

The *First* Word

Volume 16, Issue 2

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

November, 2014

Seek **FIRST** His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Special November Dates

All Saints Day.....Nov. 1	First Edition Book Club at home of Sam Toombs
Daylight Saving Time ends.....Nov. 2	All Saints Sunday
Election Day.....Nov. 4	
Martin Luther's B'day (1483)....Nov. 10	
Veterans Day.....Nov. 11	FLS Parent/Teacher.....Nov. 11-14 Conferences
EARLY DEADLINE for.....Nov. 14	December First Word
FLS Day at Taco John's.....Nov. 20	
Christ the King Sunday.....Nov. 23	
Thanksgiving Feast.....Nov. 25	in Ms. Westerbuhr's class
Thanksgiving Day.....Nov. 27	
First Sunday in Advent.....Nov. 30	

Rev. David Warner, pastor and missionary to Spain, to be guest preacher

Please plan to attend worship on Sunday, November 30, 2014, when Reverend David Warner, a new LCMS missionary to Spain, will be our special guest. Rev. Warner will preach at both worship services and lead us during adult Bible study between services.

Some of you may remember that Rev. Warner gave the sermon during the installation service for Associate Pastor Jason Toombs. He was also the pastor in Sidney, Montana, when Pastor Toombs did his vicarage work there.

Rev. Warner is required to pay his and his family's travel expenses to Spain, and we want to help him with this expense as much as possible. Please consider giving an offering specifically designated for him on that day.

In addition, we will host a luncheon for Rev. Warner immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. A free-will offering for the luncheon would be very much appreciated, and all the proceeds will be used for Rev. Warner's travel expenses to Spain. Thrivent Financial will sponsor the luncheon.

Thrivent Financial to discontinue chapter structure, switch to Action Team concept

The Board of Directors of Lewis and Clark County Chapter 30515 of Thrivent Financial has been notified that, as of the end of 2014, the chapter structure will no longer be in place. To replace the chapter system, Thrivent has recently put into place a program called **Thrivent Action Teams**, and boards and committees at First Lutheran that have in past years submitted requests to the chapter for matching funds for their fundraisers will now need to work with the Action Team concept if they desire financial help with a project.

By going to the Thrivent website: <https://www.thrivent.com/actionteam/index.html> Thrivent members can watch a video about one member's journey through the **Thrivent Action Team** experience; a listing of "101 Thrivent Action Team Ideas" for service projects, fundraisers and educational opportunities, and a *very*

complete guide to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about Action Teams. It all starts with an idea. Is there an unmet need that you, as an eligible Thrivent member, want to impact? Why not bring a team together and take action by doing a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days.

When an eligible Thrivent member applies to lead a team, Thrivent will send that member a Thrivent Action Team Kit to help kick-start the project. The member may customize his or her kit with the following resources: A promotional banner; invitations and thank you cards; "Live Generously" t-shirts and a \$250 Visa *Community Impact Card* to be used as seed money for the project.

See **ACTION TEAMS** Pg. 2



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Action Teams

Continued from Pg. 1

Thrivent Action Teams are all about activating Thrivent members to live out our mission on the ground in their own way—around the needs of their local community.

Here are some simple guidelines for eligible Thrivent members to consider when planning projects:

- **Involve others.** It's about your friends, family and your community coming together to serve to have a greater impact.
- **Not a gift or grant.** Use the \$250 seed money to purchase project supplies and promotional materials to make your project a success!
- **One Action Team, One project.** Multiple Thrivent Action Teams **cannot** be used for the **same** project—you can support the same cause, but use your creativity to generate new project ideas to attract more volunteers and have an even greater impact!

- **Report.** Share your stories, photos and participant info with the Thrivent home office after the event—this step must be completed before applying to lead your next Thrivent Action Team!



Each eligible Thrivent member is eligible to lead **two** Thrivent Action Teams **per calendar year**.

