

THE CHRIST CHURCH CONNECTION

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE MOTHER CHURCH OF THE DAKOTAS

Season of Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 2017

I WISH YOU A BLESSED "SEASON OF THANKSGIVING"!

I am most pleased to once again wish you a blessed "Season of Thanksgiving"! This month long season is devoted to giving thanks for infinite blessings. In so doing, may we be aware of how much we are loved. Just try to imagine the measureless love that God has for us!

We begin this season by remembering the saints of our lives...those that have passed on and those that are around us each and every day. The saints of our lives are those that gave and give us still, expressions of God's great love. We will celebrate the baptism of Raelyn Marie Plautz, one of our newest saints!

We give thanks for the bounty of Creation as the harvest of the fields, gardens and shimmering blue seas, are gathered. May each day bring moments of thanksgiving for us and may we remember we are The Beloved's stewards of much beauty and abundance. Our nation comes together to celebrate Thanksgiving, on November 23rd. We give thanks that we are citizen stewards of American democracy. The example of respectful dialogue (and truly listening to one another) and a willingness to work together begins with us.

Sunday, November 26th marks the end of the church year as we celebrate the triumphant love of Christ and "Stewardship Sunday." We remember and celebrate that Jesus taught us over and over again that the eternal love within him is also within us...or at least its potential! Furthermore, Jesus' example and his teaching reminds us that we are God's stewards and caretakers of creation and that each of us has much to give. We sometimes call this stewardship as giving of "our time, talent, and treasure."

May the Holy Spirit move us to give with a love that flows out of a grateful heart, whether be giving to the ministry of Christ Church, to charities or other needs. Giving with love is always generous giving.

May the very Spirit of The Beloved give us grateful, loving and Christ-like hearts,



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CREATION CARE

Episcopal Church's House of Bishops September 27, 2017



The Episcopal Church House of Bishops, meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska (Diocese of Alaska) approved and presented the following Word to the Church.

A Word to the Church from The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops Gathered in Fairbanks, Alaska, September 21-26, 2017

The bishops of The Episcopal Church came to Alaska to listen to the earth and its peoples as an act of prayer, solidarity and witness. We came because:

- "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers" (Psalm 24:1-2). God is the Lord of all the earth and of all people; we are one family, the family of God.
- "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are ... members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). The residents of interior Alaska whom we met are not strangers; they are members of the same household of faith.
- People have "become hard of hearing, and shut their eyes so that they won't see with their eyes or hear with their ears or understand with their minds, and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them" (Matthew 13:14-15). We are blind and deaf to the groaning of the earth and its peoples; we are learning the art of prayerful listening.

What does listening to the earth and its people mean? For us bishops, it meant:

- Getting out and walking the land, standing beside the rivers, sitting beside people whose livelihood depends on that land. We had to slow down and live at the pace of the stories we heard. We had to trust that listening is prayer.
- Recognizing that struggles for justice are connected. Racism, the economy, violence of every kind, and the environment are interrelated. We have seen this reality not only in the Arctic, but also at Standing Rock in the Dakotas, in the recent hurricanes, in Flint, Michigan, Charlottesville, Virginia, and in the violence perpetuated against people of color and vulnerable populations anywhere.
- Understanding that listening is deeply connected to healing. In many healing stories in the gospels, Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" That is, he listened first and then acted.

What did we hear?

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CREATION CARE (CON'T)

- “The weather is really different today,” one leader told us. “Now spring comes earlier, and fall lasts longer. This is threatening our lives because the permafrost is melting and destabilizing the rivers. We depend on the rivers.”
- The land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge where the caribou birth their calves is called the “sacred place where life begins,” so sacred the Gwich’in People do not set foot there. “Drilling here,” people said, “is like digging beneath the National Cathedral.”
- After shopping together, a native Episcopalian told one of us how hard it is to even secure food. “We can’t get good food here. We have to drive to Fairbanks. It is a two-hour trip each way.”
What we bishops saw and heard in Alaska is dramatic, but it is not unique. Stories like these can be heard in each of the nations where The Episcopal Church is present. They can be heard in our own communities. We invite you to join us, your bishops, and those people already engaged in this work, in taking time to listen to people in your dioceses and neighborhoods. Look for the connections among race, violence of every kind, economic disparity, and the environment. Then, after reflecting in prayer and engaging with scripture, partner with people in common commitment to the healing of God’s world.

God calls us to listen to each other with increased attention. It is only with unstopped ears and open eyes that our hearts and lives will be changed. It is through the reconciling love of God in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that we and the earth itself will be healed.

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land
and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.
Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities
and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.
Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people
and to shape beloved community.
For you are the One who seeks the lost,
binds our wounds and sets us free,
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.
Amen.

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November is National Prayer month for Kids Hope and we invite everyone to pray for the kids and mentors from Christ Church that are participating in the Kids Hope Program. As always there are students that need you for an hour a week to be a friend.

