



Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

CHALLENGE – Getting ready for the next school year is approaching very quickly. Enrollment will begin in mid-January. Word of mouth has proven to be a highly successful marketing tool. Therefore, while seeing many people over the holidays, please participate in a challenge to tell five different families about St. James Lutheran School and the awesome opportunity that lies before them for a strong Christian education along with rigorous academics. Let me know how this goes. If you need further information or just want to talk about it, please contact the school office.
-Principal Landskroener

WAY TO GO, PASTOR REMPFER! Pastor Rempfer ran his FIFTH half-marathon October 13th. His participation was to raise funds for our school and for world missions. Jean Day money collected October 12th was used to support Pastor's marathon. If you would also like to support Pastor's run, donations may still be sent in to the Church Office.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS - Our PreK – Kindergarten program will be Tuesday, December 11 and our 1st – 8th grade program, *The Christmas Carol Special Report!*, will be Thursday, December 13. Both programs begins at 6:30 pm. Please come and join us as our students deliver the message of salvation through the birth of our Savior.

BOXTOPS AND UPC LABELS – Please continue to save General Mills Box Tops, Hy-Vee UPCs and Tyson A+ labels throughout the school year. They help support our school library! Thank you!

COLLECTING LIDS – We are again in the business of collecting lids to purchase a hallway bench. (The current bench will find its permanent home on the playground.) We will collect lids until we have enough to get the bench (200 pounds). You can bring them into the church or school office. The lids must be clean!! **Unacceptable caps** include metal lids or trash, soap/lotion pumps, grocery bags, K-Cups, straws, fast food drink lids, plastic pieces that are not a lid. **Acceptable caps** include caps from medicine bottles, milk jugs, detergent, hair spray, toothpaste, deodorant, apple sauce pouch, drink bottle (soda, water, juice, sport drinks), flip-top (ketchup), spout (mustard), spray paint, ointment tube, baby food, shampoo/conditioner, cottage cheese container, mayonnaise jar, yogurt, peanut butter jar, ice cream bucket (under 8 inches), Cool Whip container, coffee can, cream cheese container, butter container and Pringles lids. Remember, the lids must be clean! Thank you for helping us purchase another bench!

EAGLE VISION

EVERYONE deserves our respect ACT with kindness GOD'S LOVE is our greatest strength LOVE one another EVERY DAY live for Jesus SHOW OTHERS we are Christian

