

**THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**November 26, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**

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**Welcome in Jesus' name.** Please consider using the prelude as a time for meditation and silent prayer. This is the ideal time for quiet preparation, as we come to worship God. Holy Communion is celebrated tonight. All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited forward to receive Holy Communion. Those not communing may come forward to receive a blessing. Communion will be continuous. Please proceed forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available. Please indicate to the Assisting Minister if this is your preference.

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

**\*GATHERING HYMN: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"** – Hymn  
693

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**LITANY OF THANKSGIVING** – Jana Moseley

**P:** Let us give thanks to God for our country and for our president, for ballot boxes, newspaper editorials, and open borders.

**C: For all the freedoms we enjoy.**

**P:** Let us give thanks for this vast world, for diplomats, treaties, and compromise.

**C: For peace in a world of war.**

**P:** For police officers, streetlights, and concerned neighbors.

**C: For safety from fear and harm.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to God for the Scriptures, for creeds and confessions, for the songs and hymns of God's people.

**C: For all good things in our heritage of faith.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to God for a marvelous creation, a redeeming Son, and a transforming Spirit.

**C: For all the benefits of our salvation.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for purple and orange sunsets, bright red flowers, great gray elephants, and the vast blackness of space.

**C: For all the wonders, God, of your creative mind.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for Mozart, Michelangelo, and Milton, for pianos, paint brushes, and pencils.

**C: For all the wonders of our creative minds, made in your image, O Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for Thanksgiving turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

**C: For the abundance of food that sustains our bodies.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for soft beds, warm fires, familiar chairs, and open windows.

**C: For the abundant comfort of our homes.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for cars that run, brand-new shoes, and long, hot showers.

**C: For God's goodness that flows above and beyond our needs.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for healthy immune systems, for gifted doctors and nurses, for the miracle of science.

**C: For the strength and health of our bodies.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for crossword puzzles, learning foreign languages, and the physics that hold our universe in balance.

**C: For healthy, strong minds.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for newborn babies, pesky little brothers, wise grandmothers, favorite uncles, loving parents, and fresh fiancées.

**C: For the families that shaped our lives.**

P: Let us give thanks to God for men and women with dark skin and light skin, freckles and curls, pug noses and beards, graceful limbs, and ample laps.

**C: For all the beautiful diversity of people, all over the world, who make up the one family of God, bound together in Jesus Christ.**

P: For all these things, we give thanks and praise to God.

**C: Amen**

**CHOIR:** "Now We Thank You, Lord" by Nancy Price and Don Besig

**Psalm 126** (*To be read responsively*) – Jana Mosely

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

**then it was said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."**

The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.**

\*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

- Pastor William Runaas, Jr.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 6:25—33**

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:** Pastor William Runaas, Jr.

*Silent time for reflection*

*"It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich."*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**\*HYMN: "Praise and Thanksgiving" – Hymn 689**

**\*NICENE CREED**

P: Using the words of the Nicene Creed let us confess our holy faith:

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead,  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**\*PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING** (*No monetary offering will be collected this evening*)

**COLLECTION OF CANNED FOOD OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY: "God, Whose Farm Is All Creation"** – Hymn 734

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (*Spoken*)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**HYMN: "Here Is Bread"** – Hymn 483

**COMMUNION**

Hymns Sung during Holy Communion:

Hymn 870: **"We Praise You, O God"**

Hymn 840: **"Now Thank We All Our God"**

Hymn 879: **"For the Beauty of the Earth"**

*(You many remain seated)*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**\*HYMN: *Let All Things Now Living***

*(Congregation stands and joins choir on the third verse)*

**Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving  
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
'Til shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,  
As forward we travel from light into light.**

**\*BLESSING**

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

**Participants:**

Presiding Minister

Assisting

Pianist

Choir Director

Acolytes

Holy Communion Servers

Ushers

Pastor William Runaas, Jr.

Jana Moseley

Rachel Boussetot

Diane Christensen

Kale Whitman, Karragan Whitman

Jana Mosely

Deb Detlefs

Marilyn Schau, Larry Schau

Diane Wilhelm, Herb Wilhelm

Following the worship service, you are invited to the dining hall to enjoy some dessert. After you have enjoyed food and fellowship, if you are able, please help carry out the canned goods and help clean up. Thank You!

*"If the only prayer  
you said  
in your whole life was  
'Thank You'  
that would suffice."*

- Meister Eckhart

# Thanks Giving

by Lois Wessels

Thanks for life for each of us.  
Thanks for ears to hear the sounds,  
Of birds and bees and wind in trees.

Thanks for eyes to see this world  
Filled with family and friends.

Thanks for laughter and for tears  
When we need to make amends.

Thanks for always being with me,  
To help me give myself to others.

With your guidance from above,  
To share the simple joy of living,  
Always grateful for your love.

Thank you for the trees and flowers,  
That color the beauty of this earth.

I thank you every single day  
For the moment of my birth.

This, Oh Lord, is my Thanksgiving.  
For all that I am, all that I will be,  
Thank you Lord for loving me.