



The

Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618=632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

Upcoming Events November 2023

Wed. Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Adult Choir 7 pm

Sat. Nov. 4

Basket Guild 10-2 pm

Sun. Nov. 5

Voters' Meeting 830 am

Sun. Nov. 5, 12, 19,

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sun. School Adult Bible
Study 10:45 a.m.

Mon. Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27

Support Group 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 6

Elders Mtg 7 pm

Tues. Nov. 7

Election Day

Quilting 930-12 pm

Sat. Nov. 11

Veterans' Day

Thank you for your
Service!

Tues. Nov. 21

Christian Ed 7 pm

Youth Board 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Eve

Worship Service 7 pm

Thurs. Nov. 23

Happy Thanksgiving

Sun. Nov. 26

Worship 9:30 a.m.

No Sunday School

Tues. Nov. 28

Stewardship Mtg 6 pm



*Thanksgiving
Baskets*

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Monetary donations will be collected on
Sundays, November 5, & 12

See page 3 inside for
more information

Thanksgiving

Worship

Service

Wed. November 22

7:00 p.m.



O'Fallon Community Thanksgiving Meal

All are Welcome

Always free

Thanksgiving Day 11 am to 1:30 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
520 E. Highway 50

Midweek Advent Worship

Wed. Dec. 6, 13, & 20

Dinner—6 pm

Worship 7 pm



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Semi Annual Voter's Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 5 8:30 a.m.

Please come to this important meeting.

Main topic will be the 2024 Budget



231101 Newsletter

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6–7)

*Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all be safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.*



I think it began with Thanksgiving services all across our nation and soon infiltrated every-Sunday Worship (CoVid-19 didn't help). Over the years many of God's people have become more interested in staying home or attending their own festivities rather than coming together for the Godly appointed assemblies which the church offered for worship.

Every Thanksgiving we sing, "Come, ye thankful people, come!" but what happens when they don't?

The Apostle Paul knew human nature. He knew that given time, the sinful nature and life in this troubled world would challenge our faith, causing some to become neglectful, even indifferent toward their faith in the Triune God. So he gives this sanctified advice:

"Just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so *walk in him*, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Walking in Jesus today is like walking with Him when He roamed the Holy Land two thousand years ago. The only difference is His visible presence. Today we are the body of Christ which means we live in Him and He in us! We are His presence in the world and that means His work is being done through believers in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It seems right that Paul is delivering this message to us because he was not one of the original twelve disciples who literally walked with Jesus. Like us, he did not follow Jesus through the Judean countryside and see the deliverance He brought to so many lives. But when the risen Christ revealed Himself to the Apostle and planted faith in his heart, Paul was a man made new; radically changed. Just like us, he walked in Christ Jesus by faith. He realized the importance of having a life rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith so that he abounded in thanksgiving!

As we look at the record of Paul's life with all the troubles he endured for Christ, it's hard to imagine that he "abounded in thanksgiving." But that's exactly how he describes the life rooted and built up in Christ and established in Him. **ABOUNDING!**

With all the trouble he endured one wonders how abounding in thanksgiving is even possible? See how he describes this new walk in Christ:

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, *who loved me and gave himself for me*" (Galatians 2:20).

(continued on page 3)



(Pastor Vern's article continued)

Paul would completely agree with the Apostle John who said, "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God's love for you and me is the centerpiece and core of faith and the reason why we abound in thanksgiving. Of God's love Paul wrote: "neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Thanksgiving is not just a once-a-year event or a national holiday celebrated around a turkey dressed table; it is the spontaneous and daily response of a believer who walks in Christ Jesus the Lord, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.

