

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My family rarely gets together on holidays. Don't take me wrong, we often get together. We often celebrate holidays. However, we rarely are all together on the actual holiday. With a huge and busy crew, it is easier to pick a day before or after the big holidays and celebrate them as "Miller" holidays. We have "Miller" giving and "Miller" Christmas in the fall and winter. "Miller" Independence Day is usually somewhere close to the 4th of July. You get the picture.

Part of this family habit is caused by my job. I work most Sundays and many holidays like Christmas Eve and Easter are my busiest times. It's hard to host a huge celebration when you are exhausted after three worships on Easter or a couple special Christmas Eve services. Though they are wonderful experiences, they are exhausting. Part of the habit of "Miller" holidays comes from having a big family with son-in-laws and daughter-in-laws who like to spend time with their families too.

This year's "Miller" giving celebration will take place at the end of October, 3 weeks before the official holiday. A couple of folks who heard of the plan looked at me oddly and asked, "what does thanksgiving in October even look like?" My answer, "a lot like it does in November, but with warmer weather."

The questions bring to mind one of my own. What does Thanksgiving look like to you? Is it all about the turkey and the stuffing with gravy? Is it all about the family and the company? Is it all about the day after which is black Friday and the busiest shopping day of the year?

Our Scriptures remind us and even command us to be in the habit and the act of thanksgiving all year round.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy and love endures forever." – 1 Chronicles 16:34

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace and be thankful!" Colossians 3:15

"I always thank my God for you because his grace given you in Christ Jesus."- 1 Corinthians 1:4

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Do not be anxious in anything, but with every situation, by prayer and petition, with THANKSGIVING, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

"The Lord is my strength and shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him."- Psalm 28:7

These are just a few mentions of the many ways we are called into thanksgiving for our God. This "thanksgiving" holiday season, whenever you may celebrate it, make sure and center yourself and all your activities in the love and thanksgiving we have for the maker of all things.

Happy Thanksgiving

Pastor Janet Miller

September 24, 2023 Council Meeting

Present: Traci E, Ben G, Dustin H, Billi W, Tamijo B, Michelle U, Pastor Janet

Absent: Laura F, Brianna L, Maddy H, Carrie R

Others Present: Annelies S

Motion by Tamijo, Second by Ben to approve the Minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting. Motion passed.

Motion by Dustin, Second by Billi to approve the Treasurer's Reports. Motion passed. Cemetery mowing discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Pastor Janet gave her Pastor's Report. Pastor Janet will use her 2nd of 5 vacation Sundays on October 8th. Traci will lead church that day. I attended Fall theological and it was really good this year. We were at Pierre

-Both youth groups are going to national convention in New Orleans - we currently have 11 and 1 adult going. Our group will be going with Millbank and other groups from our conference in our own bus instead of LO

-I have 2 confirmation groups going at Hope- the younger group begins right after school and the 2nd year group begins at 6:00pm. Youth group will be the 2nd wed. of the month.

Dustin gave an update on the siding project. The current schedule is for January 2024. It was decided to investigate replacing the windows in the offices, kitchen, and fellowship hall at the same time. Over \$65,000 of the \$80,000 target has been received from donations and special events. Pastor Janet will lead a Paint-n-Pour event in October or November. Michelle & Laura have discussed hosting a Meal Prep Session in November.

Since Carrie's council term ends in January 2024. The decision was made to not to appoint a replacement at this time.

The boiler repairs are scheduled and should be completed before cold weather is here.

Traci is continuing to work on the new website.

Servant teams need 2 new leaders to replace Kathy B and Tim G. The communion set up will go back to the old schedule of monthly service. The calendar for 2024 will be posted on the bulletin board in the entry.

Thirteen (13) youth have expressed interest in the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-20. The group will need 2-3 adults to serve as chaperones and leaders. Billi and Tamijo are leading the sale of Christmas Greenery. Orders are due October 25th.

Motion by Billi, Second by Dustin to award Maddy H a \$500 "Counselorship" from the Campership fund for her service at NeSoDak Bible camp this past summer. Motion passed.

