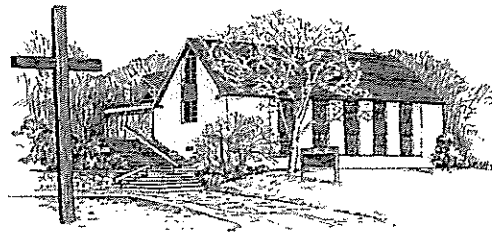




EMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK



Our Mission Statement

To Worship, Live, Love, Learn and Teach the Word of God in Christ

Welcome!

Welcome: We are glad that you are worshipping with us.

You may share in the worship at home by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EmanuelLutheranMedia/videos>

Electronic Giving Option Zelle: emanuelgiving@gmail.com

Ministers of Emanuel	The People of Emanuel
Pastor	Kevin O'Hara
Council President	Rick Brooks
Vice President	Tom McTigue
Secretary	Annamarie Olsen
Financial Secretary	Elke Betley
Treasurer	Denise Rempe
Deacons on Leave of Call	Bill Bello
	Karen Nurmi
	Barbara Meberg
	Nancy Schoener
	Victoria Lee Struss
Liturgical Artist	Lynne Beard
Director of Handbells	Eiko Cornelius
Director of Music	Deborah Jones - Norberto
Sunday School Superintendent	Helayne McDonnell, Valerie Wiebke
Youth Leader	Brian Gray
Office Administrator	Cathy Cairns
Pleasant Hill Nursery School	Maureen McArdle

LITURGICAL ART

Thanksgiving

The **cornucopia** was a very popular religious symbol in the ancient world and could be found stamped on Jewish coins beginning in the Maccabean era. The cornucopia or hollow animal horn was used as an oil container, an object to anoint kings or as a shofar- the musical instrument of the temple service. As a symbol of abundance it represented the richness of the Holy Land-the land of milk and honey. In traditional European cultures the completion of a harvest was celebrated by creating a corn dolly made of straw symbolizing abundance and prosperity in the year to come. One of the earliest forms used was the horn or cornucopia. With its message of abundance, the cornucopia is now a symbol of America's sentiments of thankfulness each November. Cornucopias have become traditional autumn centerpieces in the shape of woven, conical shaped baskets filled with leaves, flowers, fruits, nuts and vegetables. In the spiritual realm, the cornucopia represents the infinite supply of God's spiritual guidance available to all who seek it. Lynne Beard

Please contact Pastor Kevin O'Hara at the office at 914-769-1563 or via email at pastorkevinohara@gmail.com

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Visit our Facebook page... find us at Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Thanksgiving Eve

November 24, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. We give thanks when we are nourished by God's word; we give thanks for God's mercy and forgiveness which we receive in the sacraments; we give thanks for God's blessings and the assurance that God hears our requests in our prayers; we give thanks for being joined together in our communal worship; and we give thanks as we are sent out into the world to share God's love with those we encounter. As we gather this day we give thanks for all we have received.

Prelude **Let All Give Thanks and Praise** **by Cruger**

Welcome

Hymn **Come, Ye Thankful People Come** **ELW 693**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, the steadfast love of God, who lavishes us with blessings, and the communion of the Holy Spirit who walks with us in all things, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God our Father, your generous 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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving from the Roots of Our Faith

Giving Thanks with First Fruits

The annual harvest festival called the feast of Weeks provides the setting for today's reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land, offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

A reading from Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your

hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A Model for All of Us in Giving Thanks

A Samaritan leper becomes a model of thanksgiving for all of us. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

A reading from Luke:

Luke 17:11-9

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Praise and Thanksgiving—verse 1
*Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.*

ELW 689

Thanksgiving Observances in our Nation

From the Native Peoples of North America

Giving thanks to the Creator and living in harmony with nature are integral part of daily life for the Native Peoples of North America. From ancient times, they have held ceremonies to give thanks for successful harvests, for the hope of a good growing season in the early spring, and for other good fortune such as the birth of a child. Giving thanks was, and still is, the primary reason for ceremonies or celebrations.