Abounding with you in Thanksgiving,

Pastor Vern

Thanksgiving Food Drive:

IN THANKFULNESS FOR ALL GOD'S MANY BLESSINGS monetary donations will be collected through Nov. 12th for those in need of help for food during this Thanksgiving Season. Donations may be designated in 1 of three ways:

1. Money for O'Fallon Food Pantry.
2. Money for purchasing turkeys for needy **Unity Lutheran School Families**. A \$250 Visa Credit Card Seed Money has been approved by Thrivent Financial for purchase of turkeys along with the money collected from donations."
3. Money may also be donated to purchase Aldi and Schnucks gift cards for needy members within and outside our congregational family. **Please submit the names and number of members within each family unit as well as their contact information to Pastor Vern by Nov. 12.** The Board of Evangelism/Outreach will contact each family in order to learn their card of choice.

Baskets in the foyer will be designated: "O'Fallon Food Pantry," "Unity Lutheran School Families," and "Member Gift Cards" but if you write a check, please indicate one (or more) of the recipients of your offering in the memo section using the labels above. Blessed Thanksgiving!



Concordia Seminary Lutheran Prayer Breakfast: Wed. Nov. 8; Registration and Fellowship (7-8 a.m.) Breakfast & Program (8-9:30 a.m.) Speaker Rev. Tim Carter, Associate Pastor St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Columbus, IN. 10709 Watson Rd. St. Louis, Mo. Reserve your space at concordia-sem.regfox.com/Lutheran-prayer-breakfast
Or for more information Kim Braddy 314-505-7362.

Our good God

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man's mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.
—Frederick W. Faber



"Time to Thank, Time to Share"

Thanksgiving is a time to share.
A roasted turkey stuffed with care,
potatoes, yams and buttered rolls
are passed around in festive bowls.
But first we thank our God above
and share with others his great love.
The dish served last is always best —
a slice of pie for every guest.
—MaryAnn Sundby



Fellowship Committee

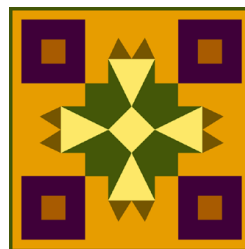
The Fellowship Committee is always trying to work together with other committees to ensure our church membership gets to celebrate great times with each other.

This was our Third Trunk or Treat in recent years and by far the best. There were sooo many children! We hope everyone that participated in this event had as much fun as we did. There were approximately 150 children who came and some stayed to have fellowship and dinner with us. We served 120 hotdogs and 16 pots of chili, 160 bags of Fritos and 64 hot dog buns, 4 gallons of Lemonade and 70 pints of water and 18 plates of cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies etc. for the cake walk. Our Committee would like to extend our THANKS for all those members who helped us with this event. We always appreciate when the congregation, as a whole, gets together and lends a helping hand and participates! It's a great way to show the Youth that we care about them. This event is a Youth/Christian Ed Event co-sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

The next Fellowship event will be Advent Wednesday night Dinners which will begin on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

Basket weaving will be held on Saturday, 4 Nov, 2023 at 10:00 am. We will be making these cute little snowmen. If you want to make these, let me know ASAP.

If you need anything from Fellowship, please call Gwen Borsch or Ginger Kieffer or catch us at church Blessings,
Gwen and Ginger



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesdays, Dec. 5, Jan. 2 and Feb. 6** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc. you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.



Midweek Advent Dinners

Wed. Dec. 6, 13, 20
Dinner—6 pm
Worship 7 pm

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER



Please join us for the 10th Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal

Serving hours of 11 – 1:30 p.m. for Dine-in Service on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23. Located at Faith Lutheran Church 520 East Hwy 50. Cost is Free! Sponsored by Citizens for O'Fallon Community Thanksgiving Meal



- 1—Charlene Rust, Anne Siron
 2—Isaiah Siron
 3—David Boggs
 4—David Ziegler
 6—Wendi Gorney
 7—Kathy Husemann,
 Dean Krantz,
 Peggy Russell
 10—Kaitlyn Jackson,
 Christi Poteet, Liv Colvin
 15—Thomas Brecks
 16—Gus Williams



- 22—Andrea Wiesner,
 23—Lynn Bartimus,
 Trey Stake
 26—Katie Hauptert,
 Jason Rust
 27—Collin Jackson,
 Brandon Gass
 27—Michael Sotiropoulos
 27—Niki Huff
 29—Chris Rust
 30—Georgia Trefftz

If we have overlooked your anniversary or birthday, please notify the church office. 632-0126.

