

Happy Thanksgiving!

I realize that you might be reading this before the election and Thanksgiving is the furthest thing from your mind. Or you might be reading this after the election because it got shuffled amongst the copious amounts of election junk mail from candidates seeking your vote or important measures that need to be considered. Depending on the results of the election, you might not be in the mood to be thankful.

We need to remember that the Thanksgiving Holiday isn't rooted in great times. It's rooted in being thankful to God, Who gives grace, in both adverse conditions and prosperous ones.

The first Thanksgiving feast occurred in 1621, a year after the Pilgrims landed. During that first year, they faced horrible conditions with half of them dying. They celebrated, none the less, giving thanks to God for a fruitful harvest.

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we gathered the fruit of our labors. . . . 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."

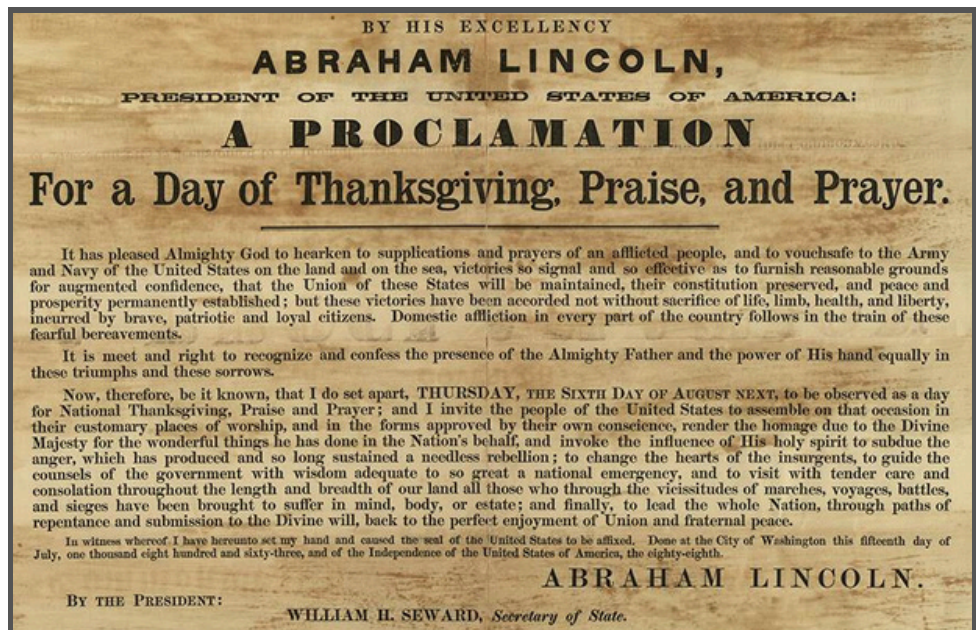
~Edward Winslow writing about the first Thanksgiving meal in 1621~

And then 242 years later, in the midst of our nation divided by the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday.

"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."

~Abraham Lincoln~

Knowing that Thanksgiving isn't necessarily rooted in physical well-being we can be thankful to God for He is good and gracious to His people at all times and in all conditions.



At the Mission we are thankful to God for the great commission. God's call to *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."* This is what our mission statement *"reaching the lost and gathering the reached"* is all about. We strive to reach those separated from God and His people, and gather them into local churches where they can be discipled and be a part of a healthy community. We couldn't do this without the grace of God.

We are funded by generous donations from people in our community and we do not accept any federal, state, or local government funds

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We are thankful to God for local churches that are closely connected to our ministry. From the start, 65 years ago when a dozen local churches gathered together to start the Mission to today when we have dozens of local churches highly involved in our work in many important ways God has always given support through the local church.

We are thankful that God gave us the courage to stay the course as our culture has radically changed over the past 65 years. There was a day when right was right and wrong was wrong, but today many people are hostile to a biblical worldview and as a result, hostile to those who hold it. We trust the Lord to guide us through His Word for many years ahead.

We are thankful that God's plan to save is greater than the government's plan to end homelessness. This confuses and confounds other non-profits and government agencies but by the grace of God, He has made valuable connections that are helpful to us.

We are thankful that God brings men and women our way for restoration. They have so many easier options today that don't require change. But He gives them courage to leave old ways behind and seek a new way of thinking and living.

We are thankful that God has always provided people that support our ministry. Whether its a gift of time, treasures, or talents, thousands of Rogue Valley residents have equipped us to reach the lost and gather the reached for many years. Thank you for your support.

So I encourage you to be thankful to God this Thanksgiving, regardless of the situation in which you find yourself. Know that if God is for you, who can be against you?

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
For his steadfast love endures forever ~ Ps 136 ~*



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ

by Ken & Diane Capp
and by Barbara Carse

In honor of Norm Bishop

by Breta Smith
Donald Schmidt
by Cheryl Schmidt
Brandie Short
by Charlotte Gibbs

In memory of Jerry Armstrong

by Mary Armstrong

In memory of Earl Best

by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis

In memory of Mark Bishop

by Breta Smith

In memory of Hank Delladio

by Mark & Karen Delladio

In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire

by Paul & Janice Roby

In memory of J. W. Gardner

by Gary & Nancy Payton

In memory of Gerald Gleasor

by Lunette Fleming

In memory of Richard Gordon

by Rhonda Gordon

In memory of Don Higgins

by Janice Blankenship

In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter

by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman

In memory of A Dear Person, Jim Stockton

by Lynn Baker

In memory of Glenda Kaiser

by Gary Kaiser

In memory of John Linder

by Duane & Becky Haas

In memory of Lu Lull

by Joyce Lull

In memory of Ronelda McCollum

by Kathleen Frazier

In memory of Vida Melville

by Joanie Ganong

In memory of Don Mitchell

by Eunice Mitchell

In memory of John Mitchell

by Sandra Mitchell

In memory of Billie Ray Nering

by Ken & Diane Capp

In memory of Patricia Piter

by Steve Piter

In memory of David Powell

by Pamela Powell

In memory of David Powell, Sr.

by Pamela Powell

In memory of Bob Robertson

by Jim & Marilyn Kelley

In memory of Jim Ronda

by Connie Ronda

In memory of Jack Salter

by Judy Salter

In memory of Nancy Scafani

by David Scafani

In memory of Jerry Scheid

by Jackie Scheid

In memory of Massoud Shadzad

by Michelle Hobbs

In memory of Garland Shinn

by Glenda Riffle

In memory of Duane Shinn

by Dianne Carter

In memory of B. J. Short III

by Charlotte Gibbs

In memory of Marjorie Skeen

by Big Ken & Sandy Skeen

In memory of Ted Smith

by Sandra Clement

In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer

by David & Helene Uhreen

In memory of Griff & Pat Wilder

by Griff & Kathy Wilder

In memory of Garry Wilson

by Arline Wilson

and by Betty Rule

Thank you for equipping us to restore lives in our community!