



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM

Thanksgiving Day – History, Insight, and Benefits for YOU



Thanksgiving Day is perhaps the most participated in American holiday of the year.

Did you know that George Washington was the first president to proclaim a "day of thanksgiving" on October 3, 1789?

Then, in September of 1863, a 74-year old magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, wrote a letter to President Lincoln and said, *"You may have observed that, for some years past, there*

has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently an American custom and institution." (Before this, each state scheduled its own Thanksgiving holiday at different times.)

President Lincoln responded quickly to her request – unlike his predecessors, who ignored the same request from her (she had been requesting this for 40 years). Thus, on Oct 3, 1863, exactly 74 years from when Washington made his proclamation, Lincoln set it as a national holiday: the LAST Thursday of November. (This date held until FDR moved it to the "second from the last" Thursday of November at the bequest of retailers who wished for a more extended Christmas shopping season. Ha! That didn't last long, and it was moved back to the 4th Thursday of the month.)

Nonetheless, here is the date-setting section of Lincoln's proclamation: ***"I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. "***

An interesting note is that a month later, on Nov 19, 1863, and before the first national "Thanksgiving Day" was celebrated nationwide, Lincoln gave his famous 2-minute "Gettysburg Address" – considered by many as the most brilliant speech in American history.

Keep in mind that all of this was done while Lincoln was amidst an ongoing civil war that would not end for nearly two more years.

What thoughts cross your mind as you read the above?

Here are some of my take-aways:

1. Whatever you are facing, make time to be thankful. You live in America; you can find *something* for which to be grateful!
2. Share that thankfulness with someone. It can lift their spirits!
3. Re-read Lincoln's proclamation.
4. Finally – practice this "attitude of gratitude" all year round. You'll FEEL better, you'll THINK better, you'll be HAPPIER, and your LIFE will be richer and fuller.

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## **BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**

**Men...** did you know that the men of the Lake Church meet for breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month? Join us in a relaxed setting where we enjoy guest speakers, interesting discussion and just getting to know other men on the same journey of learning how to be "God's men" in today's culture. We meet at The Grill – St Marks Country Club, 1750 San Pablo Drive, LSM at 8am.

**Ladies...** The ladies Breakfast Fellowship happens on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8am. We've just begun and are spending our time just getting to know each other better. Join us! The Grill – St Marks Country Club, 1750 San Pablo Drive, LSM

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FROM YOUR BOARD CHAIRMAN

Now that the air conditioning is working well in the Conference Center, the weather has cooled down considerably. Hopefully the heat will work as well when we need it. The cost of replacing the heating and air conditioning units for the Conference Center was considerable and the owners (CDC) were hesitant to spend the money. But, as fate would have it, they were able to rent out the facility to a production company for a month generating enough revenue to make the cost of the new units affordable. So, even though we went through quite a hassle for a month, both our needs and the CDC's were met. God does work in strange ways, but always in our best interest.

So let's hope that as the weather turns colder, the heating units work and we can enjoy the services in comfort. Keep praying... perhaps God has a plan to guide us to a place of our own, and we will be more in control of our situation.

Art Pedersen, Chairman
Board of Directors