The Journey Begins at Advent

When Advent begins on December 5 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

"Like a great water-wheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."



- HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:
 2—Gus & Stephanie Williams
 4—Emilie & Chris Wickline
 11—Erik & Jayni Lintvedt
 11—Gary & Melanie Williams
 15—Todd & Wendi Gorney
 20—Kevin & Amy Calzada
 24—Ken & Cheryl Vohlken



Boar's Head Christmas Festival

Four choirs, period instrumentalists, and an elegantly costumed cast of over 150 invite you to the Boar's Head Christmas Festival, a 1300's medieval Christmas pageant celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ at Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Bar-

racksview Rd. St Louis.

Performances are Thurs., Nov. 30, Fri. Dec. 1, Sat. Dec. 2 (all 7:30) and Sun. Dec. 3 at 2:30 & 6 p.m. Doors open one hour before each pageant, with pre-service music beginning 30 minutes before each service. A reception follows with homemade Christmas cookies, wassail, punch and coffee. Tickets are free and are available beginning Wednesday, Nov. 1 by calling 314-892-5610 or online at www.peaceboarshead.org



Advent

CHOIR



Schedule

CHOIR NEWS

Adult Choir will practice:

Wed Nov 1. 8. 15 at 7pm

Choir will sing during Thanksgiving Eve
Worship. Pre-service practice at 6:30pm

Practice: Wed Nov 29 at 7pm

Thanksgiving Humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?

Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?

To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?

Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?

There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?

People were fighting over the drumsticks.

HOLIDAY HOSPITALITY

Beth Lewis, CEO of 1517 Media, blogged about a favorite holiday tradition: inviting over people who'd otherwise be alone. Her grandchildren prepared hand-made place cards, wrapped small gifts for the guests and helped cook the meal.

Then one year, Thanksgiving happened to coincide with a cross-country move for Grandma and Grandpa. Chaos and stress almost buried the tradition — until Lewis's 9-year-old granddaughter asked nonchalantly, "Who's joining us for dinner this year?"

Lewis writes: "In the busyness of moving, it hadn't even occurred to me. But, for her, it is simply what our family does!" So they extended some invitations, ate on paper plates among moving boxes and had a joyous time. Lewis was proud of her granddaughter for the reminder that hospitality is a value worth practicing and modeling — and even turning into a holiday tradition!



Three Thanksgiving prayers

Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more: peace in the hearts of all men living, peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving.

—Joseph Auslander

For what I have received may the Lord make me truly thankful. And more truly for what I have not received.

—Storm Jameson

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.

—William Shakespeare

Learning to Give Thanks

Last December I had my second knee replacement. Expecting this recovery to mimic the first, I went home to heal quickly. Instead, 10 days later one normal step led to the vertical splitting of my femur, an ambulance ride and surgery to insert screws and a long metal plate. I spent Christmas in the hospital and New Year's in a rehab unit, feeling anything but thankful. Nearly a year later, the slow recovery continues.

Yet I see much to be thankful for: my caregiver cousin, who lengthened her stay considerably; my family; church friends who provided meals, prayers and love; and doctors and therapists, who put me back together and continue to encourage me.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I continue to work on patience but am learning — with God's help — to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
—Sandy Hyland



Stewardship CORNER

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter Article
November 2023

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is not just raising funds; It's raising Christians.
Stewardship is not a matter of budgets; It's a matter of faith.

The Generosity Cycle

God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ... God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous.

