### Thanksgiving

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**

**Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

***(Psalm 95:2)***

**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,**

**and into his courts with praise.**

**Give thanks to Him, bless His name!**

**For the Lord is good.**

***(Psalm 100:4-5)***

**And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving**

**and the voice of them that make merry:**

**and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few;**

**I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.**

***(Jeremiah 30:19)***

## I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.

## (Philippians 1:3)

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

***(1 Thessalonians 5:18)***

**While it is natural to give thanks when all is going well, giving thanks in adversity is more challenging. “Why should I give thanks when I am in pain?” you might ask. The answer lies in a universal law that tells us that all things work together for our highest good. Or, as M. Scott Peck put it, “Everything that happens to us in life does so to make us more holy.” (Douglas Bloch, in New Thought magazine)**

**Son says to his Mom: “The Pilgrims were starving until the Indians showed them how to grow pop-tarts, gummy worms and snickers, which is why we eat them to this day. It’s my alternate history of Thanksgiving. I got an ‘A’ for creativity! And the school dietitian wants you to call.” (Ed Stein, in Freshly Squeezed comic strip)**

**The first recorded American thanksgiving took place in Virginia, and it wasn't a feast. The spring of 1610 at Jamestown ended a winter that came to be called “the starving time.” The original contingent of 409 colonists had been reduced to 60 survivors. They prayed for help, with no way of knowing if or when any might come. When help did arrive, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, they held a prayer service to give thanks. (Reader's Digest: Strange Stories, Amazing Facts, p. 198)**

**In a letter sent by the Snohomish County, Washington, Health District to a job applicant: “Thank you for applying for the position of clerk-typist. We received many applications from very experienced and talented persons. I regret to inform you that you were chosen to be interviewed for the position. Thank you for your interest.” (Reader’s Digest)**

**The following poem says it all. It was written by an anonymous soldier more than 100 years ago and was found on a battlefield during the Civil War. He knew the true meaning of Thanksgiving: “I asked God for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for help that I might do better things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things; I got nothing that I asked for, but everything that I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed.” (Ken Magid)**

**According to The Bagels’ Bagel Book: “In 1683 in Vienna, Austria, a local Jewish baker wanted to thank the King of Poland for protecting his countrymen from Turkish invaders. He made a special hard roll in the shape of a riding stirrup – Beugel in Austrian – commemorating the king’s favorite pastime, and giving the bagel its distinctive shape.” *(Uncle John’s Best Bathroom Reader, P. 27)***

**Summer’s past, and winter’s near, and Thanksgiving Day is here. Though the flowers and leaves are gone, warm days vanished by cold dawn. Still our heartfelt thanks begin for the good days that have been. For the loved ones we now see, and the good things yet to be. *(Donna Eddy)***

**Zoe: “Today I’m going to finish reading my book and draw a picture of a horse!” Hammie: “Today I’m going to see if I can hang from the ceiling with suction cups!” Mom looks at her new little baby and says: “Have I thanked you lately for being a girl?” (Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)**

**One fellow was violently tearing through his Bible in a desperate search. A friend came up and asked, “Is something wrong?” “Yes,” he said, “I can’t remember if the Thanksgiving story is in the Old Testament or New Testament.” *(Interfaith Council of Boulder newsletter)***

**Dog: “Hey pal, what are you doing outside this store?” Grimm: “Oh, I’m waiting for the Black Friday Sale to start.” Dog: “Doesn’t it start on Friday?” Grimm: “Oh no, Black Friday starts earlier every year. This year it starts at noon on Thursday.” Dog: “Thursday? Really? What do they call that sale?” Grimm: “I’m not sure. It used to be called Thanksgiving.” (Mike Peters, in Mother Goose and Grimm comic strip)**

**At dinner with one of his elders, a minister famous for his abstinence was persuaded to take one small glass of cherry brandy. Then, after two more had been consumed and enjoyed, his host promised to send a couple of bottles around to the manse provided the reverend gentleman acknowledge the gift in the parish newsletter. This was duly promised and the next bulletin contained the following announcement: “Your minister wishes to acknowledge and express his thanks for the most welcome gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given.” (Sylvia L. Boehm,in After-Dinner Laughter)**

**At the first Thanksgiving Day, turkey was the main dish even though the Indian guests didn’t seem to care for turkey. But the pilgrims insisted. Seems that they didn’t have enough bread crumbs to stuff a buffalo. *(George Kottwitz, in The Lutheran Witness)***

 **At the Thanksgiving Day table 7-year-old Brian was told by his dad to ask the blessing and give thanks for the meal. As all heads bowed, Brian prayed his thanks for family and friends, then for the meal: the turkey, dressing, cranberries, and pies. Then he paused. His mother looked at him questionably. He asked, “If I thank God for the broccoli, won’t He know I’m lying.” *(George Kottwitz, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**Some people always sigh in thanking God. (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)**

**Two women went window-shopping. One saw an item she liked and fished in her handbag for a $20 bill. After rummaging around, she said, “Darn, I don't have enough.” Her friend said, “Sorry, I can't lend you anything -- I didn't bring any money with me. How come you ran short?” “Oh, I was a soft touch for a bum this morning.” “Really? And what did your husband have to say about that?" “He said, 'Thanks.'" (Elizabeth Sutherland)**

**Daughter answers phone: “Hi, Mom! Of course! You can visit any time! Great! And thanks for calling first. It’ll give me time to prepare! I can’t wait until you get here!” Mom: “Open the door!” (Pat Brady & Don Wimmer, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)**

**Canada celebrates Thanksgiving in October. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I went to the hardware store one weekend morning to buy supplies for my latest repair project. A harried-looking man entered and approached the register. “Do you rent carpet-shampooing machines?” he asked. “We do,” the clerk said. “But they’re all out.” “Thank God,” the fellow replied in relief. (Alan Stern)**

**Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year -- and then discover once a year is way too often. (Johnny Carson)**

**A very wise public-relations counsel cautions letter writers to delete the pronoun “I” as much as possible. “A weekend thank-you note that opens “I had a wonderful time,’” he points out, “is not half so captivating as one beginning, ‘You are a wonderful hostess.’ Both say ‘thank you,’ but, ah, my friends, the second is the one that will get you asked back!” *(Bennett Cerf, in The Life of the Party)'***

**Thanks is the highest form of thought. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**At my father’s church, the second hymn of the Sunday service was always chosen especially for the children, who then went off to Sunday school. One week father noticed that there were no youngsters present and decided to change the second hymn. Glancing quickly through his hymn book, he announced, “As there are no children here this morning, we will sing, ‘Now Thank We All Our God.’” *(Patrick Shelley, in Reader’s Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Thanksgiving Day was approaching, and the family had received a card picturing a Pilgrim family on their way to church. Grandma showed the card to her young grandchildren and remarked, “The Pilgrim children liked going to church with their parents.” “Oh, yeah?” her grandson replied. “Then why is the dad carrying that rifle?” *(Quoted in The Joyful Newsletter)***

**The sentence in the Thanksgiving edition of my church bulletin intended to say: “Thank you, Lord, for the many miracles we are too blind to see.” But in what might have been a classic Freudian slip, the sentence read: “Thank you, Lord, for the many miracles we are too blond to see.” *(Anita Daugherty, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**Because at a banquet no clergymen were present to ask a blessing, a well-known actor was conscripted to say the grace. He began, “There being no clergymen present, let us give thanks.” *(Leslie B. & Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents & Quips for Church Publications)***

**At a coffee bar in Lansing, Michigan, a sign on the staff’s tip container said, “Thanks a Latte.” (Reader’s Digest)**

**Bill: “Do you know why we give thanks at Thanksgiving?” my friend once asked her. Child: “Because that’s when Pharaoh passed over the Pilgrims,” she replied. *(Bill Cosby)***

**Before A. J. Cronin became a best-selling author, he was a doctor. Once he told about a colleague who gave an unusual prescription to patients afflicted with worry, fear, discouragement or self-doubt. The doctor called it his “thank-you cure.” For six weeks I want you to say thank you whenever anyone does you a favor. And to show you mean it, emphasize the words with a smile. Within six weeks, most of the doctor’s patients showed great improvement. *(Fred Bauer, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Son: “Mom, am I going to have Thanksgiving here or at Dad's?” Mom: “You're going to have Thanksgiving here, and then Christmas with your Dad.” Son: “Who’s Dad going to have Thanksgiving with?” Mom: “I don't know.” Son: “Well, he's not going to have very much to be thankful for if he's all by himself.” (Jerry Bittle, in Shirley & Son comic strip)**

**And now, I’ll repeat the traditional Thanksgiving prayer that my mother, Pauline Phillips, wrote years ago: Oh, Heavenly Father, we thank thee for food and remember the hungry. We thank thee for health and remember the sick. We thank thee for friends and remember the friendless. We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved. May these remembrances stir us to service, that thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen. (Dear Abby)**

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**Dennis says to Mr. & Mrs. Wilson: “Thanks for dinner, guys. I’ll be back tomorrow for leftovers.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Thanksgiving dinner is getting more expensive. A turkey dinner for 10 with all of the fixings will cost 13 percent more this year than in 2010, according to an annual supermarket survey. To blame: rising commodities prices. (Time.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 25, 2011)**

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**Drabble says to the duck: “Oh, you weigh 4 ½ pounds. Thanksgiving is three weeks away.” Wife: “What’s going on?” Drabble: “If I take this duck to the donut shop every day, do you think I could turn him into a 15-pound butterball?” Wife: “Why not? It turned you into a 260-pound butterball!” (Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)**

**The best thing about e-mail is communicating with distant relatives. It's such a convenient way to thank them for keeping their distance! (J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)**

**Thirteen-year-old Ginny had been a bad girl, and part of her punishment was to eat dinner alone at a small table in the corner of the kitchen. No one paid any attention to her until the family became aware of the Grace that she was saying aloud: “I thank Thee, Lord, for preparing a table for me in the presence of mine enemies.” (Charles Chich Govin, in Catholic Digest)**

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**President Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as an official national holiday, but the real “father” of Thanksgiving was a woman newspaper editor. Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, born in 1788, spent 26 years writing an endless stream of letters and newspaper editorials in her relentless campaign for the holiday, says historian John Frantz. While she served as editor of Godey’s Lady’s Book – the most widely read ladies’ magazine in the U.S. at the time, with a circulation of 150,000 – Mrs. Hale wrote a number of editorials urging that Thanksgiving be made a national holiday, said Frantz. In an unrelenting letter campaign, she also wrote numerous prominent citizens, governors and U.S. Presidents. By 1859, 30 of the 33 states were observing Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November -- many because of her efforts. In September 1863, Lincoln finally proclaimed that a national day of Thanksgiving would be observed and celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, bringing Mrs. Hale’s decades-long campaign to a successful end, said Dr. Frantz*. (Bob Temmey, in National Enquirer)***

**Mom: “Before we begin, maybe your Father would like to say a word of two?” Dad: “Um, seconds?” (Bill Amend, in Foxtrot comic strip)**

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**Husband: “I feel very thankful to have all of you in my life!” Wife: “We all feel very you’re welcomeful!” *(Pat Brady, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)***