If Thrivent members need ideas for projects, they may check out the “**101 Thrivent Action Team Ideas**” on the

Resources page at:

<https://www.thrivent.com/actionteam/>

The “101 Thrivent Action Team Ideas” include examples of **Service Projects for Youth and Family**, such as checking smoke detectors for the elderly or holding a teddy bear drive for hospitalized children.

Seasonal Service Projects on the list include a winter coat drive or a snow removal program for the homebound.

Examples of **Fundraising Activities for Youth and Family** include a fashion show or murder mystery dinner.

Examples of **Seasonal Fundraisers** include sleigh or hay rides; a holiday turkey or ham raffle and wrapping Christmas gifts for donations.

Educational Activities on the list include an identity theft workshop and a cooking on a budget workshop.

If Thrivent members have **questions**, they should **contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at (toll-free): 800-847-4836** and say “**Fraternal**” when prompted, **OR**, they may send an email to: fraternal@thrivent.com.

FROM GOD GIFTS

Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments. To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover His heart. To discover His heart is to discover not just good gifts, but the Good Giver.

Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up.

— Max Lucado, *You'll Get Through This*

A LOOK At Our Budget

A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>September, 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015 Y-T-D</u>
Income	\$46,471.24	\$132,527.55
Expense	\$48,632.83	\$127,876.42
Gain/Loss	(\$ 2,161.59)	\$ 4,651.13

The First Word

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First Lutheran Church
2231 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601
(406)442-5367



Rev. Larry A. Miller.....*Pastor*
Rev. Jason Toombs.....*Associate Pastor*
Linda Fromm.....*Editor*
Susan McCormack.....*Calendar/Servant Schedule*
Volunteer Staff.....*Collation*

Deadline for the December First Word is Friday, Nov. 14. Place articles in the *First Word* box in the church office or e-mail them to: fozziehoot1917@bresnan.net.



Greg Anderson, in *Living Life on Purpose* tells a story about a man whose wife had left him. He was completely depressed. He had lost faith in himself, in other people, in God--he found no joy in living. One rainy morning this man went to a small neighborhood restaurant for breakfast. Although several people were at the diner, no one was speaking to anyone else. Our miserable friend hunched over the counter, stirring his coffee with a spoon.

In one of the small booths along the window was a young mother with a little girl. They had just been served their food when the little girl broke the sad silence by almost shouting, "Momma, why don't we say our prayers here?" The waitress who had just served their breakfast turned around and said, "Sure, honey, we pray here. Will you say the prayer for us?" The dear little child turned and looked at the rest of the people in the restaurant and said, "Bow your heads." Surprisingly, one by one, the heads went down. The little girl then bowed her head, folded her hands, and said, "God is great, God is good, and we thank Him for our food. Amen."

That prayer changed the entire atmosphere. People began to talk with one another. The waitress said, "We should do that every morning."

"All of a sudden," said our friend, "my whole frame of mind started to improve. From that little girl's example, I started to thank God for all that I did have and stop majoring in all that I didn't have. **I started to be grateful.**"



This Thanksgiving time of the year is a good time also for us to stop focusing on what we do not have and to thank God for all that He has so graciously given. In fact, this Thanksgiving I have a challenge for us: **Let's practice our A-B-C's** and work through the alphabet, naming at least one thing for every letter from A to Z for which we are each thankful to the God of all grace and all mercy! Perhaps, for example, we could thank God for Alabaster, Bacon, Caring people, and, well, you get the idea.

What cause we have for gratitude to God, not only at Thanksgiving, but always. What songs of thanks and praise we can sing for His best of all gifts: life here and life eternal there; forgiveness of sins; salvation; the gifts of the Holy Spirit; and oh, so much more, because of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Blessings to you and yours this Thanksgiving!
May it be for us more than a day, but the beginning
of many days, weeks, months, perhaps **an entire year,**
of gratitude to our gracious God!