Thinking about Stewardship

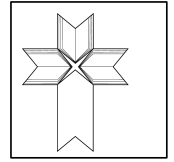
Christians give to the Lord because they are grateful. The giving of themselves in totality - body, mind, spirit, talents, time and material resources - is the Christian way of expressing their thankfulness to God for all that they have. Responding to the immeasurable love and grace of God, dedicated Christians open their hearts and hands toward God in a spirit of appreciation and love.

Reflections on Gratitude

- God is in control, and therefore in everything I can give thanks — not because of the situation but because of the One who directs and rules over it. —Kay Arthur
 - It is not happiness that makes us grateful. It's gratefulness that makes us happy. —David Steindl-Rast
 - Gratitude is the least of the virtues, but ingratitude is the worst of vices. —Thomas Fuller



The Sanctuary
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
1205 North Lincoln Ave.
O'Fallon, IL 62269



November 2023



PUZZLE

THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected.
When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow
generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the
words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.



This becomes a plant _ _ _ _ _



Willing to give _ _ _ _ _



The result of planting seeds _ _ _ _ _



The act of gratitude _ _ _ _ _



Food made from wheat _ _ _ _ _

Now he who supplies _ _ _ _ _ to the sower and _ _ _ _ _ for food will also
supply and increase your store of _ _ _ _ _ and will enlarge the _ _ _ _ _
of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

_ _ _ _ _ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result
in _ _ _ _ _ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

WHAT IS YOUR NOVEMBER?

For Davey Blackburn, a pastor in Indiana, one particular month has brought “the highest of highs and the lowest of lows.” He was born in November, moved to a new church in November 2011 and learned he’d be a father in November 2013. But two years later, in November 2015, Blackburn’s wife and unborn second child were murdered during a home invasion.

Despite that painful tragedy, the pastor determined not to “let the enemy have a claim over November” or “steal the many beautiful memories I once held” about it. Since then, his church’s worship team recorded an album one November, he proposed to his second wife another November, launched a new ministry one November and welcomed another child the following November.

That journey, Blackburn says, is evidence of God’s faithfulness to replace a spirit of despair with a garment of praise (see Isaiah 61:3). And it’s an important reminder for the holiday season, with all its memories and traditions. Just as God wants to heal and restore, Blackburn writes, “Your [deceased] loved one would not want your ‘November’ to haunt your memory forever.”

Blackburn, author of the forthcoming book *Nothing Is Wasted*, says everyone has a November but can choose what to do with it. Instead of letting your November haunt, you can let God use it to heal. —Stephanie Martin

Present Tense

After “turkey day” came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not “How was your Thanksgiving?” but “How *is* your Thanksgiving?” After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn’t always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? “Sometimes I’m just grateful I have arms.” That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being “thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice.”

So ... how *is* your Thanksgiving?



ALWAYS THANKFUL



Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” in 1636. At the time, the Thirty Years’ War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including “Now Thank We All Our God.” Originally intended as

a table prayer, it’s now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God’s “countless gifts of love” — even during hardships.

Debt-free, by Grace

Visiting with her passenger, Uber driver Latonya Young mentioned her determination to finish college — and a \$700 debt that barred her from enrolling in more classes. “Every time I got ready to pay the money, my kids needed something,” she said later. “I said, ‘Okay, I’ll just wait.’”

To Young’s great surprise, a few days after that Uber conversation, she learned that her customer, Kevin Esch, had paid her debt; she could reenroll! In response, Young persevered to finish her degree with strong grades. “When he paid the balance, I had to do this for him,” she said of Esch, who attended her graduation.

Young’s self-sacrifice for her children and Esch’s self-sacrifice for a stranger both pale, of course, in comparison to Jesus’ sacrifice of his very life to save us. Like Young held back by debt, we were captive to sin until “the Son of Man came ... to give his life as a ransom” (Matthew 20:28, ESV). Young did nothing to earn Esch’s gift, and we can do nothing to earn salvation. But as she responded by using the gift to its fullest, we embrace God’s gift by living in thanksgiving and praise, love and service.

