



THANKSGIVING IS THANKSLIVING!

Although this letter is written for and probably being read by most of you in the month of November, I am writing it in the middle of October. That being said, I noticed Halloween is fast approaching on the calendar. I realize that we don't celebrate Halloween "in" the church for obvious reasons, but I was thinking about the kids who will go around from door to door (hopefully) to trick or treat and receive their candy.

While it is enjoyable to see them all dressed up in costumes it is also very aggravating sometimes to hear the expression of ingratitude of some of the children when you put candy in their bags. For example, we may hear a response of, "Gee, that's all!?!", and wonder how they can be so unthankful when we do not owe them any candy at all.

Well, this also reminded me that Thanksgiving Day is coming up in the month of November, which we DO celebrate in our church. How often do we respond to our Heavenly Father with the same ingratitude of the occasional trick-or-treater who fails to say, "Thank you"? I recall a cartoon which pictured a bearded man in a white robe intended to represent God. He was saying to an angel, "Sunshine, warm temperatures, and good weather they take for granted; tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods they call 'Acts of God'."

The humor and truth in this cartoon go hand-in-hand. How often are God's blessings taken for granted and no thanks or credit given to Him for His generosity? On the other hand, how quickly is responsibility and blame heaped upon God when difficulty or problems arise.

God, indeed, owes us nothing. And our ingratitude in the form of sin certainly shows us to be undeserving of what God so freely gives to us, but that amazingly doesn't stop God from his generous grace. Instead, God continues to freely pour out his blessings to us. There is not a single member of Peace Lutheran Church who has not received generously from God's hand. His blessings perhaps come in different ways to different people and families, but they still come. And there is no question about the blessing that comes to ALL the people of God, namely, that we have the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ along with the hope of eternal life!

Do we take what God has given and turn our backs with no word of thanks? Or, having received, do we compare it to what others have received and grumble, "Is that all?" Certainly not as the people of God! We acknowledge his blessings and joyfully give thanks to Him for them. This month we do as we gather for worship to give thanks and respond to God who has given His all, and continues to give His all for us. We will have a special opportunity to gather for Thanksgiving Worship Services on Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00pm and on Thursday (Thanksgiving Day), November 26th at 10:00am. Let me conclude by saying that I am thankful He has given us to one another to work together and continue His mission.

In Christ's service and yours,
Pastor Love



And be thankful.

COLOSSIANS 3:15, NIV