

The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 * (708) 442-5250
“Faith Active in Love”
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

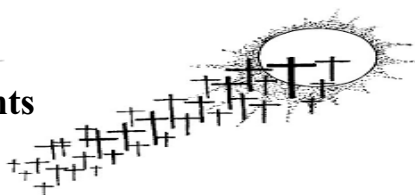
Volume 47

November 2025

Issue 11

We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

Festival of All Saints November 1st



The Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul remembers the following persons who have passed to their eternal rest since All Saints Sunday, 2024 listed here in chronological order of their death dates:

+BettyAnn Bagel+
+Bettye Harden+
+Mildred Londak+

On the Sunday of the Festival of All Saints, November 2nd, a table will be placed at the front of the nave near the lectern. On that day, worshipers who wish to do so may light a votive candle in memory of a deceased loved one to commemorate their dwelling among the saints who have gone before us. This invitation is especially offered to those who have had a loved one(s) pass away during the last year.

Blessed Reward

All Saints Sunday, November 2nd

Rewards are not gifts. You have to *do* something to earn a reward. When Jesus speaks of a heavenly reward in this day's gospel, it seems to imply that those who receive it have done something to earn it—something exceptional. What? The reward recipients have been “poor in spirit,” “persecuted for righteousness' sake,” and have undergone the indignities of being reviled and slandered on Jesus' account. In other words, it sounds as if they have been miserable. Is the reward a payback? Is it compensation for the suffering that seems to accompany being a follower of Christ?

Hardly! In this gospel Jesus paints a portrait of saints whose lives do not appear to exemplify what the world considers states of blessedness. The poor, the mourners, the meek, the persecuted—these do not fit the world's mold of success. They simply don't fit in. The First Letter of John says it well: The reason the world does not know us—children of God that we are—is because the world did not know God (1 John 3:1).

To be a saint is to follow Jesus on a path of hidden mission in the world. Despised, rejected, a failure on the world's scales of

achievement, Jesus shows a new way of being a “success.” It is the way of humble obedience, servanthood, seeing your life as a gift to be spent on others. Following Jesus on this path, we arrive with him at the destination of resurrection glory. Through suffering, through death, through a cross and open tomb, we will arrive with all God's saints at the surprising end of all our earthly stories, a joyful and gladsome reward waiting for us in God's eternal home.

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Reflections on November

At this closing of the liturgical year, endings are revealed as beginnings, and we find that as the Christian community we live simultaneously in past, present, and future. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. What seemed dead lives on, and what seemed purely memory is present, what was longed for is actually at hand. Time and its distinctions stretch and blur at this closing of the year, and the church finds itself living in the future for which it so earnestly petitions. The day of the Lord is at hand. The new age has begun.

The shadows are approaching. The night is lengthened. The grasses fade. Then from the shadows emerges light. From the night comes hope and the memory of saints. From the chaff comes new beginnings and the constant, sure presence of the risen Christ, transforming these days into a new beginning, a new day. The implications are startling! The reign of God is at hand. Newness has already dawned. A new day arises that is gloriously present.

Albert Einstein once set himself this thought experiment: if I were to sit astride a beam of light, traveling at the speed of light, how would time appear? Einstein concluded from his imaginative vigil that past and future would gradually thin until one existed in an ever-widening, ever-expanding present now. C. G. Jung said that Communion is the opening of a window into eternity, the fuller reality. For Orthodox Christians, the Eucharist is nothing less than heaven on earth, the light of God breaking in and making of the past, present, and future one ever-expanding moment. At this transition time in the church's year, we are reminded of the breaking in of God's reign into this earth.

—continued on next page...

So we remember in these waning days the saints, those whose stories and lives have shaped our lives and the collective life of the church: human moments of an expanding now who have lived the future of God's reign; who bore the harvest of the Spirit's talents as willing and open participants and who are eternally present in memory and expanding time by the pervading light of God through Christ and the Spirit. "To those unwise they seem to have died, but, lo, they shine like stars..." (Wisdom 3:2a, 7; paraphrase).

The lives of the saints are a part of the church's inheritance, and their gifts of hymns, writings, windows, and quiet acts of mercy shape the present in which we live. They are a link of rich memory to the holy story that shapes the church's life and our individual lives here, now. They are rays of light, the *lux aeterna* (eternal light) breaking into our days. "Look to [God], and be radiant" sings the psalmist (Psalm 34:5). Like the saints we are cajoled to live as children of light, radiant with God's presence in an ever-greater melding and blurring of past, present, and future. When we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we remember the Lord's death until he comes.

