



November

2019

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Thoughts from Pastor Stites

Is Thanksgiving Religious or Not?

As the harvests are brought in, the weather cools (and with bellies full of candy), November is marked as the time we sit down with family and friends to give thanks. However, because of some historical and cultural challenges, there is a debate on whether Thanksgiving is truly a religious *holy day* or is it a national *holiday*?

Well, there is biblical precedent for a harvest festival. In Leviticus 23, all the great feasts/festivals of the Jewish calendar were laid out, among them was the Feast of the Firstfruits. At that time, part of the harvest would be offered up as a sacrifice of thanksgiving, giving back to God a portion of all the blessings that He has poured out. From here, it is not difficult to then talk about any number of thanksgiving sacrifices, that are offered to God, giving thanks to Him for His abundant grace and mercy, whether it was with the physical crops, money or service.

While this may have been on the mind of the first settlers of the new world, they were not bound by any biblical regulation. Rather, as the story goes (historical accuracy aside), the settlers gave thanks to God for His grace and mercy, for the first bountiful harvest, and they sat down and ate with the local Native American population that taught them and saved them from starvation. As time continued, this became more than a story, but a tradition laid out in law that on the fourth Thursday of November would be a national day of Thanksgiving.

Because of this, I cannot say that Thanksgiving is a Church *holy day*, it was not instituted by the Church, but the state. Therefore, it would be fitting to call this day a national *holiday*.

However, this does not mean the Thanksgiving holiday has no value. As Paul said in Philippians 4:4-9, “⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers, **whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.** ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Who cares if it was by the Church or the state? On this day, at the very least, the faithful gather in their homes and in Churches to give thanks to God for His many gifts. And when many people are quick to pray when they need something but hardly pray to give thanks, we should rejoice that at least one day a year, people stop and give thanks for the many blessings God has given them. From here, we should build upon this, and encourage people to give thanks not just one day a year, but every day of the year.

So this Thanksgiving, this month, this year, and every day, let us give thanks and praise to God for the many blessings He has given us in this life, especially for the greatest gift of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and His saving death and resurrection.

Pastor Jonathan Stites

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Phone numbers and addresses will no longer be published. Please use the church directory or call the church office @ 928-345-9694, if you need someone's number or address for an event

2 Services

We will be going to 2 services starting on
Sunday, December 1st:
8:00am Worship w/ Communion
9:30am Bible Study
10:30am Worship w/ Communion

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 27th @ 7:00pm

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 4th @ 11:00am & 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 11th @ 11:00am & 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 18th @ 11:00am & 7:00pm



Wednesday, November 6th @ 7:30am at Barb Koppe's, *see above notation.

Wednesday, November 20th @ 7:30am at Mary Shoemaker's, *see above notation.

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Thursday, November 28, 2019 @ 1:00pm

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.



November LWML Events

Quilting for the Needy: Tuesday's @ 9:00am.

Craft & Bake Sale Set-Up: Thursday, November 7th & Friday, November 8th from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

LWML Craft & Bake Sale: Saturday, November 9th, 9:00am – 1:00pm.

LWML Monthly Meeting w/ Brown Bag Lunch: Wednesday, November 13th @ 11:00am.

Italian Night Dinner: Saturday, November 16th, 4:30pm – 6:00pm.

See Sharon Elledge or Winnie Moir for tickets.

Canadian Checks

We have recently been notified by our bank that there will be a \$40 service charge for any Canadian checks. Because of this, we are no longer able to accept any checks from a Canadian bank. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Choir



We are off to a slow start this fall as many of our regular members are later coming home to Yuma. We always welcome new members. We have fun and fellowship getting to know each other and share in our love of music. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM. Please join us. Our congregation has a lot of good voices and we would love to have more people join us in making a joyful noise.



November is a busy month. Our annual **Craft Fair and Bake Sale** is November 9th from 9:00am-1:00pm. We will be setting up the craft items on Thursday, November 7th and Friday, November 8th from 8:00am-12:00pm. Please bring your donated craft items on either of these days. We hope to have a good variety of quilting, sewing, wood crafts, jewelry, crochet and knit items or any and all crafts. Bake goods need to be brought on Saturday, November 9th between 7:00am and 8:00am. Price the baked goods if possible. We need help on all three days for pricing, set-up, cashiers, and customer service. See Sharie Jasper if you can donate a couple hours on any of these days. Please tell all your friends about our Fair. The proceeds from the craft fair will be distributed to local charities. With everyone's help and donations we can have a successful Craft Fair and Bake Sale.



