

Living Faith



Dear Faith Shapers,

Thanksgiving - the national holiday of giving thanks. Let's dive into a brief history of this day.

In 1863, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln called for a national day of Thanksgiving, in hopes that such a festival might bring some unity between the North and South colonies. This holiday became attached to the memory of an autumn harvest festival held in 1621 in Plymouth Colony. Of the 102 passengers on the Mayflower in 1620, only 53 were alive a year later, but 90 native people (Wampanoag) came for the three-day celebration, bringing with them much of the food.

In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt declared the fourth Thursday in November to be a national Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving day has now become a secular holiday of immense popularity for family feasts and national sports activities.

Some Christian congregations add a worship service to the holiday. During this celebration service, God is recognized as the source of our blessings and everyone is invited to the table to participate in the Eucharist.

There can be opportunities to help with a community meal, share in an ecumenical service, collect food for a local food pantry, or money for ELCA World Hunger. How can you help this year?

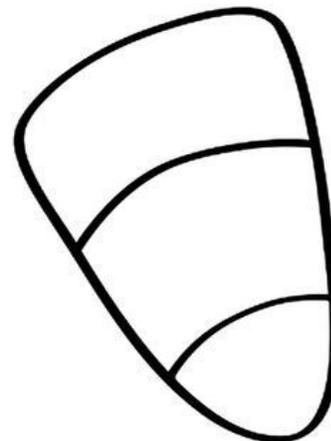
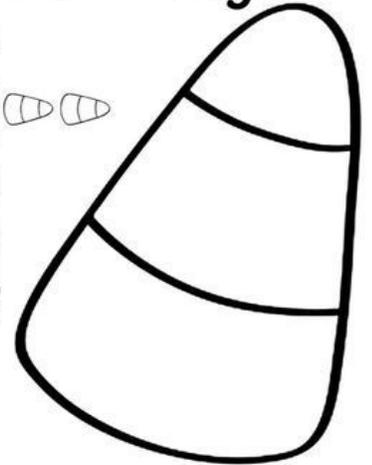
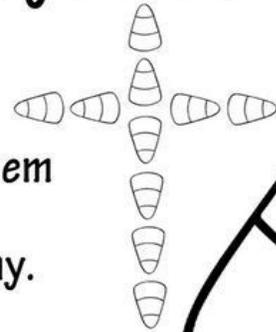
Student Pastor Sue Cira

Count your Blessings

And
Name them

Day by day.

You'll be reminded



Christ Jesus' love

Overflows to you,

Right now, in

Nearly every way.



Thank You, LORD!

This information is prepared for you by the **Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network** for use by families and local congregations. Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network ELCA](#)



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Everyone shares what they are thankful for. Think of something using each letter of the alphabet and share after you've finished.

THANKSGIVING ALPHABET GAME
What are you Thankful for?

- | | |
|----|----|
| a) | n) |
| b) | o) |
| c) | p) |
| d) | q) |
| e) | r) |
| f) | s) |
| g) | t) |
| h) | u) |
| i) | v) |
| j) | w) |
| k) | x) |
| l) | y) |
| m) | z) |

Thanksgiving Word Scramble



1. rcon _____
2. ukppmin _____
3. krueyt _____
4. omfaylwer _____
5. niwsebho _____
6. ciarrbesne _____
7. spmiligr _____
8. ricdukmts _____
9. dnenir _____
10. syam _____
11. solrl _____
12. eremnbob _____
13. gobabl _____
14. dessret _____
15. ngstufif _____
16. uyhtarsd _____
17. efats _____
18. rgavy _____
19. nnasidi _____
20. rbeda _____

Have some fun with your children or grandchildren by looking through the hymn book or a songbook to find some favorites. Even if you can't sing them, you can still read the lyrics. The words can be more meaningful, sometimes, if you concentrate on the message - without singing the tune - which makes the use like a prayer.

Some of the more common hymns include -

Praise and Thanksgiving

Morning Has Broken

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Ending with the Lord's Prayer would be a great way to reinforce the importance of prayer in our life.

Answers: corn, pumpkin, turkey, mayflower, wishbone, cranberries, pilgrims, drumstick, dinner, yams, rolls, November, gobbler, dessert, Thanksgiving, Thursday, feast, gravy, Indians, bread