



## Church Connection November 2018

### Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

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*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good....*

*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ....*

*In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Ps. 100:4-5a; Eph. 5:20;  
I Thess. 5:18

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#### Join us for...

*"Making Wisconsin Great  
One Family at a Time"*

An informative and practical challenge by Julaine Appling, WFC president

**Thurs., Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m.,**  
West Bend Pizza Ranch

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#### Did You Know?

Visit [wifamilycouncil.org/resources](http://wifamilycouncil.org/resources), for helpful material on marriage, family, sanctity of life, religious liberty, gender identity, and more.

### Our Rich Heritage

**W**e have a rich heritage as Americans, and we are well-served to remember what this national observance of Thanksgiving is all about and to Whom we give thanks.

In 1863 the Civil War had been ripping our nation apart for two years and would rage on for two more years. President Abraham Lincoln knows the war is important, even necessary, but finds no joy in it. He has often publicly and privately referred to the importance of Christianity in our country and has implored Heaven for direction during these trying times.

In September of 1863 Lincoln received a letter from Sarah Hale, a 74 year-old magazine editor. Mrs. Hale, as she had done with earlier presidents, requested that Thanksgiving become a fixed and permanent "festival" in our country.

Unlike previous presidents, Lincoln honored Mrs. Hale's request and established the fourth Thursday in November each year as the day for a national Thanksgiving observance.



We do well to reflect carefully on the proclamation President Lincoln made to commemorate Thanksgiving Day in 1863:

*The year that is drawing towards 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 soften even 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...peace has been preserved with all nations...and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict...Needful diversions of wealth and of strength*

(continued on back)

## Consider this...

Whenever we have always had something, we tend to take it for granted—but we shouldn't. Freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion are guaranteed to us in the very first amendment to the US Constitution as part of the Bill of Rights. These freedoms—these rights—have been part of the genius and DNA of the United States for over 240 years. They have been a great blessing to us as a nation, and to believers in particular. But at this time in our history they are coming under greater attack than ever before.

It is right and good for us individually and as a people to enter into a season of Thanksgiving on an annual basis. As we do so, let us give thanks for these foundational freedoms, and let us re-commit ourselves to defending them, with truth and grace, whenever we have opportunity.

As Thanksgiving approaches, our prayer for you is that *the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*, (Philippians 4:7).

*from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe 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...and the country...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.*

The truths in this proclamation are our inheritance. The same God Who blessed the nation in 1863 and Who was openly acknowledged in the proclamation is still on His throne today accomplishing His purposes in individual lives and in nations. Regardless of the current political climate, we and our families can certainly honor President Lincoln's call for giving great thanks to God for His incredible goodness to us as a nation even in the midst of our "perverseness and disobedience."

## About Wisconsin Family Council

*Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.*

*"Church Connection" is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.*

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