**I was moving with the crowd on a New York City street when a young man in front of me was stopped by an attractive woman. She greeted him warmly. As I tried to maneuver around them, he grabbed my arm and said to her, “And I’d like you to meet my fiancée.” “It’s so nice to meet you,” the young woman said eagerly. Well, what the heck. “It’s nice to meet you too,” I replied. “When’s the wedding?” she asked. “Next month,” the man answered. “A small thing, really,” I said. “If you can call four hundred people small,” he chimed in. The three of us chatted gaily, said our good-bys, and she went off. The man grasped my hand. “Thank you,” he said fervently. “That was my ex-girlfriend.” *(Lisa Bain, in Esquire)***

**A woman drove me to drink and I didn’t even have the decency to thank her. (W. C. Fields)**

**Dolly asks Mom: “Will our company and all of us fit at the same dinner table, or will us kids get demoted?” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Football and Thanksgiving teamed up in 1934 when Detroit Lions owner George Richards proposed the holiday game to attract more fans. It worked, and the Lions have played every Thanksgiving Day since, except during World War II. (American Profile magazine)**

**To thank actor Harrison Ford for narrating a documentary, the London Museum of Natural History named a spider after him called Calponia Harrisonfordi. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 140)***

**First cave man: “Today we should praise and share with one another. Those-special things for which we are thankful.” Second cave man: “Um, cool. I'm hip.” First cave man: “Like say, freedom of speech.” Second cave man: “Amen. Ditto.” (Johnny Hart, in BC comic strip)**

**Woman: “I’m thankful for all the friends gathered around this Thanksgiving table!” Man: “I’m thankful that Lisa is feeling better every day!” Second woman: “I’m thankful Les wasn’t hurt in the fire at school!” Third woman: “I’m thankful that our TV crew was the first one to the fire!” (Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)**

**Awake with a winged heart, and give thanks for another day of loving! *(Kahlil Gibran)***

**Lucy: “Now, if we meet someone, make sure you say, ‘Happy Thanksgiving’.” Charlie Brown: “Will they give me a turkey?” Lucy: “No, they won’t give you a turkey.” Charlie Brown: “If you say, ‘Happy Thanksgiving,’ they should give you a turkey.” Lucy: “Sometimes I think you live in a different world.” Charlie Brown: “Or maybe a pumpkin pie.” (Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)**

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**Were there no God, we would be in this glorious world with grateful hearts, and no one to thank. (Christina Rossetti)**

**Why do Americans eat turkey at Thanksgiving? After all, most historians believe that turkey was not served at the first Thanksgiving feast. Many credit the activist Sarah Joseph Hale for popularizing the bird. She was a prolific writer of the 19th century. Not only did she write "Mary Had a Little Lamb" but she published novels set in New England that highlighted New England virtues and traditions, such as eating Thanksgiving turkey, and she campaigned for the Thanksgiving holiday. For this Hale is remembered as the "Godmother of Thanksgiving." (The Daily Chronicle)**

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Sally: Got my fork, got my seat. Got good grub, let’s go eat!” Woman: “I knew I should have insisted on cue cards for the blessing.” (Francesco Marciuliano, in Sally Forth comic strip)

**A few weeks before graduation ceremonies at California State University in Hayward, I overheard some students discussing the upcoming event. “I’m graduating magna cum laude,” the first boasted. “Well, I’m graduating summa cum laude,” said the second, not to be outdone. The third simply broke into a smile and said, “I’m graduating, thank the good Lord!” (Rebecca McQuerrey, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Thanks for a great meal – If we are what we eat, I’m now a much better person. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Let us cultivate this habit of giving thanks, lifting up our thoughts and words to the Spirit of plenty, of prosperity, of joy, of love, of power, of strength – of everything that enters into life – and do it because we love to express the joy of living in a universe where the law of success is so easily utilized. (Charles Fillmore)**

Son: “Dad! Why did you do this to Nelson’s hair? Just look at it! What on earth were you thinking?” Grandpa: “Well, I was thinking I would save you the cost and trouble of taking him to the barber.” Son: “I’m speechless!” Grandpa: “I believe the phrase you’re looking for is ‘Thank you’.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)*

**Since he first tottered into the nation’s living rooms in 1980 on ABC’s short-lived hit “Bosom Buddies,” Tom Hanks has sealed his reputation as the celebrity mensch: not too handsome, not too slick, just really, really nice. Over the past decade he’s had lead roles in the films Philadelphia, Forrest Gump, Apollo 13, and Saving Private Ryan. Lest anyone think the good-guy factor that permeates his work is an act, take it from “Bosom Buddies” producer Tom Miller, it’s not. When “Buddies” was still a fledging pilot nearly 20 years ago, Miller recalls, Hanks was so broke he asked the producers and his partner, Bob Boyett, to lend him $5000. They doubled the amount. “As soon as Tom received his first paycheck there was only one priority – paying the money back,” Miller says. “Even today, if he sees us in a theater, the man drops to his knees and says, ‘Thank you, guys, for helping me with my career!’ It’s embarrassing.” But to Hanks, the over-the-top display makes sense. “Not only did they grant me a career in television by casting me,” he says, “but they were the greatest gentlemen in the world.” (Karen S. Schneider, in People Weekly)**

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**Girl: “When you think about it, giving thanks also means that we should help all those in need. That by being one of the haves, I should do all I can to assist and share with the have-nots, Touch that and you’ll be pulling this fork out of your forehead.” Boy: “I just thought since I have-not a drumstick.” *(Rick Stromoski, in Soup to Nutz comic strip)***

**Lance: “I haven’t been myself lately, Axel.” Axel: “And we’ve all been meaning to thank you, Lance!” (J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)**

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**When actress Helen Hayes decided to cook her first Thanksgiving turkey, she told her family that if the bird didn’t come out right, they’d all go have dinner at their favorite hotel. When she carried the turkey from the kitchen into the dining room, she found her entire family sitting at the table in their hats and coats. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 151)***

