

For the Parents:

Thanksgiving edition

What you need to know now:

A note from the editorial staff:

In this newsletter we want to share articles we have discovered that may help you and your family find meaningful ways to celebrate and enjoy Thanksgiving; and prepare for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We ask in advance that you forgive us if we overreach our goal of informing and encouraging your family. Our intent is not to create more stress or to judge how you celebrate the holidays. Our wish is that you and your family take time to enjoy God's bounty and abundant grace. To that end, may we offer ideas and suggestions for you and your family?

We are excited about the many activities we have scheduled for the end of November and early December. This will be a busy time for everybody as the "holiday season" is upon us. Keep your calendars handy and attend only the programs you believe you and your family members will enjoy. Most of these events do not require mandatory participation. Be good stewards of your time opting to develop and strengthen your ties to your family and to God.

1. Confirmants and their mentors are required to fellowship and play Whirly ball on Saturday Nov. 21st between 10am - 2pm. Please meet at the church.
2. Annual MSYF Lock-in Saturday, Nov. 21st begins at 8:00 pm. Enchanted Castle, Pizza, worship, movies! Special arrival and departure times can be arranged by contacting Angie at YPCAngie@aol.com.
3. Nov. 25th Thanksgiving Eve Worship – No MSYF. Instead, come and give thanks for God's goodness, enjoy special music, and celebrate Holy Communion.
4. Nov. 29th Decorating Party – help decorate your church home after the second Service ~12:15pm
5. Sunday night, Dec, 6th, Join Rev. Dr. Alice Winters as she offers a special Advent Bible study to understand that Advent is not just waiting to re-enact the birth of Christ, but also waiting for the second coming of the Messiah. (6-8 p.m.) The following week, Dec. 13th, she will share about her experiences as a missionary. Same time.
6. Sat. Dec. 19th Pageant rehearsal for those middle school students who are participating (9:30-11 a.m.)
7. Sat. Dec. 19th Toburen Open House (2 p.m. – 6 p.m.)
8. Sun. Dec. 20th Christmas Pageant during the second Service at 11:15 am

What I Like About You... Take a few minutes and make a list of the things you like about your family members. Then, cut your list into individual strips and each day slip a strip into a lunch bag, under a coffee cup, or place the strip on a bed pillow. Use your imagination but be sure the person will be able to find it!

Does this surprise you?

In *Group Magazine's* annual survey of almost 30,000 Christian teenagers, 52% of kids said "Spending time with my parents is one of my favorite things to do." But almost 40% said "I'm around my parents a lot, but we rarely have long, enjoyable conversations." Ellen Galinsky of the Families and Work Institute says, "Not only is the amount of time the parents spend with their kids important, but what happens in that time is also important.... Particularly important to young people is that there's time to hang around together."

FAMILY CHALLENGES: DEVELOPING GOOD HABITS

Cultivating a Thankful Heart

By Jim Liebelt

One of my favorite holidays is Thanksgiving! While great food, friends, family and football make for a wonderful day, taking time out of my fast-paced life to think through the many blessings and to express gratitude to God and to others is really why I love this holiday so much. An attitude of gratitude, of course, shouldn't be a once-a-year deal, and hopefully cultivating a thankful heart goes beyond that one special Thursday in November for all of us. Still, it doesn't hurt to rev up our gratitude "engines" as we get closer to Thanksgiving Day. Here are some ideas for you and your family that can help do just that!

Thank God for Today. All we really have is today. Thank God for giving us this day. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

Thanks for Freedom! Thank God for allowing us to live in a democracy where we are allowed to vote. Sure, we don't live in a "perfect" country, but we can certainly be thankful for the many freedoms we enjoy that many countries don't.

Thank God for Silence. Due to the fast pace of our lives these days, most of us have forgotten the gifts of silence and reflection. Take a few minutes sometime today, find a quiet spot and think of things you are grateful for.

Thanks for the Encouragement! Today, think of someone in your past who has helped you to know God better. Mail them a note, send them an email or tell them in person that you are thankful for their help along the way.

Thanks for the Pain? We all have hard times, but God is with us even in the worst circumstance. Thank God for His presence, comfort and strength that has helped you get through a rough season in your life.