Motion by Billi, Second by Tamijo to authorize Traci to have Connecting Point clean up the old secretary's laptop. Motion passed.

Motion by Michelle, Second by Tamijo to have the carpets in the entry, hallway, fellowship hall, and Sunday School rooms professionally cleaned. Motion passed.

There was discussion about Christmas worship schedule. Council members are directed to visit with congregation members about 2 options for Christmas Eve: morning or late afternoon service. The decision will be made at the next meeting. Pastor Janet will not preach on December 31. This will not count as a vacation day.

Snow removal was discussed. No decision was made.

The next Council Meeting will be Sunday, Nov 12th after worship.

The Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



SAVE THE DATE! Family Lefse Day

(maybe Krumkake too)

Sunday, December 17, 2023

After Church

More to details to come

Rev. Jonathan Vehar Called to Serve as the Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Dakota Synod

The Rev. Jonathan Vehar has been called to serve as Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Dakota Synod.

"I am delighted to welcome the Reverend Jonathan Vehar to the synod staff as the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM)," said Bishop Constanze Hagmaier. "This position is possible because of the partnership we share as a synod with our churchwide partner. Pastor Vehar and his family will remain living in Sioux Falls, but he is committed to 'show up' in your world whether you live in the East or the West, the South or the North of our beautiful synod. I invite you to extend a warm welcome to Pastor Vehar knowing that grace abounds."

Pastor Jonathan Vehar has served in the South Dakota Synod since being assigned to the Synod for his first call in 2009. He was pastor at Zion Lutheran, Scotland, and Peace Lutheran, Sioux Falls, in addition to many leadership positions within the synod. He has a passion for the inclusion of all God's people in the life of the church and an unusual love for all things Robert's Rules of Order.

Pastor Jonathan hails from the much warmer climate of Albuquerque, NM. He completed his bachelor's degree at the University of New Mexico, an M.Div from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, and an MBA from Dakota Wesleyan University. Joining in life's adventures are his wife, Kara, and two children, Hannah and Jonah.

Welcome Pastor Jonathan by sending him a note at jvehar@sdsynod.org.

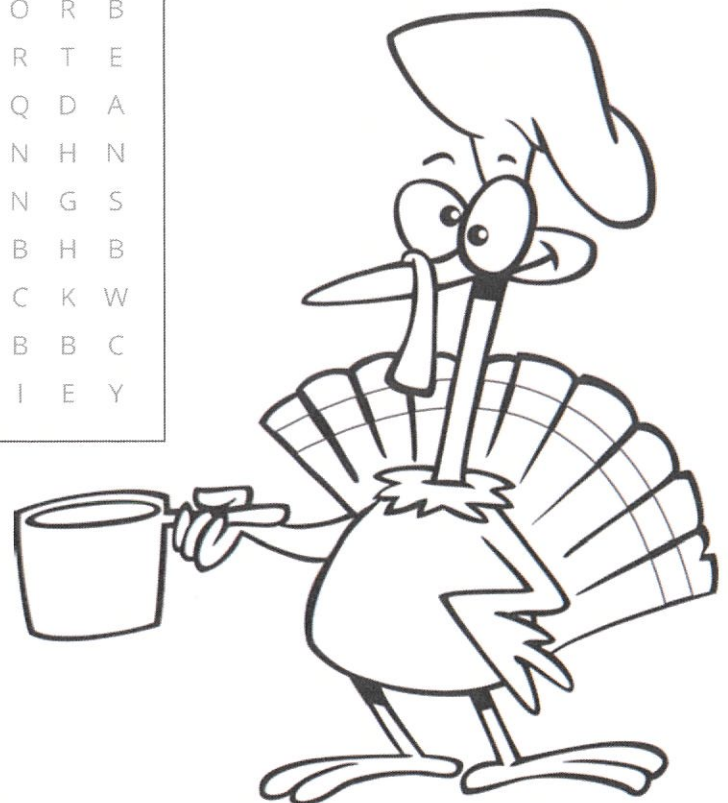
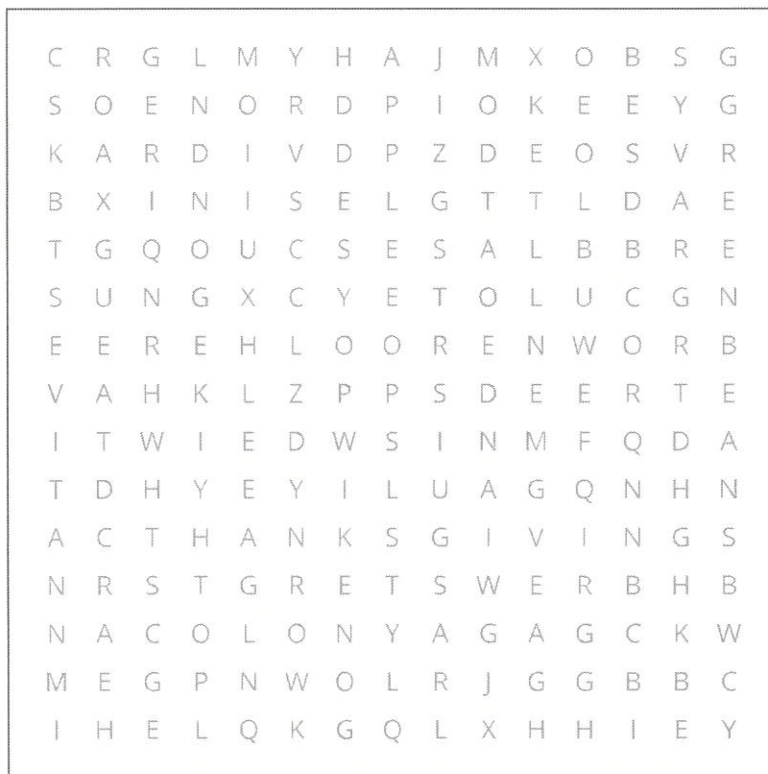
Thanksgiving Word Search