**Forever on Thanksgiving Day, the heart will find the pathway home. *(Wilbur D. Nesbit)***

**Thank you for helping me learn to be more cautious in dealing with people like you. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Matthew Henry, the famous scholar, was once accosted by thieves and robbed of his purse. He wrote these words in his diary: “Let me be thankful first, because I was never robbed before; second, because, although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.” (Church of Ireland)**

**I thank God for this illness and these physical discomforts, because I have the time to converse with the Lord Jesus. (St. Faustina Kowalska)**

**As the teleconference with our London branch concluded, my British colleague suggested that we continue our meeting the next day. “Sorry,” I said. “Tomorrow’s July 4th, and the office will be closed.” “Ah, yes, Independence Day,” he said. “Or as we refer to it over here, Thanksgiving.” *(Dale Jenkins, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Lars: “Exactly what ‘service’ does the Internal Revenue Service provide, Lance?” Lance: “They take our money. I must remember to include a thank-you note with my tax return.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Irish saying quoted in Killarney shop: “Get down on your knees, and thank God you are on your feet.” (Reader’s Digest)**

**All I know is the IRS is sending me thank-you notes every week. (Larry Nelson, Top Senior PGA money earner)**

**Thanksgiving will keep the heart fresh. *(Charles Fillmore, in Revealing Word)***

**Thanksgiving Kitchen Philosophy:**

**\* A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen and this kitchen is delirious.**

**\* No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.**

**\* A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.**

**\* Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.**

**\* Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.**

**\* A clean house is a sign of a misspent life.**

**\* Housework done properly can kill you.**

**\* Countless numbers of people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.**

**\* My next house will have no kitchen – just vending machines. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**Charlie Brown says to Linus: “When I was walking home today, I met a lady on the sidewalk. I did just what you told me, I said, ‘Happy Thanksgiving,’ so she yelled at me. She thought I was being sarcastic.” (Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)**

**The first Thanksgiving lasted three days.** ***(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 243)***

**Willy: “We have no food, no water, no phone or power of any kind, and every one of our loan requests has been turned down flat?” Ethel: “Is there anything on the plus side of the ledger?” Willy: “We’re not going to be up all night writing thank-you cards.” (Joe Martin, in Willy ‘N’ Ethel comic strip)**

**The days after Thanksgiving, I can attest that the only leftovers are my out-of-town guests. (Jacqueline Schiff, in The Saturday Evening Post)**

**After John Lennon was assassinated in late 1980, letters of sympathy poured in to his widow from all over the world. Unable to cope with the stacks of mail which inundated her, Yoko Ono wrote a full-page letter of thanks and placed it in newspapers all over the world. The cost of the ad was $200,000, making this the most expensive thank-you note in history. (Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts)**

**You can tell you ate too much for Thanksgiving when you have to let your bathrobe out. (Jay Leno)**

**Thankfulness helps you be receptive to the life force of the universe. If you don’t express your gratitude, you lesson your life force. Being appreciative empowers and strengthens you. When you call for a vision with gratefulness flowing through your heart, assistance from the spiritual realm floods into your being. This is a universal law. If you have been praying for help and guidance and no one seems to be listening, start being thankful. Let go of your prayers for what you want and immerse yourself in thankfulness for what you have. This is an act of power. Even if, in the beginning, you have trouble being thankful, act as if you are thankful. There most certainly are things in your life for which you are appreciative. Focus your awareness on those things. This is the mystic path to inner truth. When you are thankful, it is inevitable that you will gain in wisdom and inner strength. (Denise Linn, in Quest: A Guide to Creating Your Vision Quest)**

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**Who does not thank for little will not thank for much. (Estonian proverb)**

**Thank You God for little things that often come our way – The things we take for granted but don’t mention when we pray – The unexpected courtesy, the thoughtful, kindly deed – A hand reached out to help us in the time of sudden need – Oh, make us more aware, dear God, of little daily graces that come to us with “sweet surprise” from never-dreamed-of places. (Helen Steiner Rice, in Someone Cares)**

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**Once I received a thank-you note from a friend whom I had helped. In the envelope were five lottery tickets that had been scratched, revealing the numbers. “Thank you very much for your help,” the note read. “As a gift, I bought you some lottery tickets – sorry you didn’t win. (Barbara Cooper, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Al Capone was so pleased with the 1932 film Scarface that he gave director Howard Hawks a miniature machine gun as a thank-you present.  *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 13)***

**Hammie: “Here’s a special Thanksgiving turkey that we made in class.” Mom: “For me?” Hammie: “Yeah. You can eat the whole thing, too!” Mom: “Wow!” Hammie: “See? The body is a cupcake, the head is a gumdrop, and the eyes and the beak are little pieces of candy.” Mom: “Yum!” Hammie: “We ran out of glue, so I had to stick everything on with spit.” (Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)**

**Thanksgiving dinner is truly a magical meal. It keeps reappearing for days. (Linda Perret)**

 **Grandma: “Is there anything in the mailbox?” Grandpa: “Just a couple of notes.” Grandma: “Who are they from?” Grandpa: “One of our friends, the Nelson's.” Grandma: “What does it say?” Grandpa: “It says, ‘There was no one home, so I left your Christmas gift in the mailbox!'” Grandma: “Who's the other one from?” Grandpa: “Our mailman. He says ‘Thanks for the fudge?’” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

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**“What a wonderful meal!” wrote a German friend after spending Thanksgiving at our home last year. “I left your house all fed up.” *(Esther Tissing)***

