

# Pastor Aker's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD  
November 3 & 4, 2018

November is a month filled with thanksgiving. Right off the bat on day one, we give thanks in our remembrance of all the saints who have gone before us. We praise the Lord for their faith and thank Him for allowing us to share our lives with them for a time. Over the first weekend in November, we can pause to give thanks for a good harvest in our region and nation. Many people (myself included) also give thanks for the gracious ending of Daylight Savings and the extra hour of sleep on the morning of November 4<sup>th</sup>. Our thankfulness continues as we tend to the ballot boxes and exercise our civic right and duty to vote! We give thanks to our most merciful Lord for the gift of living in the best and freest nation in the world where such things are possible. We leave the polls thankful for the results of the elections as God raises up men and women willing to be public servants and we pray the Lord will guide them to always do what is good, right, and salutary. A mere five days later, we are giving thanks yet again, now for the brave men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces. We give thanks to the Lord for raising them up and giving them the courage necessary to protect our nation and serve us.

With all this giving of thanks throughout the month of November, it makes clear sense why our entire nation takes a day away from normal work to count our blessings. We gather with family, friends, and loved ones around a feast of thanksgiving. We give glory and thanks to our Gracious Father who lavishes His daily gifts of nourishment and provision upon us. November is quite the month!

Have you ever thought of November like this before? The entire month is a daily refrain of the 9<sup>th</sup> Psalm: "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." Thank You Lord, for the faith of my loved ones who are now with you. Thank You Lord, for the gifts of

harvest and rest. Thank You Lord, for the gifts of freedom, elections, and leaders. Thank You Lord, for the gifts of Veterans and active duty military who have devoted themselves to the safety and wellbeing of our people. Thank You Lord, for everything!

Perhaps this month of thanksgiving, we might join together as fellow members of the body of Christ and strive to count our blessings. This can be done in any number of ways, but here are a few suggestions of how you and your family can express your thankfulness for a Lord who provides so richly for you. You could have a daily social media post about something you are thankful for. As part of your devotion time each day with your family, you could each write out and discuss a blessing for which you're thankful and collect them in a jar. Read through the blessings as part of your Thanksgiving Day feast. Call a different family member or friend each day and let them know how much they mean to you. Eat very meager meals each day of November leading up to a special Thanksgiving Day feast and spend extra time in thanksgiving for the gift of daily bread. Add to your daily prayers a time of blessing counting and give thanks to the Lord for all of them. Share some treats with your neighbors to let them know you are thankful for them.

How will you celebrate this month of giving thanks? Perhaps you have traditions within your own family about how you recognize the many and varying gifts the Lord gives you. Would you share them with me? I'd love to hear about your traditions and what they mean to you.

May your blessings be many and great; may your remembrances of them be complete and true. In this month of thanksgiving and always, may we be ever thankful for the gift of Jesus Christ! Also know that I am thankful for you!

In Christ,  
Pastor Corey Aker