Difficult #1



Find and circle the hidden words. The words can appear in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| APPLE | BEETS | BLESSING | BREWSTER | BROWN |
| CHILLY | CIDER | COLONY | CORNUCOPIA | DEER |
| DRESSING | EAT | GRAVY | GREENBEANS | LOVE |
| MASHEDPOTATOES | NATIVES | ROLLS | THANKSGIVING | TURKEY |





Thank You, LORD!

November 2023

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| COMING UP IN DECEMBER: Sunday school Christmas program-Dec. 10, Family event-Dec. 17, Advent begins on December 3. 😊 | | | | 2 9-noon-quilting Ps. Conference clean call | 3 NeSoDak Scandinavian supper-6:30-8:00 | 4 |
| 5 All Saint's-white Fall back!!! Daylight savings ends. NeSoDak Scandinavian dinner- 12:30-2:00. Follow link for tickets https://www.losd.org/scandinavian-dinners | 6 | 7 | 8 3:30-1 st group/6:00 2 nd group confirmation 7:00-Youth group | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 green *Childrens church/Gideons speak *Council meets following Worship. *Volunteers needed to move items for carpet cleaning. | 13 The carpets will be cleaned at Hope. | 14 | 15 3:30-1 st group/6:00 2 nd group confirmation | 16 9-NOON Quilting Ps. Conference meeting | 17 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE | 18 Comp. Synod meeting. |
| 19 green | 20 | 21 | 22 NO CONFIRMATION Out of office | 23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Christ the King-white | 27 | 28 Support to Ministries in Sioux Falls | 29 3:30-1 st group/6:00 2 nd group confirmation | 30 | | |
| | | | | | | |

Notes

WORSHIP INFO: 10:00 am Sunday school/coffee fellowship, 11:00 am Worship (unless otherwise noted) Worship helpers as of printing: Nov. 5-(needed), 11-12 Children's church-C-Kaityn and Steve, U-youth, R-Raelee, 11-19-C-Raelee, (U,R, CS, and CServers needed), 11-26-C-Sarah H, U & R-Dustin H.

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Find us on Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church and www.seesummitsd.com

Follow us on YouTube: Hope's Children



November 2023

"It is the mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people grow in their faith; to be a leader in the community; to serve the needs of all people; and to teach/educate all people.

Happy
Thanksgiving