**Chef: “Now this is a meal to be thankful for! Which do you prefer, light or dark?” Drabble: “Dark!” Chef: “One chocolate devil’s food!” Mother says to her child: “This is the last time I let your father prepare Thanksgiving dinner!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**A traditional Thanksgiving meal cost about 14 percent more this year than it did in 2020. A 16-pound turkey cost nearly $24, almost $5 more than the average price a year ago, while the sides for the “classic” Thanksgiving meal totaled roughly $29. *(Axios.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 3, 2021)***

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**One item sent in for copyright at the Library of Congress was a book written by a whimsical Texas businessman, who intended to hand out copies to his customers and friends. Its title was A Million Thanks, and it consisted of the word “thanks” repeated one million times. “No thanks,” replied the Library, declining to register it because a single word is not copyrightable. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations , p. 1456)**

**To me, music is mankind’s way of thanking the universe for letting us be here. (Juan Gabriel, singer)**

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**Mom: “Keep the thermometer under your tongue, Peter. 103 degrees. I thought you felt a little warm.” Peter: “I’m sick? I can’t be sick! Not for Thanksgiving! It’s the one time of the year when I need all my strength!” Mom: “It’s a meal. What do you need strength for?” Peter: “Perhaps you haven’t noticed the size of my forkfuls.” (Bill Amend, in Foxtrot comic strip)**

**After Thanksgiving I always need rest, allowing my food to slowly digest. I turn on the TV, finding reruns galore, thankfully knowing that I will soon snore. (Robert J. Gaurnier, in The Saturday Evening Post)**

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**Son: “What did that John guy want?” Mom: “He wanted to thank me again for such a nice time.” Son: “Thank you?” Mom: “Wasn’t that nice of him?” Son: “Things are getting way too nice around here, if you ask me.” (Jerry Bittle, in Shirley & Son comic strip)**

**The Department of Transportation reports that many Americans are going to travel 100 miles or more to spend Thanksgiving with family. Then they’re going to spend the rest of the day giving thanks that they live 100 miles away. (Conan O’Brien)**

**Good week for: Coming in third, after researchers at Cornell found that Olympic bronze-medal winners are, on average, happier with their finishes than silver medalists. Silver medalists tend to fixate on the near miss, while bronze winners are thankful to win anything. *(The Week magazine, March 12, 2010)***

**Be thankful for what you have -- you’ll end up having more. *(Oprah Winfrey)***

**Did you know Thanksgiving really originated about 3400 years ago? In the autumn – after the harvest – God planned the people should keep a solemn feast unto the Lord. (Deuteronomy 16:13-15) David expressed his gratitude in Psalm 103, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.” *(Rev. Lurabelle Gustafson, Divine Science Minister)***

**Outcomes rarely turn on grand gestures or the art of the deal, but on whether you’ve sent someone a thank-you note. (Bernie Brillstein, in The Little Stuff Matters Most)**

**After my husband and I went over our family finances, I decided to list ten things I could do to improve our situation. One item was a commitment to work eight hours overtime each week. I handed the list to my husband so he could add his suggestions. He added item No. 11 and handed me the list with a grin. His item: “Thank my wife for working eight hours overtime each week.” (R. J. Titus, in Reader’s Digest)**

**About 35 years ago, my mother-in-law and her daughter had difficulty finding a parking place while shopping. After a couple of trips around the block, my sister-in-law spotted an empty spot in a funeral home parking lot. Obviously, there was a funeral service in progress, but there was one empty spot, and my sister-in-law directed her mother into it. My mother-in-law was so stricken with conscience that she insisted on attending the service, where she mingled with the mourners and even gazed upon the coffin, despite the fact that she knew no one there. After the service, my mother-in-law felt it was all right to go shopping. My sister-in-law was simply thankful her mother hadn’t insisted on going to the cemetery, too! *(Betty Jacobson, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**A soldier in the American Third Army was sent to a rest camp after a period of active service. When he returned to his outfit, he wrote a letter to General George Patton and thanked him for the splendid care he had received. General Patton wrote back that for thirty-five years he had sought to give all the comfort and convenience he could to his men, and added that this was the first letter of thanks he had received in all his years in the Army. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1460)**

**Boy: “It just quit writing! Stupid pen! Can I borrow a pencil? to write a thank you note to Aunt Maude.” Friend: “What did Aunt Maude give you?” Boy: “That pen!” (Bud Blake, in Tiger comic strip)**

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**Dennis: “We should be thankful the Pilgrims came over on the Mayflower instead of the Titanic.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Dennis prays at the Thanksgiving meal: “And I’m thankful the Pilgrims didn’t have liver and onions for their Thanksgiving meal.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

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**Man: “Do you have plans for Thanksgiving?” Geech: “Oh, just the usual. A sandwich, a bag of Cheetos, and a bottle of Mountain Dew.” Man: “It sounds like you have a lot to be thankful for.” Geech: “I’m just thankful I don’t have to share it with anyone." (Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)**

**At the Thanksgiving dinner, one says to the other: “And let us give thanks that the election is over and hope that politics goes back to just being a nuisance.” (Wiley, in Non Sequitur comic strip)**

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**The Pilgrims ate popcorn during the first Thanksgiving dinner. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 190)***

**The Indians could not possibly have served popcorn to the Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving because they didn’t have microwave ovens back then. (Rocky Mountain News)**

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**In our parish in Kansas, the Altar and Rosary society was discussing the changes in the Church brought about by Pope John and the Vatican Council. Some of the older members didn’t like the new ways of doing things, and were being very outspoken in their criticism. But one little old lady of about 80 topped them all. She raised her hand and said, “All I can say is that I am thankful that Pope John died while he was still a Catholic.” (Richard R. McFadden, in Catholic Digest)**

**We attended the wedding of an acquaintance’s son. Because we did not know the young man or his bride, we decided to send them a practical household gift, a fire extinguisher. Apparently, the couple mass-produced their thank-you notes because we received a card saying: “Thank you very much for the nice wedding gift. We look forward to using it soon.” (Toni D. Moore, in Reader’s Digest)**