Pastor Miller

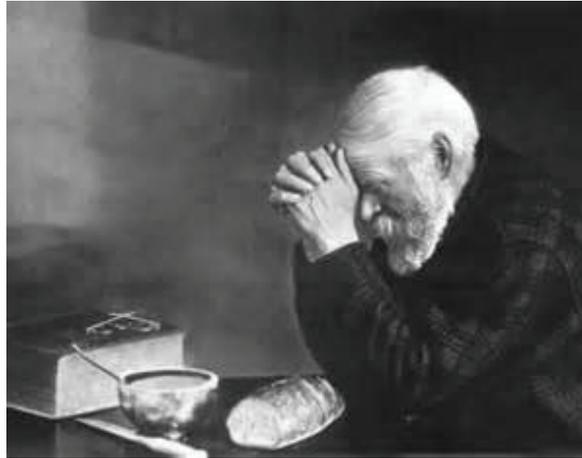
“Give us this day our daily bread...” — from your Board of Stewardship

Have you ever noticed how children emulate their parents? Children watch their parents and they do what they see them doing. This is how they learn to speak. They watch the shape and form of their parents' mouths and they try to make the same shape so that they can make the same sounds.

But children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything: and children try to copy it. This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable, and sometimes rather embarrassing, situation where a child does or says what one of their parent's have done or said...something that is not too flattering! Sitcoms thrive on this sort of thing. And it only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents. And they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.” We are born again, born from above, born of

water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs; heirs



who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, because of His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to lead holy lives. We are strengthened to emulate the generosity of our heavenly Father by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven. More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Cate-

chism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

“Give us this day our daily bread. *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week, and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. Not because He has commanded us so to do, but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

— This article is taken from the National LCMS website

**Thank
You!**

Pastor and Samantha Toombs would like to thank everyone for the “pounding” received at the hands of First Lutheran members. They admit they were a little frightened when they

first heard that they were to be “pounded,” but it ended up being a wonderful way for members to welcome them.

When it was explained to Pastor Toombs to what the pounding referred, he asked if there was a pound of butter, sugar, flour, and eggs. If you

don't know why he asked that question, get him to explain some time.

Pastor Toombs and Samantha would like to thank our members once again for everything else that First's members have done for them as they try to settle into their new home and community.

**November 1***Harmony Letang***November 3**

Richard Anderson
Joseph Jurenka
Brynn Walker
Wanda Warsinski

November 4

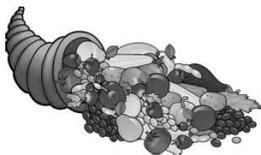
Caleb Blokzyl
Katya Peterson

November 5

Joyce Johnson
Kathryn Mohs
Keagan Shearer

November 7

Claudia Cook
Kieran Ellwein
Elana Icenoggle

**November 9**

Orin Bjerke
Roy Bjornson
Rachelle Sparks
Jason Toombs
Hank Trenk
Bailey Vaira

November 10

Shauna Eccleston
Deborah Knudsen

November 11

Kathleen Blokzyl
Violet Erdman
Shawn Peterson

November 12*Katharine Antonick***November 13**

Charles Kesner
Richard Veach

November 15*Joseph Jurenka***November 16**

Olivia Mercer
David Stockburger

November 17

Kathleen Basinger
Tyler Northrup
Dale Person
John Stelter

November 18

Karen Cable
Danny Hartford
Grayson Weber

November 19*Orville Tiensvold***November 20**

Cleo Anderson
Jeff Tamblyn

November 22

Roger Anderson
Aleigha Spatzierath

November 23*Tyler Eccleston***November 24**

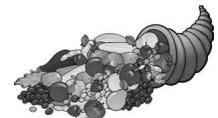
Alice Anderberg
Mark Walker

November 25

Jacob Schmeltzer
Ben Wareham

November 27*Debbie Williams***November 28**

Robert Clearman
Cory Gunderson

November 29*Del Lonnquist***November 30***Joan Fabricius*

Thanksgiving thought



We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from Him the little things?