Italian Night Dinner

Saturday, November 16th from 4:30pm-6:00pm. Dinner tickets are \$10 each. See Sharon Elledge or Winnie Moir for tickets. The proceeds for this dinner will go to our Scholarship Fund which enables our women to defray costs of Inspirational Retreats and the District Convention. Please join us for a delicious pasta dinner and bring all your friends.

Reservations are needed so we make the right amount of food



Quilt Drawing: There are two quilts hanging in the fellowship hall, which we are selling tickets, for a drawing to be held in February. See Sharie Jasper for tickets. We also are asking for volunteers to sell tickets to friends and neighbors in your parks or neighborhoods. The monies collected from ticket sales will also go to our Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$3 each or 6 for \$15. The first name drawn will get their choice of quilt, the second ticket drawn will get the other quilt.

CRAFT SALE & BAKE SALE

Saturday, November 9
9:00 AM til 1:00 PM

Shepherd of the Hills
Lutheran Church
11201 East 38th Place
Yuma Foothills.

Mark your calendars for the Shepherd of the Hills annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale. We have been busy all year making crafts of all types, including gorgeous items for your Holiday table. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping.

You will also delight in snacking on our delicious baked goods while you shop!



PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES

*God Bless You
at Christmas*



FREE
COFFEE!



It is that time of year again, as we prepare for the upcoming year, we are looking for individuals who will rise up to the challenge of serving their brothers and sisters here at Shepherd of the Hills.

We are going to be calling some to fill positions that are vacant on various boards as well as several one-time events that need volunteers and leadership. If asked to serve on a board, or to be the leader of an event, please prayerfully consider serving the congregation.

There is a challenge with this every year. There are those who believe they do not have the skills for such a task, while others feel they have been a leader for far too long and can no longer serve. We are looking for new people to help lead and serve the Church. Whether you are a winter visitor or someone who braves the Yuma summers, please consider serving God and this congregation with your time and talents.

Pastor Jonathan Stites

**To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in November:
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
October 16, 2019**

Attendees: Jon Weeks, Beverly Ferguson, Pastor Stites, Sharie Jasper, Winnie Moir, Kelly Hinrichs, Bob Engelhardt, Dick Koppe, Brad Erickson and Nancy Wunsch.

President Jon Weeks called the meeting to order at 2: 59pm.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the September 18th meeting were distributed. Dick Koppe moved to accept minutes. Bob Engelhardt seconded. Motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the September Income & Expense Report and Balance Sheet were distributed for review. Bob Engelhardt moved to accept the treasurer's report. Nancy Wunsch seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: He reported he is working on the December services. He will be meeting with the elders to decide on the theme for advent services. The second service will be the first Sunday in December. Times for the services will be 8:00am and 10:30am with bible study @ 9:30am. He will be having a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00pm.

President's Report: Jon Weeks reported that the voter's meeting will be moved to October 27th. He and Brad Erickson will be out of town so Dick Koppe will conduct the meeting. The card playing days are well attended.

Vice President's Report: Brad Erickson reported that he will be gone for a couple of weeks as his father is not doing good. Council will work on the nominees for council officers and committees.

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that they called on 14-15 people this past month. Ron Appeldoorn and Gene Junker have returned. Jim Einwachter is having back problems and needs our prayers.

Trustee's Report: Bob Engelhardt reported that he is waiting for a second bid to install the sign on the new property.

Evangelism Report: No report

Stewardship Report: Nancy Wunsch reported that they have two more counters, and everything is going good.

Education: No report

Administrative: Kelly Hinrichs reported that we need to get new pads for the ADT machine. She is ordering 5,000 attendance cards for the cost of \$250. CENTURY LINK contacted her about internet service. It would have 50 MB, phone and long distance and Microsoft 365. It would cost \$128.45 to \$150.00 a month. Bob Engelhardt moved to have Century Link install the internet and for it not to exceed \$165.00 a month. Winnie Moir seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Sharie Jasper made a motion to adjourn. Nancy Wunsch seconded, and the motion was carried.

President Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.

**To be reviewed and approved at the Voters' Meeting in December:
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS' MEETING
October 27, 2019**

Elder Dick Koppe called the meeting to order at 10:55am in the absence of the President and the Vice-President.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Copies of the Minutes from the April 28, 2019 Voters Meeting were distributed for review. Bob Engelhardt moved to accept the minutes. Emmo Foster seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the treasurer's report were reviewed. Richard Watson moved to accept the report. Rob Cairns seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that we will start two services on December 1st. The first service at 8:00am, bible study at 9:30am and the second service at 10:30am. Advent services will be at 11:00am and 7:00pm. There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00pm. There will be a Christmas Eve service and a Christmas Day service, times to be announced later. Vice-President Brad Erickson is with his father as he is in hospice. We have one confirmand studying this year.

President's Report: No report

Vice President's Report: No report

Elder's Report: Dick Koppe reported that they have a new elder, Pete Dryer.

Evangelism Report: No report

Trustee's Report: No report

Stewardship Report: Sue Cairns reported that the new envelopes have arrived and they will be ready to be distributed December 1st.

Education Report: No report

Administrative Report: Kelly Hinrichs reported that she has repaired the service books and if she missed some please let her know.

Old Business: None

New Business: If we are going to have a Thanksgiving dinner, we need someone to volunteer to be the chairman.

Bob Engelhardt moved to adjourn. Winnie Moir seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Elder Dick Koppe at 11:05am.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.



November Birthdays

LOMAX, Alexis	11/01	FERGUSON, Bev	11/09
STEWART, Dan	11/01	FERGUSON, Jerry	11/11
SEARS, Ann	11/03	DICKISON, Benny	11/12
ZINKY, Chuck	11/03	KIEHL, Karen	11/14
HAZARD, Marvlea	11/07	VIETHER, Walt	11/15
SCHLOTHAUER, Sandra	11/07	ERICKSON, Brad	11/21
HARRISON, Elaine	11/08	TULP, Eugene	11/26
MICHEL, Gail	11/08	MORNER, Henry	11/27



November Anniversaries:

MICHEL, John & Gail (11)	11/15
OHLAND, Warren & Sharon (60)	11/21
KEHLER, John & Bertha (57)	11/24



FOOD BANK

October
\$197

SEASON TOTAL
January - December
\$2656

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

Deuteronomy 16:17

Stewardship Corner

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the provision God has made for us in all ways at all times. As we list our blessings, we find that we have all we need and more besides. That "besides" is what the Apostle Paul addressed in 2 Corinthians 9:11: *"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."* And so, the cycle continues as the thankful heart responds in giving and sharing which results in more thanks being given to God! God equips us and motivates us to give, and, through our generosity, He is glorified.

Did you know we have a Website? Go to www.sothyuma.org



You can view our monthly newsletter by going to the Connect tab and click on Newsletter. You can also listen to previous sermons (uploaded weekly when available) by going to the Sermon tab and clicking on the date you would like to hear.

November 2019 at SOTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Fellowship every Sunday after the service (or between the services in the winter)						
					1	2 11:00am Memorial Service for Morris West 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza Cancelled for today
3 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:45am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games	4	5 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Elder's Meeting 9:00am Quilting the Needy	6 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Barb Koppe's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7 8:00am – 12:00pm Set-up Craft & Bake Sale	8 8:00am – 12:00pm Set-up Craft & Bake Sale	9 9:00am – 1:00pm LWML Craft & Bake Sale 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza Cancelled for today
10 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:45am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games	11	12 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting the Needy	13 9:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am LWML Monthly Meeting w/ brown bag lunch 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza Cancelled for today 4:30pm Italian Night Dinner
17 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:45am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games	18	19 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting the Needy	20 7:30am Women's Bible Study @ Mary Shoemaker's 9:30am Adult Bible Study 3:00pm Council Meeting 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza
24 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:45am Fellowship 5:00pm Brown Bag Social & Games Mite Box Collection	25	26 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting the Needy Cancelled this week only	27 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 Thanksgiving Day 1:00pm Potluck 	29	30 1:00pm Purple Pinochle Palooza
2 Services Starting December 1st						