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**Grandma’s advice: “Each day is a gift from God. So it’s only polite to send Him a thank-you prayer.” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**The power of the moment, the extreme emotional mixture of joy, shock, and disbelief, must have been beyond our imagination. Lazarus was alive! And the catalyst which had made it all happen, the key which had opened the passageway from death to life, was Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving. (Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 322)**

**I have lived to thank God that not all my prayers have been answered. *(Jean Ingelow)***

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**There is one thing for which all can be thankful, and it is generally overlooked. We can all be thankful for the present moment, because it is what we do and the way we think in the present moment that changes our past and determines our future. (Doug Hooper)**

**Maureen: “You’re renting an entire town for your Thanksgiving gathering?” Clayton: “I have a huge family, Maureen! Twelve sons with wives and kids. Of course the wives have extended families that will be there, too.” Maureen: “Whoa! How many people are you related to, Clayton?” Clayton: “There’s a good chance that I’m related to everyone!” (Robb Armstrong, in Jump Start comic strip)**

**Maureen: “You’re renting an entire town for your Thanksgiving gathering?” Clayton: “I have a huge family, Maureen! Twelve sons with wives and kids. Of course the wives have extended families that will be there, too.” Maureen: “Whoa! How many people are you related to Clayton?” Clayton: “There’s a good chance that I’m related to everyone!” *(Robb Armstrong, in Jump Start comic strip)***

**In the days of our founders, they were willing to give thanks for mighty little, for mighty little was all they expected. But now, neither government nor nature can give enough but what we think it’s too little. Those old boys in the fall of the year, if they could gather in a few pumpkins, potatoes and some corn for the winter, they were in a thanking mood. If we can’t gather in a new Buick, a new radio, a tuxedo and more government relief, why, we feel that the world is against us. (Will Rogers)**

**THE ALL-AMERICAN TURKEY DAY holiday was always on the last Thursday of November – thanks to an 1863 proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln – until 1939 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the second to last week of the month. His intent was to lengthen the shopping season and boost sales in the midst of the Great Depression. The idea – a kind of low-key Federal Stimulus Plan – was not well received because it ticked off traditionalists (some states continued the last Thursday tradition) and football fans (rivalry games set years in advance on the customary holiday date had to be cancelled) not to mention calendar makers with suddenly unusable inventory. Responding to the public outcry, Roosevelt in 1941 signed a law declaring the fourth Thursday of November as national Thanksgiving Day. (The Saturday Evening Post)**

**I didn't beat the rush hour** **traffic, but thank goodness I tied it! (Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)**

**We should spend as much time in thanking God for His benefits as we do in asking Him for them. *(St. Vincent de Paul)***

**A postal employee opened and read the mail which came to the Dead Letter Office in Washington addressed to Santa Claus. In the three months before Christmas, there were thousands of letters asking for something. In the months after Christmas, there was only one card addressed to Santa Claus thanking him. How quick we are to ask and receive. How slow we are to speak the magic word -- thanks! (Paul Lee Tan)**

**Gloria: “I hope you guys aren’t serving pizza with giblets again this year.” Lance: “No, we decided to break with tradition and serve burritos with cranberry sauce.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**If anyone could tell you the shortest way to all happiness and perfection, he must tell you to make it a rule to yourself to thank and praise God for everything that happens to you. For it is certain that whatever seeming calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing. (William Law, a great English clergyman of the 18th century)**

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**After a stirring concert at New York's outdoor Lewissohn Stadium when Marian Anderson had sung encore after encore, a thousand people crowded around the backstage entrance, asking only a glimpse of the woman who had moved them so deeply. In response to continued calls, the great singer stepped out onto the porch, still wearing her white, concert gown. She stood silent and motionless for a moment, then said quietly to the crowd, “Thank you for letting me sing.” (Carolyn Roland)**

**I compose choral music, and am often asked to guest-conduct choruses. During a recent stint I worked with 180 enthusiastic high-school singers. After the concert, as students and parents were filing out of the auditorium, one mother stopped me and said, “I want to thank you for providing my son with a wonderful musical experience -- and especially for leaving him hoarse for the rest of the weekend.” (Carl J. Nygard, Jr., in Reader's Digest)**

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**When the snow is up to your knees, about the only thing to be thankful for is that you’re not eight feet tall. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**My second graders were assigned the task of writing thank-you cards to soldiers serving in the Middle East. One of them wrote, “Thank you for protecting us! I hope we win!” (Georgina McCarthy, in Reader’s Digest)**

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**Lucy says to Schroeder: “If a person really loves someone and wants something nice to say, you know what he can say? He can say, ‘Thank you for being you!” Aren't you going to thank me?” (Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)**

**First woman: “Ed complains about having to drive a bus again, but I’ll bet he’s really thankful to have something to do!” Second woman: “We’re all thankful!” (Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)**

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**The parents of a young man who was killed gave their church a check for $1,000 in his memory. When the presentation was made, another mother whispered to her husband, “Let’s give the same for our boy.” “What are you talking about?” asked the father. “Our son didn’t lose his life.” “That’s just the reason,” replied his mother. “Let’s give it in thanksgiving because he’s still alive.” (S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)**

**A plump white-feathered turkey was spared from winding up on a Thanksgiving dinner plate when President Bush granted it a pardon Monday in keeping with White House tradition. The national turkey and an alternate bird are being sent to a nearby petting farm. The bird was placed on a table in the Rose Garden for the holiday ceremony, and Bush patted it on the head. (Rocky Mountain News, November 25, 2003)**

