that whatever they have is solely the fruit of their own efforts, generally are more comfortable with an "I'll take mine first" attitude. Each dollar given away looms large as self-denial. Is there any doubt about who lives more joyfully? Christ promised not wealth, but abundant life! 



Dear Editor:

They looked like a small parade coming down the street from the cul-de-sac. Five little boys and girls on their very first two-wheel bikes were obviously on a mission. They pulled a red wagon loaded with a blanket holding precious cargo ... dolls? Stuffed animals? Free kittens?

But what made this entourage stand out was the method they had devised for pulling the wagon. Two ropes, both probably ten feet long, were tied to the wagon handle. Each rope led to a different bicycle, onto which it was securely knotted. Clever! Two bikes pulled the wagon. By riding side by side, a few feet apart, the “pullers” kept the wagon from veering unsteadily or tipping over. The other three bikers seemed equally intent on this mission, with communication at 100%. Because the children were good “stewards” of their “treasure,” the wagon rolled smoothly down the street toward the goal.

We Christians use stewardship in similar ways: Start with the Gospel, and the need to “take it into all the world.” Use material and spiritual gifts from God to accomplish this. Trusting God’s leadership, we know where we’re going and how to get there. Keep moving, without veering off course. Pull together and share the load, remembering that the Bible says we are, “working together with him...” (2 Corinthians 6:1) God leads and loves each of us more than we can possibly understand! Enjoy the stewardship journey!

Cathy

The Good Steward

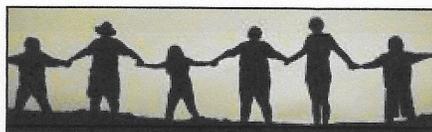
In laboring to grow more faithful Christians whose giving reflects and in-forms their faith, we are doing more than just raising money. We seek to help believers understand that gifts to the church are qualitatively different from those sought by United Way or our alma mater.

The grateful response of a Christian to the love and grace of God is not primarily motivated by emotional reactions to pictures of starving children, battered women, or derelict men, although these will surely touch a Christian’s heart. Rather, we give because we recognize that without God’s gifts of our time and our talents ... our very lives ... we would have nothing.

We give because through our giving we witness to our understanding of Christ’s priorities for our world and we know that without our gifts, these priorities will not be realized. We give because it gives us joy. We give because Jesus told us, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” and we know that Christ was telling us that it is in our own best interest to give.

We are created in God’s image. In our Baptism, we become, in St. Paul’s words, “new persons in Christ Jesus.” We bear the giving nature of our creator. Giving to the church, to the many agencies of God’s reconciling love in the world, is part and parcel of our very being.

Christians cannot not give, it’s just not in them. ☩



There is a difference between ownership and possession. We may claim to own things, but as between man and God, we own nothing. God owns all things. We simply use them or possess them temporarily.

As stewards or trustees, we must administer God’s property in a way pleasing to him, and acknowledge God’s ownership by setting apart a portion of time and income for the extension of his kingdom.

Continued from page 1...

There is a story about ...

throne of Israel over to his son, Solomon. David also laid the groundwork so that Solomon could build the Temple in Jerusalem. He had all of the materials needed to do the job gathered.

He contracted with skilled craftsmen to serve his son. And he donated not only income from the royal treasury, but also huge sums from his personal fortunes toward the project.

Finally, he challenged the people themselves to offer not only from their own possessions, but also to offer their skills and talents to the task that lay ahead. The people responded generously in both ways. David then prayed a prayer that has to be considered remarkable for a king in that age. The whole prayer is recorded in I Chronicles 29:10–19, but consider the implications of just two verses.

First of all, David ascribed to God the attributes that were normally used to speak of a king. He said, “Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou are exalted as head above all.” (v.11) There were not many kings who would say that their kingdom really belonged to someone else.

The second remarkable thing was that David acknowledged that ultimately, the people had God and not the king to thank for everything they had. He said, “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from thee, and of thy own have we given thee” (v.14).

Everything is on loan

That admission is an appropriate text for us today. As we think about things that we label as our own, it is always

helpful to recognize that whatever we have is really on loan to us from God. That is the real meaning of stewardship.

It is vitally important that each of us view stewardship as the Christian way of life and not just a plea for our money. We agree with Clarence Stoughton’s definition that “Stewardship is what I do after I have said I believe.” That includes what we do with our wallets, but also a lot more. Stewardship is our attitude toward everything that God has placed at our disposal during our stay on this earth. It is a lifelong struggle on our part to overcome our tendency to get and to keep and to develop our God-given potential to care and share.

But even more, it is our humble acknowledgment that all good things come from God. With David we pray, “But who are we that we should be able to offer willingly? For all things come from thee, and of thy own have we given thee. 





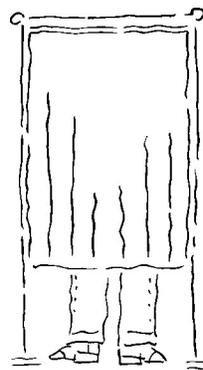
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
Dallas, NC 28034



November 2023



**Set your clock
Back 1 hour on
November 4**



**CAST
YOUR
VOTE!
ON
NOVEMBER 7**

MID-TERM ELECTIONS