If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is too paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ.

— *from Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*

Live in this moment

I was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly, God was speaking: "MY NAME IS 'I AM.'"

I waited, God continued: "When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there.

MY NAME IS NOT 'I WAS.'

"When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there.

MY NAME IS NOT 'I WILL BE.'

"When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here.

MY NAME IS 'I AM.'"

— *Plaque on the wall of ranch guest house kitchen St. Benedict's Monastery, Snowmass, Colorado*



John 11:25

News and Noteworthy — from Pastor Toombs



Friday, Oct 31 - Trunk or Treat - Come out and celebrate Reformation Day with us at our annual Trunk or Treat. We'll have games, treats and lots of fun, and we don't want you to miss it! We have heard that Pastor Toombs will be dressing up, too!

Saturday, November 1 - Youth Truth Project - Rick and Lori Northrup will be hosting the "Truth Project" at their house at 6 p. m. All high school youth are encouraged to attend as we continue to work through this series.



Sunday, November 2 - All Saints Day (Observed) - A day to remember all the faithfully departed saints. A day to sing about rest, relaxation and heaven. A day to praise God for remaining faithful unto the end. When we come to the altar, we remember that we are being hosted by Jesus, who brings the angels, archangels and the whole company of heaven around Himself at the same meal in heaven.



Sunday, November 16 - High School Youth Meeting - Following late service, from 12:30 to 2 p. m., there will be a youth meeting with pizza provided. The meeting will include a devotion and a meeting about upcoming activities, and we'll finish with a board game or two.



Thursday, November 20 - First Lutheran School Taco John's fundraiser - Help support our school by grabbing a taco or two (pick up a flyer from FLS Director Denise Underwood) and part of the sale will be donated to FLS. It's an easy fundraiser for the school ... and a tasty one, too!



Sunday, November 30 - Rev. David Warner will preach and present about serving as a missionary to Spain. Rev. Warner preached at the Installation of Rev. Toombs and will be here to present on his future mission work in Spain, where he will be planting churches and sharing the Gospel with everyone in the area around Seville.



A luncheon will be provided following the 11 a.m. worship service.



First Sunday of Advent

As the Church Year turns - November 30 is the First Sunday in Advent and, with it, a change in the church year. It will also bring a change of colors, from green to blue. It should also be a time of renewed Bible study, and for that we offer the following studies:

Sunday morning "Li'l Books of the New Testament" adult Bible study

"Weeping with Jeremiah" high school Bible study

"Growing in Christ" Sunday School

Wednesday noon Women's Bible study

Thursday noon Men's Bible study

Looking forward to Advent midweek services - We will also have Advent midweek services. The theme for this year is "The Light of the World." As the days begin to turn darker and the cold starts to set in, Christ, "The Light of the World," comes to dwell among us. Services will be held every Wednesday at 12:10 and 6:30 p. m.

Pre-Turkey Day - With Thanksgiving as a day to spend with family and offering up your thanks for everything God has given you, we won't interfere with the cooking and festivities.



We will be hosting a Thanksgiving Eve meal and worship service at our normal 5:30 p.m. time. This way, on Thanksgiving Day, you can catch up with family and friends and not have to worry about the turkey in the oven or the one on the couch while you're at church.

Confirmation Thank You - Thank you to Bruce and Joyce Nachtsheim for hosting the Confirmation Retreat at their home, and thank you to Jerry and Bridget Michel for staying the night with the kids.



Sixteen confirmation kids enjoyed the time they spent with one another by going on a treasure hunt, receiving "The Light of the World," watching "Seasons of Gray" and "Blindside," and having a wonderful breakfast!

Thank you to Pastor and Shari Miller for helping to teach the youth the next morning back at the church, and thank you to parents for helping to make sure your kids attended the retreat.



