Cultivating a Grateful Heart

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Family,

As the autumn leaves fall and the air turns crisp, one would think November brings an automatic invitation to slow down and reflect. Well, I don't know about the "slow down," but it's another perfect opportunity for us to reflect. Yes, it's the season when our thoughts naturally turn toward turkey, family gatherings, and the tradition of Thanksgiving.

For the Christian, however, giving thanks is more than an annual holiday. It's our daily rhythm. The Apostle Paul reminds us in our above reading to ***"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*** Now, family, notice that Paul doesn't say give thanks "for" all circumstances, but rather "in" all circumstances. Even when life brings challenges or uncertainty, God's love remains constant.

Therefore, as we enter a new month, I want to encourage you to practice active gratitude.

- **Acknowledge and Thanks**: Write down one small gift and/or blessing from God each morning and give thanks and praise to our Lord for His gracious and giving hand.
- **Share your blessings**: Reach out to someone who might be lonely this holiday season; say you're doing a family/friend check, and share with them an invitation or even a ride to our church. Of course, coffee and breakfast is a nice touch too!
- **Serve our neighbors**: Every time you participate in an upcoming event, it benefits numerous people within our church, school and childcare. Remember, "treasure" is always helpful, but never forget, your time and talents are priceless too.

Therefore, family, *thank you* for being such a steadfast, loving and giving congregation. It's a profound joy to serve you as your pastor. May God bless you and your loved ones with a rich and peaceful Thanksgiving.

In Christ,
Pastor Seehafer