Give Thanks for God's Word. Offer up thanks to God today, for giving us the Scriptures. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Wake Up and Smell the Coffee We all get so busy that we can ignore the wonders all around us – like the smell of coffee when we get up, the roses in the backyard, or a friend who drops by to say hello. Today, take time to notice your surroundings and thank God for the things we often take for granted.

Little Things Make a Difference. We often ignore the little things in life that make life easier and better for us. Today, make a list of 'little things' that you appreciate. For example, my list will include indoor plumbing, refrigerators and my laptop computer.

Positive Thoughts Only! Okay, this one will take some work, but strive today to think only positive thoughts about other people and the situations you find yourself in. You'll be amazed at how this improves your day – and you're likely to find how your positive attitude affects others as well!

Knowing Jesus. I cannot explain to you how thankful I am that I have been blessed with the opportunity to know Jesus. The difference He's made in my life – through knowing Him as Savior and Lord – cannot be measured. Today, give thanks for knowing the Savior!

Prayer Path Today, say a quick prayer of thanks for everyone who crosses your path – like the cashier at the Burger King or the person delivering your morning paper.

Heritage! Today, thank God for the long line of Christ-followers who have gone before us as well as those who share in and encourage our faith these days. Their faith and faithfulness to share it with us is a tremendous heritage!

The Blessing of Family and Friends. Make a brief list of why you are thankful for these people. Thank God by name for each person you spend time with. Tell each person why you are thankful for them.

Take a Trip Down Memory Lane. You probably have photos or videos from Thanksgiving celebrations from the past. Take some time today to remember Thanksgivings gone by and thank God for the loved ones you've spent these holidays with.

Take a Hike! Enjoy a walk, take a hike, or do whatever you can do and like to do. Thank God for your physical abilities. We might not be in the best physical condition, but we can still give thanks for the capabilities we do have!

God's Work in You. It's not uncommon to overlook the difference God is making in your own life. Take a few moments to make a list of things you appreciate about yourself. Remember, God is at work in your life – so thank Him for it!
“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Thanks for the Service! Make a special effort to say thank you to anyone who provides you with a service. The barista at Starbucks, for example, might be pleasantly shocked when you tell him or her how great a job they've done preparing your pumpkin-spice latte.

***Jim Liebelt is Senior Editor of Publications for HomeWord, and the Senior Writer, Editor and Researcher for the Center for Youth and Family at Azusa Pacific University.*

**Did you think we would forget Bible readings?
These passages provide insights into thankfulness.**



The key Scripture verses are:

1 Chronicles 16:7-36?

You may be familiar with the Magnificat: Mary's song of praise found in Luke 1:46-55; but have you read David's song of praise?

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus healed us as well as the lepers. Are you remembering to thank Jesus for His healing?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶Always be joyful. ¹⁷Keep on praying. ¹⁸No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Most kids will read their Bibles, but they need encouragement to do it.

Thanksgiving Quiz

1. How long did it take for the Pilgrims to reach the New World?
 - A. 38 days
 - B. 66 days
 - C. 96 days
2. What was the name of the covenant signed by the Pilgrims following their landing?
 - A. The Plymouth Treaty
 - B. The Lobster Accord
 - C. The Mayflower Compact
3. In what year did the Pilgrims have their first Thanksgiving meal?
 - A. 1608
 - B. 1621
 - C. 1624
4. Which of the following items was not part of the first Thanksgiving meal?
 - A. Fowl
 - B. Potatoes
 - C. Fish
5. What are the oldest remaining documents about the first Thanksgiving?
 - A. Pilgrim's Progress
 - B. Letters by a Pilgrim
 - C. Plymouth Essays
6. In 1676, a day of thanksgiving was proclaimed. In what month did that day take place?
 - A. June
 - B. October
 - C. November
7. Which United States President established Thanksgiving as a national holiday?
 - A. Thomas Jefferson
 - B. Abraham Lincoln
 - C. Dwight Eisenhower
8. Which United States President moved the official date of Thanksgiving two times during his presidency?
 - A. Abraham Lincoln
 - B. Woodrow Wilson
 - C. Franklin Roosevelt
9. Why was Thanksgiving finally moved up a week?
 - A. To increase the chance of better traveling weather
 - B. To make the celebration closer to the first Thanksgiving date
 - C. To lengthen the Christmas shopping season
10. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was first held in what year?
 - A. 1924
 - B. 1927
 - C. 1931