Happenings at First Lutheran School

Pastors

Rev. Larry Miller & Rev. Jason Toombs
Director
 Denise Underwood



Thank you to ALL who helped make our Silent Auction/Luau a wonderful success! We are blessed to have so many school and church families support us and understand the importance of a Christian education!



First Lutheran School Day at Taco John's

(1450 Prospect Avenue) is Thursday, Nov. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m.

You can take a ticket with our school name on it, or just mention our school when ordering, and **Taco John's will donate 50 percent of all proceeds during that time to our school!** Eat in or carry out. Take a break from cooking before the holidays!



Thank you for ALL the Box Tops for Education! We sent our first batch in on Oct. 27, and the total was over \$150. Please **KEEP SAVING!** We will send another batch in February. Box Top sheets, onto which you can save/clip and paste your box tops, can be found in the school office.

In **Miss Westerbuhr's class**, we have had fun doing Pumpkin Math and carving pumpkins.

Our new "popcorn words" are: is, go and funny.

We are planning to hold our Thanksgiving feast, with all the trimmings, on Tuesday, November 25. We have a great God, and we thank Him for all things!



In **Mrs. Smith's class**, students are reading chapter books. The "Flat Stanley" book will be assigned to some children, and "The Whipping Boy" will be assigned to others.

In spelling, the kids are writing sentences with their spelling words, and we certainly have some creative kids!



We would love to have you join us for our **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE** on Wednesday, November 26, at 6:30 p.m. Come early (5:30 p.m.) and join us for dinner.

What a wonderful way to celebrate and give thanks for ALL the things our loving God does for us!

Worship with us every Sunday at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Adult Bible study and children's Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m.

Teachers

Heather McIntosh,
 Heidi Westerbuhr, Stacy Smith,
 Donna Fischer and Melissa Mousel



After learning about fire safety, **Mrs. Fischer's Prekindergarten classes** invited all the students in our school to see a presentation by four fire people, thanks to the efforts of Kim Beaver. The kids had a surprise visit from Smokey Bear and everyone enjoyed seeing the **BIG GREEN FIRE TRUCK** in our parking lot!

The kids have been working on the letters Kk, Hh and Nn.

Mrs. Mousel's 3 -and 4-year-old classes have been learning the letters Cc and Dd, and must find words that start with these letters.

In worship, the kids are talking about the life of Moses.

In **Miss McIntosh's class**, Ethan, Sam and Makenzie headed to London, England in the Reading Around the World program.

In religion, the kids have been taking a closer look at Martin Luther and the Reformation.

In science class, the kids will be studying a unit about birds and fish.



Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Nov. 11–14. Sign-up sheets can be found in—or next to—your child's classroom.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL
 Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Thrivent Financial Chapter

30515 will match up to \$1,000 for the school's Luau/Silent Auction fundraiser. What a wonderful way to help our school!



First Lutheran Church
2231 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (406)442-5367
Fax: (406)442-5285
Web site: www.firstlutheranhelena.org
E-mail: firstlutheranchurch@bresnan.net