**Giving thanks, expressing thanks, appreciation, praise and blessing will enhance and enrich your daily life. But more than that, expressing these qualities of Spirit will enlighten your consciousness. You will leap forward in spiritual transformation, all because you increased your thanks-ability! (Gerry Comstock, Unity minister)**

**After sitting down to a grand Thanksgiving spread at my mother-in-law’s home, she announced, “Before we get started, I think we ought to give thanks to the Lord.” Without skipping a beat, her sister grumbled, “I think we better taste the meal first.” (Steve Wise, in Reader’s Digest)**

Billy asks his Mom before he starts to beat up his little brother, Jeffy: “We don’t have to start bein’ good till after Thanksgiving, right, Mommy?” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)

**One of the most breathtaking sights in San Diego is sunset on the beach. As the sun sinks slowly into the horizon, hundreds of seagulls stand and turn quietly to bid farewell. Pelicans fly by in perfect formation, skimming just the top of the waves in their sunset salute. On the bridge across from the beach, thousands of birds line up on the electrical wires, all sitting and facing the sun, saying goodbye to the day. Perhaps they are also silently praying “Thank You, God, for knowing and caring when even one of us falls. Thank you, God, for declaring that even the sparrows shall be fed.” (Laurie Beth Jones, in Jesus CEO, p. 28)**

**Servant: “I like taking stuff from castles during the holidays!” Hagar: “Why?” Servant: “You don’t have to write ‘thank you’ notes afterwards!” (Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)**

**Zoe answers the phone and says: “Hello. MacPherson residence. This is Zoe speaking.” Mom: “Zoe, your telephone manners are wonderful!” Zoe says thank you to her Mom, and then says to her little brother: “Hey, stupid! It’s for you!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**In the novel I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Margaret Craven tells of a young minister, Mark Brian, who is sent by his bishop to a remote parish of Kwakiutl Indians in British Columbia. The Indians, he is told, do not have a word for thank you. But Brian soon finds that these people have exceptional generosity. Instead of saying thanks, it is their custom to return every favor with a favor of their own, and every kindness with an equal or superior kindness. They do their thanks. I wonder if we had no words in our vocabulary for thank you, would we do a better job of communicating our gratitude? Would we be more responsive, more sensitive, more caring? (Fred Bauer, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Things To Be Thankful For:**

* **Be thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means you have enough to eat.**
* **Be thankful for the mess you clean up after a party, because it means you have been surrounded by friends.**
* **Be thankful for the taxes you pay, because it means that you’re employed.**
* **Be thankful that your lawn needs mowing and your windows need fixing, because it means you have a home.**
* **Be thankful for your heating bill, because it means you are warm.**
* **Be thankful for the laundry, because it means you have clothes to wear.**
* **Be thankful for the space you find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means you can walk.**
* **Be thankful for the lady who sings off - key behind you in church, because it means you can hear.**
* **Be thankful people complain about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.**
* **Be thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means you’re alive. *(Ann Landers column, author unknown)***

**In the old Anglo-Saxon language, “thankfulness” means “thinkfulness.” So changing our thoughts from everything that is wrong to acknowledging what is right in our world, leads to a feeling of gratitude and peacefulness. *(Dr. Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**Crankshaft: “That was an absolutely wonderful Thankful dinner. In fact, it was a three-notcher.” One woman says to another: “Thanksgiving is one of the few times that Ed feels expansive.” (Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)**

**Dad: “In 1621 the Plymouth Rock community held a three-day celebration to thank the Wampanoag Indian tribe for teaching them how to survive in the New World. The practice spread, and in 1789 George Washington proclaimed November 26 a day of Thanksgiving. In 1863 Abe Lincoln set aside the last Thursday in November. FDR changed it to the current fourth Thursday. So, what are you thankful for today? Nate?” Nate: “I was going to say not having to go to school.” *(Ed Stein, in Denver Square comic strip)***

**Mom: “I’m sorry you’re too sick to eat with us, Peter. Here, maybe this’ll help you feel a little better.” Peter: “Chicken noodle soup? I’m supposed to feel good about eating chicken noodle soup for Thanksgiving dinner?” Mom: “It’s turkey noodle soup, silly.” Peter: “Can I have a straw for the cranberry juice?” *(Bill Amend, in Foxtrot comic strip)***

**Thankfulness sets in motion a chain reaction that transforms people all around us – including ourselves. For no one ever misunderstands the melody of a grateful heart. Its message is universal; its lyrics transcend all earthly barriers; its music touches the heavens. (Fred Bauer, in Reader’s Digest)**

**A missionary to Africa has related the story of his work with a tribe that was mysteriously poverty-stricken, even though other tribes in the same region were relatively prosperous. He was curious about this strange phenomenon. He spent years researching all aspects of their culture. He came up with but one possibility: in their tribal language, they had no word with which to express gratitude. Perhaps, through some quirk of evolution, they had forgotten how to say thank you. He drew no conclusions, but he did ask a question: “Could this loss of the spirit of thanksgiving have been responsible for their poverty?” It is an interesting and revealing possibility. (Dr. Eric Butterworth, in Spiritual Economics, p. 92)**

**Thanksgiving to be truly Thanksgiving is first thanks, then giving. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1462)**

**Dennis asks his Dad: “If they didn’t have TV and football, what did the Pilgrims do after their Thanksgiving meal?” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Bob was sitting across from his wife, Marlene, reading the paper when he noticed a story about a beautiful actress who was engaged to a football player known for his stupidity and penchant for fighting. “I’ll never understand why the biggest jerks get the most attractive women,” he said to his wife. Marlene smiled at Bob: “Why thank you, dear.” (Reader’s Digest)**

**An American and a Briton were discussing Thanksgiving. The American asked if Thanksgiving was celebrated in the United Kingdom. “Yea,” the Brit replied, “but we celebrate it September 6.” “Why then?” “That’s when your chaps left.” (Rocky Mountain News)**