Prayers of Thanks

The Bible's close connection between prayer and praise caused 19th-century preacher J.C. Ryle to proclaim, "I dare not call that true prayer in which thankfulness has no part." He points, for example, to Paul's words in Philippians 4:6 ("By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God") and Colossians 4:2 ("Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful"), both NIV.

Whenever we speak to God, Ryle adds, thoughts of his mercy and the hope of heaven should be at the forefront of our minds. "Surely," he writes, "we should never open our lips in prayer without blessing God for that free grace by which we live, and for that lovingkindness which endures forever."

Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference. —Author unknown

Exercising our Gratitude Muscles



Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good for us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted, and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later.

Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).

Though the study was small, we seem to have a "gratitude muscle" that can be

strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom's insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude — not only at Thanksgiving but year round — because it's good for *us* as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, "Thanks be to God!"

My Thankful Heart

Making the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner helps restore my heart to gratefulness. First I cut bread into cubes to dry out. Has it really been a year since I thanked God for the simple things of life? Dear God, thank you for my daily bread. Next I boil giblets for the tasty broth. When did I last express thanks for my body — even the oft-forgotten parts? Thank you, God, for creating and sustaining me.

Then I dice onions and celery, adding them to the mixture. That reminds me to thank God for abundant harvests. Finally I measure raisins, nuts, sage and salt into the stuffing, as scents fill the air. Lord, help me not grow weary of the interesting "spices" that fill my life.

As the stuffing goes into the oven, warm air wafting into the kitchen, I remember to thank God for providing my home. Here relatives and friends gather, often an odd combination. Yet when we bow our heads in thankfulness, we're an unbeatable mix. —MaryAnn Sundby



Veterans Day

It was at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918, that the bugles blew the cease fire that signaled the end of the first world war. This was a day of rejoicing and a time of hope for peace.

While we in this country went back to our daily work, to enjoy our lives and make the most of the years granted to us in this world, the people of other lands were suffering from poverty and the despair brought upon by economic hardship. This intensified the struggle for existence until war again became almost inevitable.

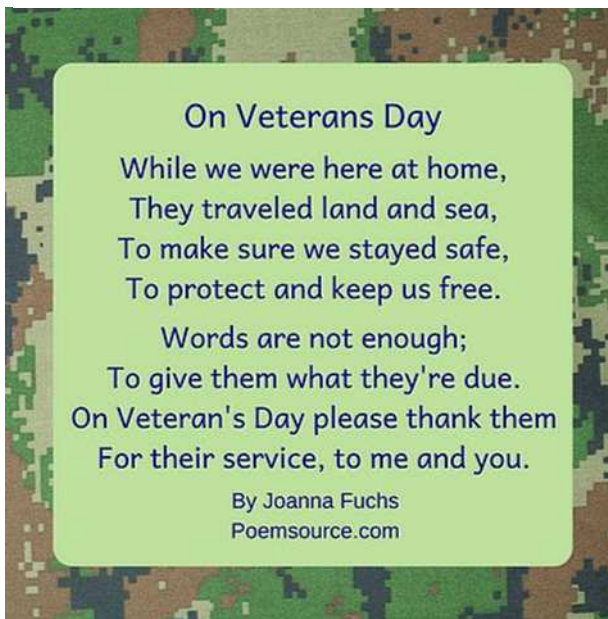
A second world war was fought and this was followed by military action in Korea and later Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. The hope for peace heralded by the World War I armistice still appears dim in the distance. For this reason the holiday known as Armistice Day has been changed to Veterans Day so that all veterans of recent wars, including World War I, may be remembered and honored. - The Speechmaker's Complete Handbook



A Veterans Day Prayer

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. — Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips

