



NOVEMBER 2023



### Giving Thanks

November is the time we really focus on giving thanks to God for all of His blessings – material and especially spiritual. However we need to remember that giving thanks should not be once a year focus, but an every day of the year focus. God through Paul reminds us of this when Paul, as he is writing his letter to the people of Thessalonica, says this: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

*16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Paul planted the church in Thessalonica on his second missionary trip through Asia Minor (now known as Turkey), and then on to Greece from 50-52 AD. His first stop was Philippi (Acts 16:11-40), then Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9). Paul then goes to Berea (Acts 17:10-15), then off to Athens (Acts 17:16-34). After Athens, Paul moves on to Corinth (Acts 18:1-18).

Paul’s work in Thessalonica was fruitful, but also created a disturbance so upsetting that many of the believers felt it was necessary to send Paul and Silas to Berea for their safety. I encourage you to read about Paul’s stay in Berea (Acts 17:10-15) as it explains why he moves on and I also believe, lays the ground work for the letter that he will eventually write to the believers in Thessalonica while he is staying in Corinth.

This is what the Concordia Study Bible says regarding the purpose for writing the first letter to the believers in Thessalonica.

*Believers in God’s grace came under physical attack at Thessalonica. One of the main reasons for writing 1 Thessalonians may be summarized in a single word – persecution. Paul came to Thessalonica after suffering persecution (beating and imprisonment) at Philippi (2:2). He was forced to leave Thessalonica as a result of persecution. Even then persecution continued from the Jews at Thessalonica, who followed Paul to Berea and stirred up antagonism*

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*there (Acts 17:10-13). Because Paul knew that persecution continued to be a problem at Thessalonica, he sent Timothy to find out what the situation was there (3:1-5) – how the believers in God’s grace were withstanding persecution.*

*Paul writes to encourage these Christians to remain steadfast in the face of such persecution by taking comfort and hope in God’s grace.*

Knowing this, the statement regarding giving thanks in all circumstances makes sense. Paul is encouraging the Thessalonian believers – who are experiencing pressure – AKA – persecution – from the Jews to give thanks even during these difficult times. Of course, the thanks isn’t because they are experiencing persecution, but thanks that even in persecution (difficult times) God has not and will not forsake them. God has been and will continue to be with them.

Someone has said that God has not promised to calm and quiet every storm of life that we experience, but He will always be with us in the darkness and ferocity of the storm.

Every day in my personal devotions, I take time to write down my Thankfulness/Gratitude list and it always begins with the relationship I have with God. It goes like this:

*I thank you God:*

*For your pardon, patience, peace, presence, protection, provision, mercy, grace, faithfulness and blessings.*

I call this my P<sup>6</sup> list.

After this, I then go on to list the other items for which I am thankful.

I may not feel or realize how God fulfills each of these P<sup>6</sup> items every day, but I believe and trust He fulfills these each and every day because of His love for me. I don’t have to have a cognitive awareness of how God revealed each of the P<sup>6</sup> list in my life each day. In the four years that I have been doing the gratitude list as part of my daily devotional routing, I have grown to realize and trust that God does fulfill each P<sup>6</sup> and the entire gratitude list every day of my life, for which I am grateful.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Craig Mathews

## 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.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

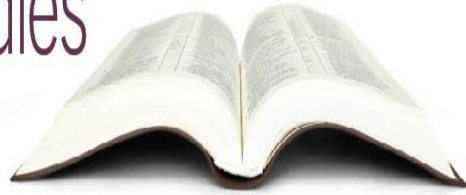


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# Bible Studies



**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** Bible study on Sunday mornings has resumed. Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We will be using a study called “Exploring God’s Word: Old Testament.” Description below is from the CPH website:

*Understanding God’s Word often means looking at it from a fresh perspective – getting “the big picture” as well as the important details. Exploring God’s Word includes 12 individual sessions, maps, charts, a glossary, and a section of intriguing Bible facts. Exploring God’s Word helps you gain a broader understanding of what the Bible means when viewed as a whole – not simply as a collection of individual books.*

**Table Talk:** Table talk is a very informal Bible study now held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, immediately after the 8:45 school chapel service. Participants come with any sort of question. We work to answer those questions from God’s Word and from our Lutheran Confessions. In doing that we all learn more about God’s Word and its application in our lives. We are currently focusing on the book of Exodus. One way or another there is always friendly and interesting discussion.

All are welcome and encouraged to come early to attend the chapel service. Who can’t be cheered by the sound of the children’s voices? There is always coffee and usually doughnuts. Please consider joining us! **Pastor Mathews** is leading the discussion; come and meet him.

## SERVING THE LORD

Interim Pastor     Rev. Craig Mathews

Office Admin Asst     Caitlin Tilton

Organist     Bill Bowers

Choir Director

Newsletter     Pat Finkenbine

School Admin     Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director     Debby Buel

School Admin Asst

### OFFICERS

President     Collins Sita

Vice President     James Kruse

Treasurer     Lucia Kruse

Secretary

### BOARDS

Head Elder

Christian Ed.