**In the Traverse City, Michigan, Record Eagle: “I would like to thank all the millions of people who helped look for my stolen van. I remember where I left it.” *(Reader's Digest)
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The boy says at supper to his Mom and Dad: “This year I'm thankful that I'm still too young to vote.” (Ed Stein, in Denver Square comic strip)**

**A notice in the Adams County, Wisconsin, Times and Friendship Reporter reads: “I want to thank all you good people who took the time to vote for me on the school board. My wife was pleased with the outcome and wants to thank all of you who didn't vote for me." (Helen Walslager, in Reader’s Digest)**

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**Woman: “We thank you for the food and the family gathered around. Although, did you have to waste the snowstorm on a vacation day? Amen.” (Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)**

**Son: “Is the spaghetti and meatballs almost ready?” Mom: “We’re not having spaghetti and meatballs; we’re having turkey and dressing.” Son: “What about chocolate cake?” Mom: “What about pumpkin pie?” Son: “What if I’m not as thankful as I thought I was going to be?” (Jerry Bittle, in Shirley & Son comic strip)**

**Why do we give thanks on Thanksgiving Day? Because to do it on April the 15th would make no sense. (Johnny Hart, in BC comic strip)**

**Unbeknown to most of the congregation, the new minister enjoyed an occasional bottle of wine. One church member, aware of this, presented the clergyman with a bottle of Bordeaux. But the gift had a string attached. The minister would have to say thank you from the pulpit. At the conclusion of the next service, the minister made the announcements, then said, “And I want to thank my friend for giving the fine fruit, and for the spirit in which it was given.” (R. L. Findley, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Billy says to his Dad while opening his Christmas presents: “Look, Daddy! The wish I made with the Thanksgiving wishbone came true!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Pastor: “I’d like to thank the Women’s Auxiliary for the plants and flowers, and I’d like to thank the Men’s Fellowship for the machete.” *(The Lutheran Witness cartoon)***

**John Wooden, the great U.C.L.A. coach, told his players that when they scored, they were to smile, wink or nod to the player who passed them the ball. A team member asked, “What if he's not looking?” “I guarantee he'll look,” Wooden replied. (Mark R. Littleton, in Reader's Digest)**

**One act of thanksgiving when things go wrong with us is worth a thousand thanks when things are agreeable to our inclination. (John of Avila)**

## We asked our son if he wanted a little brother or sister. He replied, “No, thank you, Mommy.” *(Catherine Zeta-Jones)*

**The more you are thankful for what you have, the more you will have to be thankful for. (Zig Ziglar)**

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

***(1 Thessalonians 5:18)***

**While it is natural to give thanks when all is going well, giving thanks in adversity is more challenging. “Why should I give thanks when I am in pain?” you might ask. The answer lies in a universal law that tells us that all things work together for our highest good. Or, as M. Scott Peck put it, “Everything that happens to us in life does so to make us more holy.” (Douglas Bloch, in New Thought magazine)**

**The first recorded American thanksgiving took place in Virginia, and it wasn't a feast. The spring of 1610 at Jamestown ended a winter that came to be called “the starving time.” The original contingent of 409 colonists had been reduced to 60 survivors. They prayed for help, with no way of knowing if or when any might come. When help did arrive, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, they held a prayer service to give thanks. (Reader's Digest: Strange Stories, Amazing Facts, p. 198)**

**Before A. J. Cronin became a best-selling author, he was a doctor. Once he told about a colleague who gave an unusual prescription to patients afflicted with worry, fear, discouragement or self-doubt. The doctor called it his “thank-you cure.” For six weeks I want you to say thank you whenever anyone does you a favor. And to show you mean it, emphasize the words with a smile. Within six weeks, most of the doctor’s patients showed great improvement. *(Fred Bauer, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Since he first tottered into the nation’s living rooms in 1980 on ABC’s short-lived hit “Bosom Buddies,” Tom Hanks has sealed his reputation as the celebrity mensch: not too handsome, not too slick, just really, really nice. Over the past decade he’s had lead roles in the films Philadelphia, Forrest Gump, Apollo 13, and Saving Private Ryan. Lest anyone think the good-guy factor that permeates his work is an act, take it from “Bosom Buddies” producer Tom Miller, it’s not. When “Buddies” was still a fledging pilot nearly 20 years ago, Miller recalls, Hanks was so broke he asked the producers and his partner, Bob Boyett, to lend him $5000. They doubled the amount. “As soon as Tom received his first paycheck there was only one priority – paying the money back,” Miller says. “Even today, if he sees us in a theater, the man drops to his knees and says, ‘Thank you, guys, for helping me with my career!’ It’s embarrassing.” But to Hanks, the over-the-top display makes sense. “Not only did they grant me a career in television by casting me,” he says, “but they were the greatest gentlemen in the world.” (Karen S. Schneider, in People Weekly)**

**Thanksgiving Kitchen Philosophy:**

**\* A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen and this kitchen is delirious.**

**\* No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.**

**\* A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.**

**\* Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.**

**\* Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.**

**\* A clean house is a sign of a misspent life.**

**\* Housework done properly can kill you.**

**\* Countless numbers of people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.**

**\* My next house will have no kitchen – just vending machines. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**Grandma: “Is there anything in the mailbox?” Grandpa: “Just a couple of notes.” Grandma: “Who are they from?” Grandpa: “One of our friends, the Nelson's.” Grandma: “What does it say?” Grandpa: “It says, ‘There was no one home, so I left your Christmas gift in the mailbox!'” Grandma: “Who's the other one from?” Grandpa: “Our mailman. He says ‘Thanks for the fudge?’” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

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