Turkey Trivia Quiz

1. What is the bright red appendage at the neck of a turkey called?
 - A. Beard
 - B. Wattle
 - C. Collar
2. What is the appendage that hangs over the turkey's beak called?
 - A. Gobbler
 - B. Snout
 - C. Snood
3. What is a baby turkey called?
 - A. Poult
 - B. Tommy
 - C. Chick
4. How many toes does a turkey have on each foot?
 - A. 3
 - B. 4
 - C. 5
5. What is a large group of turkeys called?
 - A. Flock
 - B. Pride
 - C. Gaggle
6. What is the most popular form of eating turkey?
 - A. Roasted
 - B. Soup
 - C. Sandwich
7. At maturity, turkeys have about how many feathers?
 - A. 3,500
 - B. 1,500
 - C. 500
8. On average, how much turkey is eaten per person in the United States?
 - A. 12 pounds
 - B. 19 pounds
 - C. 23 pounds?
9. Which state produces the greatest number of turkeys?
 - A. North Carolina
 - B. Minnesota
 - C. New York
10. How long does it take to raise a turkey for production?
 - A. 6 weeks
 - B. 3 months
 - C. 5 months

Thanksgiving Quiz Answers:

1. B. 66 days
2. C. The Mayflower Compact
3. B. 1621
4. B. Potatoes
5. B. Letters by a Pilgrim
6. A. June
7. B. Abraham Lincoln
8. C. Franklin Roosevelt
9. C. To lengthen the Christmas shopping season
10. A. 1924

Turkey Trivia Quiz Answers:

1. B. Wattle
2. C. Snood
3. A. Poult
4. B. 4
5. A. Flock
6. C. Sandwich
7. A. 3,500
8. B. 19 pounds
9. A. North Carolina
10. C. 5 months

Ideas for Helping Others at the Holiday Season



Matt. 10:8

Jesus said, “*Freely you have received; freely give.*”

Though our lives may not always be everything we hope them to be, for the vast majority of Americans, our lives are richly blessed. One of the ways we can demonstrate that we are grateful to God for his many blessings, is to help others. The holiday season is a great time for your family to get involved in helping to meet the needs of others in your community – showing them the light and love of Christ. Here are some ideas for reaching out and helping others during the holidays.

1. Donate your time helping out at a food kitchen or a food bank.
2. Visit someone who lives at a nursing home or who lives alone and is confined at home because of poor health.
3. Invite some neighbors who don't have plans to join your family for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.
4. Buy some (or all) of the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner groceries for a needy family in your community.
5. Have your family go through their winter clothes, coats, snow pants, and sweaters. Pick out those that are old or are no longer wanted or needed. Donations may be dropped off any time at the Elmhurst Clothing Center located at First United Methodist Church, 232 S. York Rd. Enter the red door at the north entrance (entrance to Raggedy Anne Learning Center) and leave items at the bottom of the stairs. Tax receipts are available on the wood entry door.
6. Make some bag lunches and distribute them to homeless people in your area.
7. Make more desserts than you need for your holiday meals. Give extras to neighbors or to a needy family in your area.
8. Find an elderly person in your area that could use some help at the grocery store. Better yet, invite them to your home for a special holiday meal.
9. Find a family in your area that could use some help with basic repair or weatherization around their home. Buy the needed materials and get to work!
10. Invite a neighbor's family over for a simple, fun family game night.

December 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 MSYF Christmas Party w/Confirmands	3	4	5  Happy B-Day Paige Wrasse!
6 Rev. Dr. Winters evening Bible Study 6-8 pm	7  Happy Birthday Natalie Watts!	8	9 Confirmands w/mentors Last MSYF meeting '09 for the 1st Semester	10	11	12
13 Rev, Dr. Winters evening Bible Study 6-8 pm	14	15	16	17	18	19 Christmas Pageant <u>Rehearsal 9:30</u> Toburen Open House
20 Christmas Pageant Second Service 11:10AM	21 District 205 Winter Break through Jan. 3rd	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:30PM, 7:00PM, & 12 midnight	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31		