Human Care     Jean Cote

Outreach

Assimilation     Joyce Schneider

School Board     Catalina Bakas

Stewardship

Youth

Financial

Secretary     Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt.     Steven Horvath

### GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild     Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour     Joyce Schneider

***The deadline for the December 2023 Newsletter is November 18th.  
PLEASE have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com  
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above. Thank You!***



"I lift my heart to Thee, O God,  
In gratitude and praise.  
For all Thy blessings of the past,  
And those of future days ...

For well I know if I shall live,  
Thy blessings still shall flow  
Across my soul in greater joy  
Than I could ever know ...

I thank Thee for my faithful friends,  
For sunshine and the rain,  
And every blessing hid or seen  
Though some may come through pain.

O God, accept my thanks to Thee  
Each time I come to pray,  
And grant each day that I shall live  
Will be Thanksgiving Day."





# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

## NEWS FROM OUR PTL



Next meeting will be on Nov. 7th at 6pm  
 A great big thank you to the Phil Fessenden  
 Memorial Fund donation of \$1000.00 to  
 Redeemer's PTL.

Be on the lookout for information on  
 after school activity groups and  
 fundraising opportunities.  
 October 19th Awards Night 6pm



## FIELD TRIP HUNSADER FARMS

K-2 grades We will study:  
 About Farm life and animals.

Date: October 17th 9-2 pm

Cost: \$16.00 per child and \$14.00 per  
 adult chaperone

3-6 Grades

Date: October 24 7:30-2pm

Cost: \$16.00 per child and \$14.00 per  
 adult chaperone

Each child will leave with a pumpkin and  
 Fruits and vegetables are available for  
 purchase.



## COMING SOON

October 16 No School

October 31 School Halloween Party and  
 Costume Contest. Time: 1:30-3 pm  
 (Nothing scary, or characters  
 that are violent, bloody, or have  
 weapons, are allowed.)

November 6 Parent Teacher  
 Conferences

November 11 Fall Festival/Chili Cook-Off

November 15 4:00 P.m. Children's  
 Thanksgiving Program



## We All Give Thanks



Letters of the month: P & N & C

Number of the Month: 5

Shape of the month: Triangle

Color of the month: Yellow

Bible Lesson: God Loves Naomi and Ruth

This month we are learning about Giving Thanks for God & Our Families

**What we are learning in VPK A...** This month's lesson study is Balls to go along with the sports season, as well as the letters I, J, K, L. We will also be learning about Thanksgiving and why we celebrate it.

**What we are doing in VPK B...** This month's lesson study is Trees. How they grow and what we get from them. We will be also be learning about harvest time, Native American Family, Thanksgiving, Letters F, T & B.

