

Service of Thanksgiving

November 24 & 25, 2021



Woodlawn Lutheran Church
99th/Lincoln Avenue
West Allis, WI 53227
woodlawnlutheran.org
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Welcome by the Pastor

Pastor: In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P: For the privilege of coming into your presence as redeemed children of God and heirs of eternal life:

C: We praise you, O glorious Trinity!

P: For your marvelous creation:

C: We thank you, all-powerful God!

P: For our sins of thanklessness, lack of contentment, sinful desires for those things which do not belong to us, misplaced trust in material things, needless worry which displays a lack of trust in you, and impatience – all which anger you and make us deserving of eternal punishment in hell:

C: We beg you to forgive us for Jesus' sake, gracious and merciful Lord God!

**Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness,
While of your richer gifts we're unaware.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
For words that speak at variance with deeds.
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways,
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs.**

**Open our eyes to see your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.
Let thankful days in loving labor spent
Reflect the truly Christ-like life and light. (Hymn 482)**

P: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:17) Because of the perfect life of Christ and through the payment of his death on the cross, God has taken away our sin. You are forgiven. Remember the mercy of God. He alone has rescued you from the curse of sin. His mercy is your reason to say "Thank you" with your whole life. Let us praise God!

Hymn 615

We Thank You for Your Blessings

**We thank you for your blessings,
Almighty Lord, our King;
We thank you for the harvests,
Yes, Lord, for ev'rything:
For flow'rs that bloom in springtime,
For rip'ning fruit and grain,
For all the precious sunshine,
And for the gentle rain.**

**This day of great thanksgiving
We count them one by one:
Our free and fruitful country,
The great things you have done,
Our family, our loved ones,
The guardian angels' care,
Our very self and heartbeat-
Lord, hear our thankful prayer!**

**But best of all your blessings,
The rainbow of your love,
Are all the many mercies
Your Word brings from above.
Our life now has full meaning-
Christ Jesus is our God!
Thanksgiving shall be living
The way the Savior trod.**

Text: Unknown, alt.

Prayer for Thanksgiving

P: Almighty God our Father, your goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Psalm 104 (*selected verses*)

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

C: O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with splendor and majesty.

P: He wears light like a robe.

C: He stretches out the heavens like a canopy.

P: He placed the earth firmly on its foundations.

C: It cannot be moved forever and ever.

P: He makes springs flow into streams that run between the mountains.

C: They give water to every wild animal.

P: The birds of the sky live by the streams.

C: From among the branches they send out their song.

P: He waters the mountains from his upper chambers.

C: The earth is filled with the fruit he produces.

P: He makes grass grow for the cattle,

C: and plants that people use to produce food from the earth.

P: The moon marks off the months and seasons. The sun knows when to go down.

C: You bring darkness, and it becomes night.

During it all the animals in the forest move about.

P: The young lions roar for their prey.

They are seeking their food from God.

C: The sun rises, and they gather together.

They return to their dens and lie down.

P: How many are your works, O LORD!

C: In wisdom you made them all.

P: May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

C: May the LORD rejoice in his works.

P: I will sing to the LORD throughout my life.

C: I will make music to my God as long as I last.

Lesson

1 Timothy 6:6-12

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot take anything out. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be satisfied.

⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into complete destruction

and utter ruin. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils. By striving for money, some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But you, O man of God, flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of eternal life, to which you were called and about which you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Confession of Faith - Luther's Explanation to the First Article

I believe that God made me and every creature and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all that I need to keep my body and life, and by defending me against all danger and guarding and protecting me from all evil.

All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Hymn 610

Now Thank We All our God

**Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.**

**Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in his grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.**

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Sermon

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-16

²⁰Noah built an altar to the LORD and took from every clean animal and every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹The LORD smelled the pleasant aroma. The LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the soil anymore because of man, for the thoughts he forms in his heart are evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike every living thing, as I have done. ²²While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

¹²God also said, "This is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you that I am giving for all generations to come. ¹³I have set my rainbow in the cloud, and it will be the sign of a covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴Whenever I bring a cloud over the earth and the rainbow is seen in the cloud, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of every sort, and the waters will never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶The rainbow will be in the cloud. I will look at it so that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of every kind that is on the earth."

Sermon: God's Rainbow Reminds Us!

Prayer for our Nation

P: Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

C: We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

P: You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

C: For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

P: Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

C: Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

P: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

P: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C: Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: His love endures forever

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Hymn 618

Before the Lord We Bow

**Before the Lord we bow, The God who reigns above
And rules the world below In boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring; In joy and praise
Our hearts we raise To heav'n's high King.**

**The nation you have blessed May well your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by your care.
For this fair land, For this bright day
Our thanks we pay-Gifts of your hand.**

**May ev'ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
Shine in your Word's pure light And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue Be tuned to praise
And join to raise A grateful song!**

**Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own.
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship him alone.
Cast down your pride! Your sin deplore
And bow before The Crucified!**

**And when in pow'r he comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, And, joyful, sing
To heav'n's high King Salvation's song!**

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, alt.

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Preacher: Pastor Benjamin Wessel
Choir Director: Jean Kaldunski
Organist: Dee Ann Techlin
Accompanist: Nancy Perez

Thanks to Al Schumacher for the donation of pumpkins and gourds for our Thanksgiving display and to Donna Keller for additional items and the flower arrangements.



God's Blessings to you this Thanksgiving!

Announcements

Open Forum / Voters Meeting: There will be an Open Forum for all members THIS SUNDAY, **November 28**, at 9:15am in church. Bring your questions, suggestions, and concerns about what is happening at Woodlawn and Lamb of God and hear reports on the various programs and ministries we conduct. A Voter's Meeting will be held immediately after where we will issue a call for a teacher for Grades 1&2 for next school year.

Church Decorating: Many willing hands are needed to decorate the church entry and worship area for Christmas. We would like to do that **Saturday, December 4**, beginning at 10:30am. The work takes about 90 minutes. We will serve pizza for all those who show up. Won't you join us?

The Trees Of Christmas: That's the theme of this year's mid-week Advent services, meant to prepare our hearts and minds for understanding the true meaning of Christmas. We will focus on the tree of sin and promise (Garden of Eden), the tree of redemption (Calvary's tree) and the tree of life (described in Revelation). We are working jointly with Jordan congregation for these services.

We will worship on Wednesdays, **December 1, 8 and 15**. Services will be at Woodlawn at 3:30pm and at Jordan at 6:30pm. Feel free to attend at either location. Your offering envelopes can be used at either church and will be returned to Woodlawn. If you have questions, check with one of the pastors.

Also, on Wednesday **December 1** the Woodlawn Ladies Aid will be serving a "Chili Dump with all the Fixin's." The meal will begin in the cafeteria right after the first service at approximately 4:30pm and they will serve until 5:30pm. Please sign up by November 29 and make sure to include the number of people attending so we have enough food for everyone. Contact Betty Warras, Bev Bock, or Karan Hug with any questions.