If you are interested in participating please contact:

Shann Doerr
605-660-7439
shann.doerr@vyn.midco.net.



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November

- 9 Gloria Pearssn
- 10 Corey Vitek
- 11 Joe Kleinschmit
- 14 Mary Sorensen
- 15 Maxine Haberman
- 20 Tom Langdon
- 21 Carol Houtkooper
Ron Lorenzen
- 24 Gert Boyles
Andres Mondragon

November

- 28 Elmo & Pat Christensen



*If your birthday or anniversary was left off our list,
please contact Somer Bares at 665.2456 or email churchsec@iw.net*

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Prayers of the People

I ask for your prayers for:

Kate, Elmo, Carolyn, Elijah, Lynette,
Paul, Tessa, Matt, Tory and Toots



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WHY DO AMERICANS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING DAY?

Many Americans think of Thanksgiving as a wonderful time to celebrate getting out of school for a long weekend, and eating a great dinner. Or, maybe they think it is the start of the Christmas holiday season. What is the real meaning behind Thanksgiving? Catherine Millard writes:

Thanksgiving Feast.

We can trace this historic American Christian tradition to the year 1623. After the harvest crops were gathered in November 1623, Governor William Bradford of the 1620 Pilgrim Colony, "Plymouth Plantation" in Plymouth, Massachusetts proclaimed:

"All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at the Meeting House, on the hill... there to listen to the pastor, and render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings."

Prayer. Copyrighted illustration. Courtesy of Films for Christ.

This is the origin of our annual Thanksgiving Day celebration. Congress of the United States has proclaimed National Days of Thanksgiving to Almighty God many times throughout the following years. On November 1, 1777, by order of Congress, the first National Thanksgiving Proclamation was proclaimed, and signed by Henry Laurens, President of Continental Congress. The third Thursday of December, 1777 was thus officially set aside:

"...for solemn thanksgiving and praise. That with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor;... and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them (their manifold sins) out of remembrance... That it may please Him... to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety under His nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth of 'righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost'..."

George Washington, first President of the United States Then again, on January 1, 1795, our first United States President, George Washington, wrote his famed National Thanksgiving Proclamation, in which he says that it is...

"...our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue is... our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experienced..."

Thursday, the 19th day of February, 1795 was thus set aside by George Washington as a National Day of Thanksgiving.

Statue of Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Wallbuilders.

Many years later, on October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, by Act of Congress, an annual National Day of Thanksgiving "on the last Thursday of November, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." In this Thanksgiving proclamation, our 16th President says that it is...

"...announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord... But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, by the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own... It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people..."

Prayer. Illustration copyrighted. Courtesy of Films for Christ.

So it is that on Thanksgiving Day each year, Americans give thanks to Almighty God for all His blessings and mercies toward us throughout the year.



Season of Thanksgiving

November 2017

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|  <p>5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9 am Serenity 10 am Holy Eucharist, Baptism & Sunday School</p> |  <p>6 1:30 pm Centering Prayer (Olde Rectory) 1-5pm Office Fr. Jim</p> | <p>7 5 pm Fermenting Faith @ Ben's 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim & Somer</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>2 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim & Somer</p> | <p>3 1-3 Office Somer</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>12 9 am Serenity 10 am Morning Prayer & Sunday School UTO In-gathering</p> | <p>13 1:30 pm Centering Prayer (Olde Rectory)</p> | <p>14 5 pm Fermenting Faith @ Ben's 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim & Somer</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>9 7 pm Meditation 1-5 pm Office Somer (Father Jim @ Duck Camp 9th - 12th)</p> | <p>10 1-3 Office Somer</p> | <p>11 </p> |
| <p>19 9 am Serenity 10 am Holy Eucharist, Sunday School & Potluck</p> | <p>20 1:30 pm Centering Prayer (Olde Rectory) 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim</p> | <p>21 5 pm Fermenting Faith @ Ben's 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim & Somer</p> | <p>22 5:15 pm Thanksgiving Worship 1-5 pm Fr. Jim</p> | <p>16 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim & Somer</p> | <p>17 1-3 Office Somer</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>26 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9 am Serenity 10 am Holy Eucharist & Sunday School</p> | <p>27 1:30 pm Centering Prayer (Olde Rectory) 5 pm Vestry Meeting 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim</p> | <p>28 5 pm Fermenting Faith @ Ben's 1-5 pm Office Somer</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30 7 pm Meditation 1-5 pm Office Somer</p> |  | <p>25</p> |
| <p>19 9 am Serenity 10 am Holy Eucharist, Sunday School & Potluck</p> | <p>20 1:30 pm Centering Prayer (Olde Rectory) 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim</p> | <p>21 5 pm Fermenting Faith @ Ben's 1-5 pm Office Fr. Jim & Somer</p> | <p>22 5:15 pm Thanksgiving Worship 1-5 pm Fr. Jim</p> | <p>23 </p> | <p>24 1-3 Office Somer</p> | <p>25</p> |