Surrounding the memory of the saints in these days are what seem to be dark and worrisome texts of scripture, full of clouds and thick darkness. God declares to us: You are redeemed. Live as redeemed people! You are loved. Live as beloved people! The day of the Lord has already dawned with the radiant face of the risen Christ, and as baptized people, that is the day in which we live.

So the gospel writer Matthew reminds the church to live out the fruits of the Spirit, to use the rich talents and inheritance of the new dawn, and not to cower in fear and hoarding. We are to live lives of compassion, loving-kindness, truth, creativity, wisdom, mercy, and justice. To live without compassion, to live in fear, to live hoarding away gifts and the steadfast love of God is to live as if the eternal day of the risen Christ had never dawned. It is to live outside the dawning of God's day, in the place of darkness and gloom, in the day of clouds and thick darkness. These days of ending are a beginning, and what seems past is present, and the longed-for future is at hand. Redeemed and radiant and beloved, how shall we live in these ending days that are a beginning? We are beckoned to live as children of the light, radiant in the dawn of the risen Christ, whose festival closes out these days of the church: the Sunday of fulfillment or Christ the King.

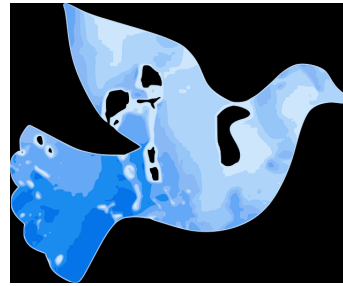
"I will seek out my sheep," says God. "I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness" (Ezekiel 34:12). God is always calling us to be radiant and fearless, coaxing us out of darkness into the new day, bidding us into the glorious dawn of the day of the risen Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come. This is the day that God has made, the eternal, ever-widening present of life in God, radiant with Christ, gifted by the Holy Spirit poured out into our hearts. What seems past is here, and what seems yet to come is at hand, in the eternal, gloriously redeemed moment of the day of God.

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Thanksgiving Day
November 27th at 10:15 a.m.

**A Service of the Word
and Prayers of Thanksgiving**
*The monetary offering will benefit
the Chicago Food Depository.*

Prayer for Veterans



Dear Lord,

Today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made for their many different contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them. We pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness.

—by Joanna Fuchs



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2nd. Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday evening.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 5: Jessica Drahos	Nov. 15: Kelly Jones
Collin Sender	Nov. 18: Vincent Smith
Nov. 7: Ashley Mazur	Nov. 19: Abby Collins
Nov. 8: Philip Painter	Nov. 21: Joseph Decosola, Jr.
Nov. 9: Jennifer Smith	Nov. 23: Kristi Skudrna
Nov. 10: John Vercimak	Nov. 29: Mildred Londak
Nov. 13: Ivan Durkovic	Ty Smith
Mary Ann Waychunas	Nov. 30: Jacob Czerak
Nov. 14: Gino Decosola	
Dale Hawes	

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 7, 1992: Vlado and Agnes Vercimak
November 10, 2012: James and Anne Marie D'Alexander
November 23, 1984: Gary and Annette Tapak



Friberg Tanzania Update November 2025

Nashipai is celebrating a functional though deformed right hand that allows her to grasp a phone and cup. She apposes her thumb against two stiff fingers that have full sensation. She had a seizure from untreated epilepsy and the dorsum of her hand fell onto a pan of boiling milk. The palm and thumb were spared but the extensor tendons and MP/IP joints of 4 fingers were destroyed. The 4 metacarpal bones and proximal phalanges were fully exposed.



Surgeons expecting infection of her hand recommended amputation at the wrist. Nashipai refused. Daily saline wound dressings and IV and oral antibiotics for 4 months allowed her hand to close with red granulation tissue and new growth of skin. Unfortunately, she had exposed bone in the proximal fingers which would not fully heal.

Dr Pedro, a visiting plastic surgeon, was able to preserve the 3rd and 4th fingers. The defects on these fingers were closed using soft healthy tissue from her second finger. Interestingly, she now feels a phantom 2nd finger if she rubs the outside of her 4th finger. Nashipai, her family, and our staff did not really expect she would keep some fingers and preserve significant function. But we know that God Is! Etii Enkai! as the Maasai express it. She is full of gratitude and has returned to her husband and three children.