It should be noted that for some groups of Native Peoples, the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving is A Day of Mourning, remembering the oppression and at times genocidal violence that Native Peoples endured as Europeans settled in North America. (At the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2016, voting members adopted a resolution called Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery—a theologically grounded legal doctrine of kings and popes to justify the conquest and evangelization of already inhabited lands—that acknowledges our church's complicity in the evils of colonialism, and calls for repentance and reconciliation with Native Peoples for the damage done in the name of Christianity.)

An Iroquois Thanksgiving Prayer

We who are here present thank the Great Spirit that we are here to praise Him.
We thank Him that He has created men and women, and ordered that these beings shall always be living to multiply the earth.

We thank Him for making the earth and giving these beings its products to live on.
We thank Him for the water that comes out of the earth and runs for our lands.
We thank Him for all the animals on the earth.
We thank Him for certain timbers that grow and have fluids coming from them for us all.
We thank Him for the branches of the trees that grow shadows for our shelter.
We thank Him for the beings that come from the west, the thunder and lightning that water the earth.

We thank Him for the light which we call our oldest brother, the sun that works for our good.
We thank Him for all the fruits that grow on the trees and vines.
We thank Him for his goodness in making the forests, and thank all its trees.
We thank Him for the darkness that gives us rest, and for the kind Being of the darkness that gives us light, the moon.

We thank Him for the bright spots in the skies that give us signs, the stars.
We give Him thanks for our supporters, who had charge of our harvests.

We give thanks that the voice of the Great Spirit can still be heard through the words of Ga-ne-o-di-o.

We thank the Great Spirit that we have the privilege of this pleasant occasion.

We give thanks for the persons who can sing the Great Spirit's music, and hope they will be privileged to continue in his faith.

We thank the Great Spirit for all the persons who perform the ceremonies on this occasion.

--Translated by Harriet Maxwell Converse, an advocate and philanthropist to the Iroquois, and the first white woman to be recognized as a chief of the Six Nations

Anthem

Thanks We Sing to Thee
Emanuel Choir

arr. Nancy Grundahl

Early European Thanksgivings in North America

Giving thanks for one's blessings and giving thanks for the harvest were two practices that European settlers brought with them to North America. The Spaniards and the French conducted the first thanksgiving services on North American soil in the 16th century. Thanksgiving services were regularly observed in what became the Commonwealth of Virginia. A service was held at the first permanent settlement, Jamestown, in 1610. In 1619, 38 English settlers arrived at what became known as Berkley Plantation in Charles City County, VA. The group's charter specified that they would annually observe a holy day in thanksgiving to Almighty God. They used the Book of Common Prayer, and likely used a litany similar in tone to this one from the current Book of Common Prayer (2007).

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

**To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving at Plymouth Plantation

Our national Thanksgiving observation is a blend of two traditions—the harvest festivals that were popular in western Europe, especially in England, and the Puritan Thanksgiving, which was a solemn religious observance of prayer and feasting. The account of the three-day Thanksgiving feast in 1621 at Plymouth Colony is the most familiar of the early thanksgiving observances in our nation.

Reading THE FIRST THANKSGIVING AT PLYMOUTH COLONY

—an account by colonist Edward Winslow

The Mayflower arrived in Plymouth harbor in December 18, 1620 with 102 Pilgrims on board. The winter was difficult. While they built homes, they continued to live on the ship. Nearly half of colonists fell ill and died of scurvy and pneumonia, made worse by lack of good shelter in the cold, wet weather. In March the Pilgrims met and communicated with the Wampanoag—the Native Americans in the area. Squanto, a Wampanoag, had been captured by British soldiers and was taken to England for a while. Since he had learned English there he was able to communicate with the colonists. He is the one who is generally credited for teaching the Pilgrims how to grow corn. In the fall of 1621 the Pilgrims celebrated the first harvest in a three-day feast, which the Wampanoag also attended. This account of that feast was written in a letter by Edward Winslow, one of the colonists, to a friend in England. The spelling and syntax has been edited by Plymouth Plantation staff.

“Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men hunting wild fowl, so that we might have a special celebration together, after we had brought in our crops. Those four in one day killed as much wild fowl that it and some other food served the community almost a week. At that time, along with other recreations, we practiced shooting our muskets. Many of the Wampanoag came to the town including their leader Massasoit with about ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted. And they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the Plantation and presented to Governor Bradford and Captain Standish and others. Although food is not always so plentiful as it was at that time, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from starvation, that we often wish you could share our plenty.

I never in my life remember a more seasonable year, than we have enjoyed here: We have great abundance of fish and fowl... fresh cod and lobsters all summer, and other variety of fish. In September we can take a hogshead of eels in the night, all the winter we have mussels: all springtime the earth sends forth very good salad herbs: here are grapes, white and red, ... strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries, etc. Plums of three sorts... an abundance of roses, white, red, and damask... I have thought good to let you understand these things... that you might on our behalf give God thanks who has dealt so favorably with us.”

Prayer God our creator, you have ordered seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain. Give to all who work fair compensation for the work of their hands. Grant that the people of this and every nation may give thanks to you for food, drink, and all that sustains life; may use with care the land and water from which these good things come; and may honor the laborers who produce them: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise and Thanksgiving—verse 3
*Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.*

The Continental Congress established the first national Thanksgiving in 1777. Presidents Washington, Adams, and Monroe also declared national days of Thanksgiving, but the custom gradually declined, though individual states observed a Day of Thanksgiving on a fairly regular basis. In 1827 Sarah Joseph Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady Book, a women's magazine, began a campaign to reinstitute Thanksgiving as a national observance. She appealed to several presidents, but it was not until 1863 that her was achieved. She was able to convince President Lincoln that a national day of Thanksgiving might help unite a nation that was torn apart by civil war. Neither Lincoln nor any of his successors established Thanksgiving Day as an annual event—a national Day of Thanksgiving needs to be proclaimed each year. Since 1941 a National Day of Thanksgiving has been observed on the fourth Thursday in November.

Reading**Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863**

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and even soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. 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. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

Abraham Lincoln

By the President: William H. Seward. Secretary of State.

Prayer

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

Praise and Thanksgiving verse 4

ELW 689

*Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.*

Meditation

Anthem

Thanks Be to Thee
ER Is and ER IIs
Miyako Cornelius--violin

Handel, arr. Wilson

A LITANY FOR THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God, maker of all things, who has blessed us with our selves, our time, and our possessions, and let us pray for the needs of the world.

For the magnificence of creation that awakens our senses: the majesty of snow-capped mountains, redolent pine forests, babbling brooks, the warmth of the sun, the sweet-crispness of fresh picked fruit; **We give you thanks, O God.**

For places where the earth is scorched and the soil is parched, where water is tainted and habitats have been destroyed, where the air is polluted, and vegetation has been blighted; **We pray for your restoration and renewal of creation.**

For the love and companionship of family and friends, for colleagues and acquaintances, and for being part of caring communities; **We give you thanks, O God.**

For the lonely, the alienated, those struggling with relationships, the ignored; **We pray for compassion to build bridges of fellowship that they might feel in community with others.**

For abundant harvests, for pantries that are full, for varieties of food too numerous to count, for stomachs well-sated; **We give you thanks, O God.**

For those who struggle to find food sufficient for their needs and go to bed with empty stomachs;

We pray for generous hearts to feed the hungry as you have called us to do.

For healthcare workers, first responders, essential workers, scientists and researchers, especially during the pandemic; **We give you thanks, O God.**

For those who are ill, for those who grieve for loved ones, for those coping with economic hardships as a result of the pandemic and natural disasters;

We pray that they will find hope for the future through an abundance of care and comfort from those who come to their aid.

For a nation that values liberty and justice, equality and peace, freedom to worship and to express our thoughts; **We give you thanks, O God.**

For people who are burdened by oppression, whose human rights are ignored, who do not know freedom, and whose lives are imperiled;

We pray for ears to hear their cries, eyes to see their tears, voices to boldly advocate on their behalf, and courage to come to their aid.