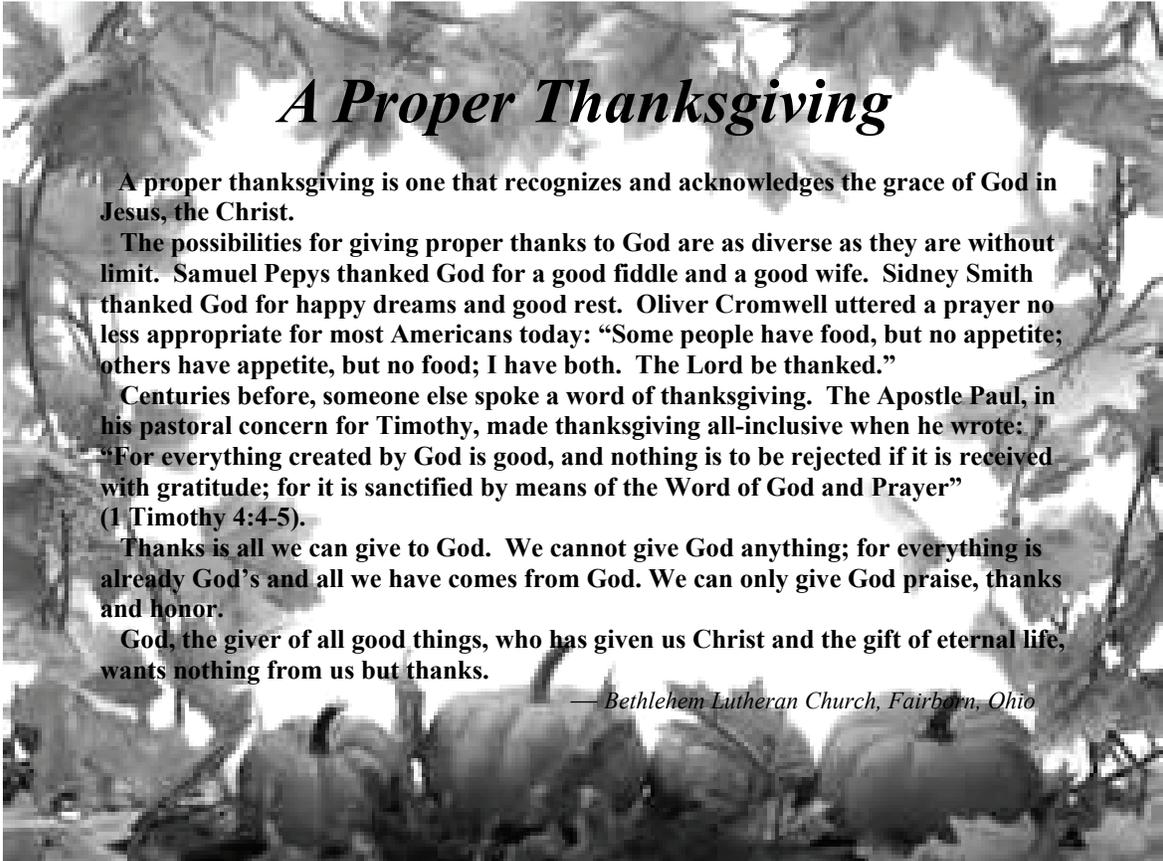
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a
Congregation of The Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod

**THE MISSION of First Lutheran
Church is "Sharing God's Word
with Everyone, Everywhere!"**

Tune in to—*The Lutheran Hour*—KAWZ 90.9 FM—Sundays at 8 a.m.; KCAP 1340 AM—Sundays at 9 a.m.
"Woman to Woman"—105.3 KMTX FM—Sundays at 9:30 p.m.
"Making a World of Difference"—Channel 11—Fridays at 5 p.m.



A Proper Thanksgiving

A proper thanksgiving is one that recognizes and acknowledges the grace of God in Jesus, the Christ.

The possibilities for giving proper thanks to God are as diverse as they are without limit. Samuel Pepys thanked God for a good fiddle and a good wife. Sidney Smith thanked God for happy dreams and good rest. Oliver Cromwell uttered a prayer no less appropriate for most Americans today: "Some people have food, but no appetite; others have appetite, but no food; I have both. The Lord be thanked."

Centuries before, someone else spoke a word of thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul, in his pastoral concern for Timothy, made thanksgiving all-inclusive when he wrote:

"For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the Word of God and Prayer"

(1 Timothy 4:4-5).

Thanks is all we can give to God. We cannot give God anything; for everything is already God's and all we have comes from God. We can only give God praise, thanks and honor.

God, the giver of all good things, who has given us Christ and the gift of eternal life, wants nothing from us but thanks.

—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairborn, Ohio