Thanks to all of you, the roof on the new inpatient unit is complete at Kirurumo Health Center. We were amazed at your generous and prompt response. The metal trusses were welded on site. We are especially happy with the covered entrance area. The Kirurumo staff are excited and very grateful! Next we move to doors, windows, electrical, plumbing, and flooring. We have seen God's hand in healing and in construction. Thank you for your part in this.

Steve and Bethany Friberg

September 2025

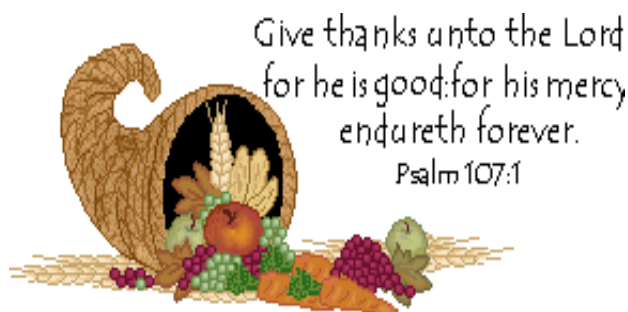
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,615.00

Date	Offering
9/7	\$1,669.00
9/14	\$1,613.00
9/21	\$ 575.00
9/28	\$6,665.00

November Announcements

- ★ The 2026 offering envelopes will be ready for pick up the First Sunday of Advent, November 30th in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives. If you would like to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Karen in the church office.
- ★ If you will be leaving the Chicago area during the winter months for warmer climates, please notify the church office before then so the monthly newsletter can be forwarded to your temporary residence or cancelled until you return. The congregation incurs a fee for each newsletter that is undeliverable. Stopped mail delivery to your permanent residence is considered "undeliverable" and returned to the church for a fee. Thank you for your assistance.
- ★ A reminder to the congregation, especially during the months of winter weather, that complimentary cab service is available on Sunday morning for rides to and from worship services. Please contact Blue Village Cab Company at (708) 583-6900 as early as possible to make arrangements for pick up. When arranging your pick-up, please remind the dispatcher that the ride is to be billed to account number #101755.



Give thanks unto the Lord
for he is good: for his mercy
endureth forever.

Psalms 107:1

All of Grace

Matthew 20:1-16

*Like sun that shines the same on every face,
both vineyard and the work, the owner's gift.
We learn at end of day it's all of grace.*

*Upon the earth each person has their place
as surely as each star its nightly shift,
and sunlight falls the same on every face.
By mercy we're all winners of the race;
by mercy every lowly gets a lift:
by mercy do we learn it's all of grace.
God's vineyard spans the globe; there's lots of space
for all who hear God's call to heal its rifts
like sunlight chasing pain from every face.*

*Let none begrudge the width of God's embrace
which reaches from the safe to those adrift.
We learn at end of day it's all of grace.*

*Until our human love can keep apace
with God's, may labour be a sharing of the gift
that shines like sun the same on every face.
At end of day, we praise: it's all of grace.*

—by lectionary poet Andrew King

Village of Riverside 150th Anniversary Church Tours

As part of Riverside's 150th Anniversary, Sts. Peter and Paul along with five other churches will participate in a tour of churches to learn about the architecture, stories, people, and quiet, peaceful and joyous places that are the churches of Riverside.

Six churches will be open for touring on November 1st, 2025 from 12 noon until 3 pm.