### Calendar days :

Fall Fest November 11th

## Prayer Requests

**Shut-ins:** Rita Kaufman and Dorothy Sinowetski.

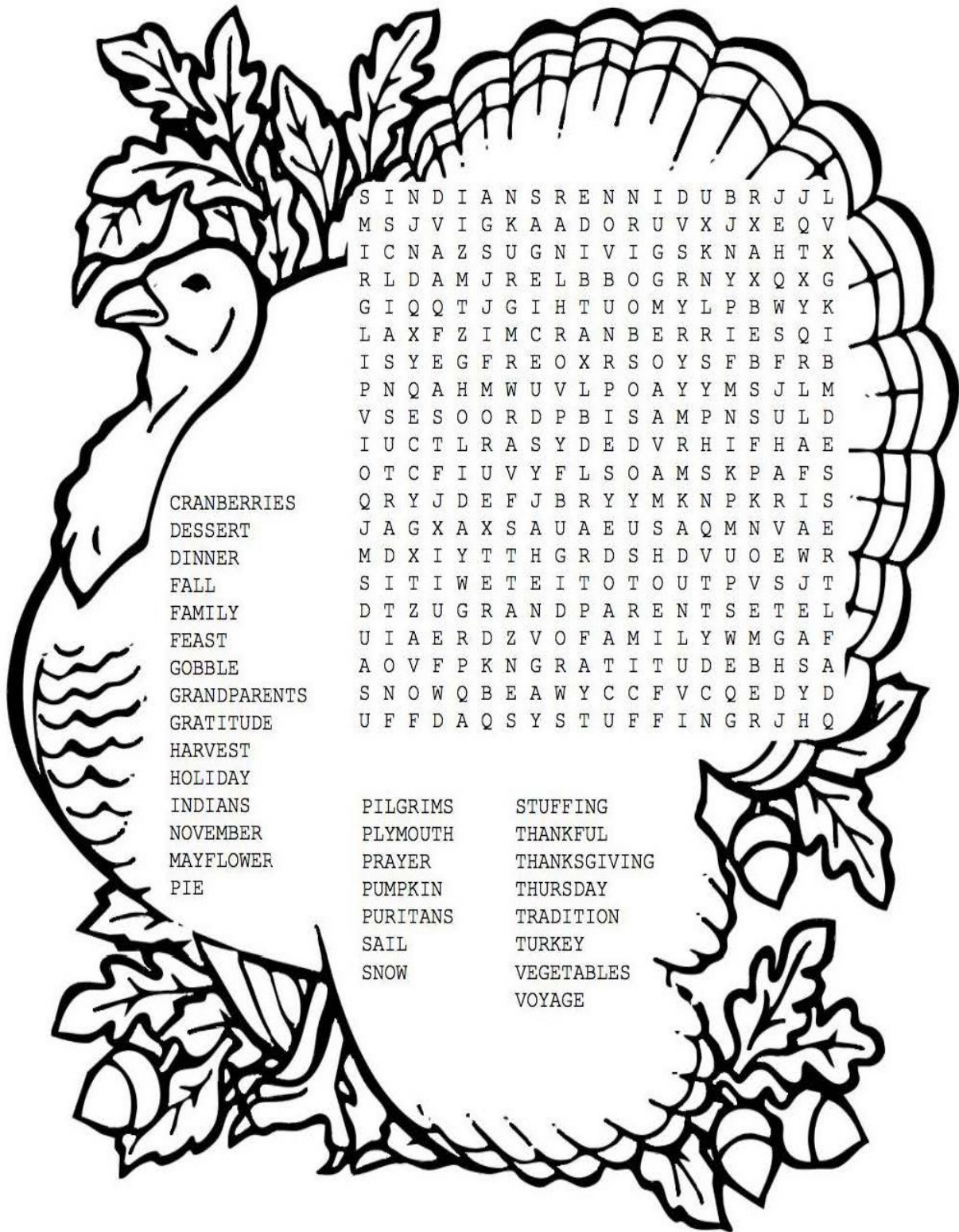
**Healing for members:** Bill Bowers, Jean Cote, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Steven Horvath, Marva Jonas, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Cathy Mielke, Lillian Miles, Colette Nagel, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Joyce Schneider, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

**Friends and relatives:** Family & friends of George Dykhuizen, Barbara George, Mikayla Hacksunda, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, Dave McMullan, Esther Murphy, Rob Powers, Becky Rurade, Laurie Steinke, and Wava Zeitlow.



**Financial information available to all members upon request.**

# Thanksgiving Word Search



CRANBERRIES  
 DESSERT  
 DINNER  
 FALL  
 FAMILY  
 FEAST  
 GOBBLE  
 GRANDPARENTS  
 GRATITUDE  
 HARVEST  
 HOLIDAY  
 INDIANS  
 NOVEMBER  
 MAYFLOWER  
 PIE

PILGRIMS  
 PLYMOUTH  
 PRAYER  
 PUMPKIN  
 PURITANS  
 SAIL  
 SNOW

STUFFING  
 THANKFUL  
 THANKSGIVING  
 THURSDAY  
 TRADITION  
 TURKEY  
 VEGETABLES  
 VOYAGE

S I N D I A N S R E N N I D U B R J J L  
 M S J V I G K A A D O R U V X J X E Q V  
 I C N A Z S U G N I V I G S K N A H T X  
 R L D A M J R E L B B O G R N Y X Q X G  
 G I Q Q T J G I H T U O M Y L P B W Y K  
 L A X F Z I M C R A N B E R R I E S Q I  
 I S Y E G F R E O X R S O Y S F B F R B  
 P N Q A H M W U V L P O A Y Y M S J L M  
 V S E S O O R D P B I S A M P N S U L D  
 I U C T L R A S Y D E D V R H I F H A E  
 O T C F I U V Y F L S O A M S K P A F S  
 Q R Y J D E F J B R Y Y M K N P K R I S  
 J A G X A X S A U A E U S A Q M N V A E  
 M D X I Y T T H G R D S H D V U O E W R  
 S I T I W E T E I T O T O U T P V S J T  
 D T Z U G R A N D P A R E N T S E T E L  
 U I A E R D Z V O F A M I L Y W M G A F  
 A O V F P K N G R A T I T U D E B H S A  
 S N O W Q B E A W Y C C F V C Q E D Y D  
 U F F D A Q S Y S T U F F I N G R J H Q



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE**

6970 Mineola Rd.  
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



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Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: Church.Office@redeemerfl.com

**School Phone: 941-473-7998**

Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

**Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631**

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

**REDEEMER REPORTER**

Published monthly for members, associate members and visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (LCMS).

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Divine Service: 9:15 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am



*The Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care Family are called into the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by His command (Matthew 28:18-20) to:*

- ◆ *Disciple all nations, that is, all people;*
- ◆ *Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;*
- ◆ *Proclaim the Gospel and teach His Word in its truth and purity; and*
- ◆ *Never be ashamed of the Gospel—it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16)*