

November 2016

Dear Friends,

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.  
(1 Thess. 5:18 KJV)

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (Col. 3:15 KJV)

Many people have a Thanksgiving tradition of asking everyone around the dinner table to say something for which they're thankful on Thanksgiving Day. It's a great way to remind us of the many blessings that have been poured out upon us by our kind and loving Father in heaven.

The Apostle Paul reminded the members of some of the early congregations that they needed to have thankful hearts as well. The Thessalonians were told to be thankful in everything. The earlier context of this instruction tells us that it was regarding not returning evil for evil and to do good to others. They were to rejoice and pray, giving thanks in every situation because that's what God wants. We usually have no problem thanking God for our abundance but Paul exhorts the followers of Christ that God wants us to be thankful even when things aren't as good or bountiful. Sometimes we have a hard time seeing that God is at work but that doesn't mean He isn't at work. God's work cannot always rightly be discerned by how we interpret our circumstances, as William Cowper wrote; "God moves in mysterious ways; His wonders to perform..." It is good to keep this in mind as we are immersed in the turmoil of our current election cycle and the convulsions of a tumultuous world. God reigns and is fully in control, we give thanks knowing this is so even when circumstances may appear otherwise.

Knowing that God is doing as He has promised allows us to find His peace even amid seeming chaos. As Paul tells the Colossians, that peace must rule in our hearts. That peace brings us the quiet assurance of rest, realizing that Jesus has finished His work on Calvary and by the power of His resurrection raised us to newness of life. Our Savior told us the world would be shaken but His Word would remain firm through eternity. We were called into the body of that Savior, the awesome body of Christ, called in a unity that transcends every effort put forth to sever that bond. So with this in mind we are to be thankful.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28 KJV)

So

Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Phil. 4:6 KJV)

God's Peace and Happy Thanksgiving,

Jay Weidner



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**SAVE THE DATE....** *Winter Night of Music*

*at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI, to benefit the seminary on  
Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 7PM. (NOTE: Date has changed)*

*Join us for an evening of Christmas caroling and special music.  
Refreshments will be served.*

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The Fund is located at the **InFaith Community Foundation**, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the charitable, religious and educational We invite you to participate in supporting the endowment. You may make gifts during life or at death. If you would like to learn more about the purpose of the endowment and ways you may give, please visit <http://www.infaithfound.org/ilseminary>.

**The students and staff at the Inter-Lutheran Seminary appreciate your continued support!**