Ascension Lutheran Church, 400 Nuttall Road

Riverside Presbyterian Church, 116 Barrypoint Road

St. Mary Catholic Church/St. Paul VI Parish, 105 Herrick Road

St. Paul's Parish, 60 Akenside Road

Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church, 250 Woodside Road

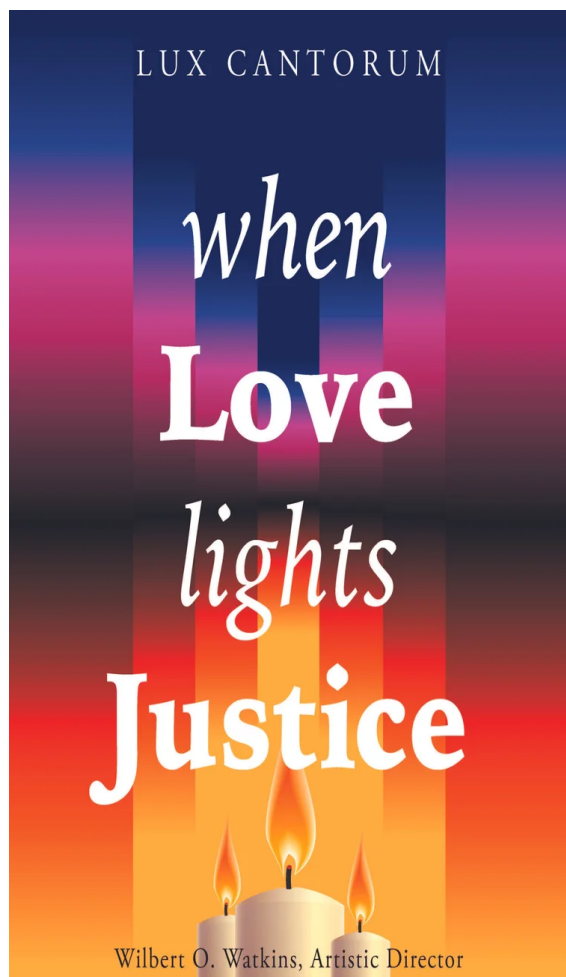
Woodside United Methodist Church, 82 Woodside Road

Guided tours will be offered at each site on the hour and half-hour. You are also free to visit and photograph the sanctuaries independently in any order. If lot parking is unavailable, please follow village signage for street parking. No tickets are required.

Save the date...

We explore the messages woven into our holiday observances to *accept one another, love all neighbors, and support what's fair and right for each of us*—and what it means to embody this responsibility throughout the year.

Works by: Stephen DeCesare, Fahad Siadat, Kyle Pederson, Moaz Tsur, Elaine Hagenberg, Stacy Gibbs, Felix Mendlessohn, George Frideric Händel, and many others.



December 5, 2025

7:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church
675 E. Algonquin Road
Des Plaines, IL 60616

December 7, 2025

4:00 PM

Buchanan Chapel
at Fourth Presbyterian Church
126 West Chestnut Street
Chicago, IL 60610

December 13, 2025

7:30 PM

Pilgrim Congregational Church
460 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

December 17, 2025 –

January 1, 2026

An online version of the program will be available worldwide beginning Wednesday, December 17 through January 1, 2026.

Tickets for all performances including the online version are available at luxcantorum.org.





Send Our Troops a Little Taste of Home for the Holidays

Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home is proud to be participating in the

“Christmas Stockings for Soldiers”

initiative. Starting today, you may stop in to pick-up a Christmas stocking to take home, decorate and stuff with Christmas cheer.

You will receive a list of recommended items along with the stocking.

Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home

will then ship the stockings at their expense, to troops abroad in time for Christmas.

Please return your stuffed stocking(s) to us no later than Friday, December 5th.

Thank you!

Pick up/Drop Off Hours

Monday - Saturday | 10:00am - 4:00pm

2447 S. DesPlaines Avenue - North Riverside.

For more information, please call (708) 447-2500

Thank you for helping to make this program a success!





List of Recommended Items:

Food:

Candy / Gum	Granola bars	Beef jerky	Mac&Cheese Singles
Poptarts	Snack pack pudding	Trail mix	Peanuts
Individual cerals boxes	Tuna Packets	Hot cocoa	Coffee / Tea
Candy canes	Keurig coffee k-cups	Flavored creams	Protein powder / bars
Workout supplements	Vitamins	BBQ sauce / Hot sauce	Microwave popcorn
Seasonings	Peanut butter / Nutella	Sugar / Salt / Pepper	Ramen noodles
Crackers / Chips	Campbells soup-on-the-go	Individual powdered drink mixes	

*Toiletries – *Travel Size Preferred:*

Shampoo / Conditioner*	Body wash*	Dental Floss	Sun block*
Toothpaste / Toothbrush	Mouthwash*	Foot / Body powder*	Vicks vapor rub
Cough drops	Lip balm	Eye glass cleaner	Eye glass repair kit
Eye drops	Saline soulution*	Toilet paper	Feminine products
Small sewing kit	Wash clothes	Febreeze / Air fresheners	Travel kleenex
Laundry soap / Pods*	Clorox wipes	Hand / Toe warmers	
Dryer sheets	Dish soap		

Clothing / Linens:

Mens underwear	Mens t-shirts (L & XL)	Shoe insoles	Gloves
Warm socks	Washcloths	Flip flops / Shower shoes	Towels

Just for Fun:

Beanie Babies	Batteries (AA & AAA)	Playing cards	Crossword puzzles
Sudoku	Magazines / Comics	Mechanical pencils	Pens / Markers
Small ornaments	iTunes gift card	Letters & cards	Post-its
Holiday decorations	Tableware	Pre-paid phone cards	Board games
Flashlights/small	Blender bottles	Coloring Books / Crayons	Movies
Speakers / Headphones	Amazon gift cards	Insulated tumblers	Zip Lock bags

Drop-Off Hours:

*Now through December 5th
Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm*

Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home
2447 S. DesPlaines Avenue
North Riverside, IL 60546
(708) 447-2500
www.KuratkoNosek.com

Please do not mix food items with non-food items.

