

# CHURCH CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2022



## A HERITAGE OF LIBERTY & THANKSGIVING

Have you ever considered that as Americans we have an eloquent heritage of thanksgiving? If not, then consider these eloquent quotations from some of our notable leaders and founding documents over the centuries.

- "...The Lord sent them such seasonable showers...as, through His blessing, caused a fruitful and liberal harvest..."<sup>1</sup>
- "With a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence..."<sup>2</sup>
- "...It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits..."<sup>3</sup>
- "It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people."<sup>4</sup>
- "May we on that day in our churches and in our homes give humble thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us during the year past by Almighty God."<sup>5</sup>

These statements from Governor Bradford, The Declaration of Independence, President George Washington, President Abraham Lincoln, and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, constitute defining moments in our nation's history. Many more like these contain direct references to the God of the Bible and public proclamations of thanksgiving for His providence and protection.

It is singularly ironic that in a post-modern country such as the United States, we celebrate a national holiday of Thanks-

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STRENGTHENING,  
PRESERVING & PROMOTING  
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

### Thanksgiving Reading Recommendations

*Why Thanksgiving?*, by Steve Deace, is a recently published children's book on Thanksgiving.

Older children might enjoy the print or audio version of *Rush Revere and the Brave Pilgrims*, by Rush Limbaugh. Both are available on Amazon.

Another great children's book is *Counting Our Blessings: Wonderful Thanksgiving Tales for Children*, available at [dogobooks.com](http://dogobooks.com).

Parents might appreciate the ability to brush up on their Thanksgiving history by reading the article "Why We Celebrate Thanksgiving" on the Providence Foundation website, [providence-foundation.com](http://providence-foundation.com).



"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; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Ps. 100:4-5

giving, the recognition of which inherently admits that, in truth, our prospects for peace, prosperity, and liberty are not dependent on either ourselves or our government but are instead the benevolent gift of a good God, to Whom thanks may and should be given.



Aren't you grateful that our liberty comes from God? Remember the phrase in The Declaration of Independence, "...that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Liberty is not man's concept; it comes from God, the Author of liberty. Our nation is founded on the Biblical concept of liberty and personal responsibility before God and man.

Thankfully, our Founding Fathers and many of our leaders down through the years were well versed in the Biblical concept of liberty; thus the ample evidence of public gratitude in historical Thanksgiving and prayer proclamations.

As Americans, we have a blessed heritage not only of liberty but also of Thanksgiving. May we never forget that heritage and the struggle our predecessors endured to bestow that heritage on us and our children.

We can look back at our history and see the complementary golden threads of liberty and thanksgiving winding their way through the tapestry of our country's history. Whatever we do, we ought not forget our liberty or neglect the opportunity to give God thanks for the peace and freedom He bestows on our country. In fact, we need to pass on our heritage of liberty and thanksgiving to our children and grandchildren.

To pass on a heritage requires purposeful commitment. If we haven't been doing this intentionally, this Thanksgiving is a perfect time to begin. Read Scripture together and tell the story of our first Thanksgiving as you gather for a bountiful meal. Give thanks to God for His great goodness. And with that Wisconsin Family Council extends to you and your family our best wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving. May you always celebrate it in liberty and with gratitude!

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Governor Bradford: <http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=17984>

<sup>2</sup>Declaration of Independence

<sup>3</sup>George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation: <http://billpetro.com/2009/11/26/george-washingtons-thanksgiving-proclamation-1789/>

<sup>4</sup>Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation: <http://billpetro.com/2009/11/26/abraham-lincolns-thanksgiving-proclamation-1863/>

<sup>5</sup>Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1933, Thanksgiving Proclamation: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-2062-thanksgiving-day>

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) 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 they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

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