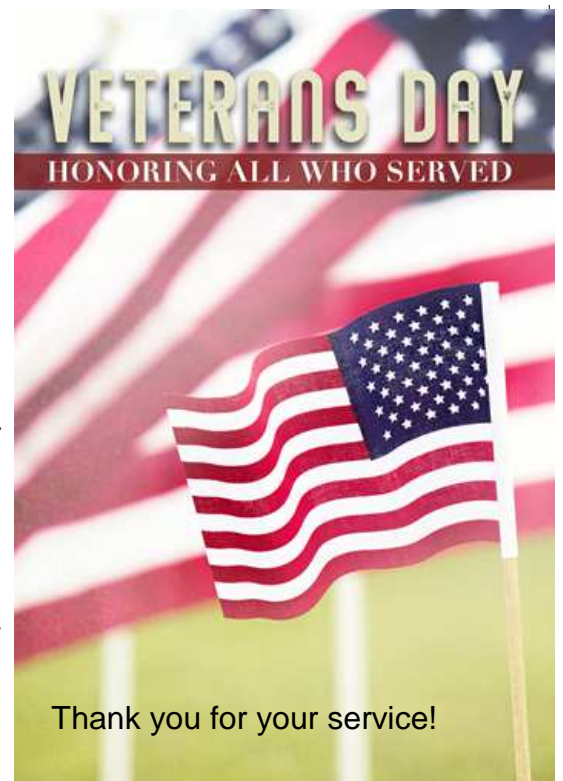


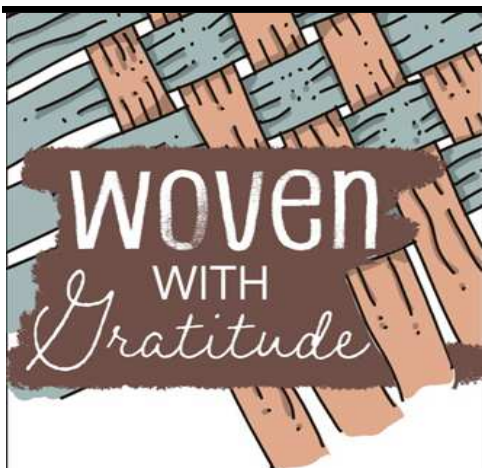
A Veteran's Service

American hero Eddie Rickenbacker (1890-1973) led a life of daring and risk, from racing cars as a teen to piloting warplanes. Throughout his experiences, Rickenbacker grew in faith while discovering that "life had no meaning except in terms of helping others."

In the first issue of *Guideposts* magazine, Rickenbacker described spending four agonizing months of 1941 in the hospital after an accident. While recovering, he pondered life and death, concluding that he couldn't give up because he still "had work to do, others to serve."

Less than two years later, that ordeal came in handy. After crashing in the South Pacific, Rickenbacker and "seven other starving men" were adrift on a raft for 21 days. Most were "so young they needed the strength and understanding of a man who had been down in the valley of the shadow, who had suffered and made sense out of his suffering," he said. "It was clear to me that God had a purpose in keeping me alive. ... I had been saved to serve."





Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



What you need:

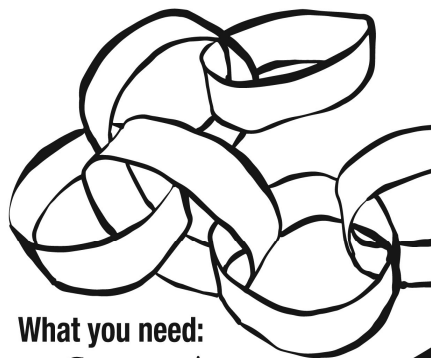
- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!

Links of GRATITUDE

Make this meaningful decoration for your Thanksgiving table.

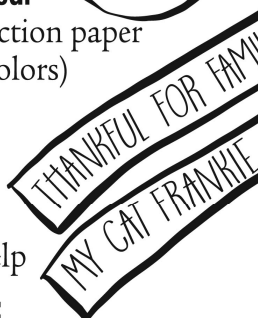


What you need:

- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you're thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.



PRAISE-FILLED petals

Create an interactive display of God's provision for a Thanksgiving centerpiece.



What you need:

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

What you do:

1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.