When mixing soaps and other toiletries with food, the food begins to smell and taste like the soap it is boxed with. Although the soldiers appreciate everything we send, they would probably not rather have their food taste like soap. Thank you!

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

November 2nd:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Walter Cudecki

November 9th:

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Aidan Altavilla
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

November 16th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

November 23rd:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Thanksgiving Day, November 27th:

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

November 30th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Beverly Tarbox

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

In loving memory of beloved father and grandfather +William Stastny+ on the anniversary of his death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz, grandson Brian Bucz, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study (*facility usage*).

Ken and Carol Morydz, in memory of parents +Steve+ and +Irene H. Boor+.

Saturday Morning Big Book Study (*facility usage*).

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

December 7th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

December 14th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

December 21st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Shirley

Christmas Eve, December 24th:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

December 28th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Joanne Sefara
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Fred Kuzel

Memorial Flowers

Oct. 12th: In loving memory of beloved father and grandfather +William Stastny+ on the anniversary of his death by loving daughter Audrey Bucz, grandson Brian Bucz, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

Oct. 26th: In memory of mother and grandmother +Betty Zittman+ on the 39th anniversary of her passing on October 27th by remembering family Rocky, Tina, and grandchildren.

If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the dining hall beginning Sunday, November 29th. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is \$17. Deadline for payment and sign-up is Wednesday, December 17th.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

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DATED MATERIAL

The History of Thanksgiving

from the *Old Farmer's 2025 Almanac*

Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving Day in the United States? Here's a brief history of this all-important American holiday. (In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October.)

In a 1789 proclamation, President George Washington called upon the people of the United States to acknowledge God for affording them "an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness" by observing a day of thanksgiving. Devoting a day to "public thanksgiving and prayer", as Washington called it, became a yearly tradition in many communities.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. In that year, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln made his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation. He asked his fellow citizens "to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise..."

It was not until 1941 that Congress finally designated the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day, thus creating a federal holiday.

Of course, Thanksgiving is not born of presidential proclamation. Native American harvest festivals had been celebrated for centuries, and colonial services date to the late 16th century. Thanksgiving Day, as we know it today, began in the early 1600s when settlers in both Massachusetts and Virginia came together to give thanks for their survival, for the fertility of their fields, and for their faith. The most widely known early Thanksgiving is that of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, who feasted for 3 days with the Wampanoag people in 1621.

Why is Thanksgiving Celebrated with Turkey?

Turkey has become the traditional Thanksgiving fare because at one time it was a rare treat. During the 1830s, an 8-10 pound bird cost a day's wages. Even though turkeys are affordable today, they still remain a celebratory symbol of bounty. In fact, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin ate roast turkey in foil packets for their first meal on the Moon.

—published by *Yankee Publishing Incorporated*
Dublin, New Hampshire and *The Navigator Ministry*

A THANKFUL HEART

Take nothing for granted, for whenever you do
The "joy of enjoying" is lessened for you -
For we rob our own lives much more than we know
When we fail to respond or in any way show
Our thanks for the blessings that daily are ours...
The warmth of the sun, the fragrance of flowers,
The beauty of twilight, the freshness of dawn,
The coolness of dew or a green velvet lawn,
The kind little deeds so thoughtfully done,
The favors of friends and the love that someone
Unselfishly gives us in a myriad of ways,
Expecting no payment and no words of praise -
Oh, great is our loss when we no longer find
A thankful response to things of this kind,
For the joy of enjoying and the fullness of living
Are found in the heart that is filled with thanksgiving.

—Helen Steiner Rice



FOR THE WONDERS THAT
ASTOUND US.
FOR THE TRUTHS THAT STILL
CONFOUND US.
MOST OF ALL
THAT LOVE HAS FOUND US.
Thanks be to God!
F. PRATT GREEN