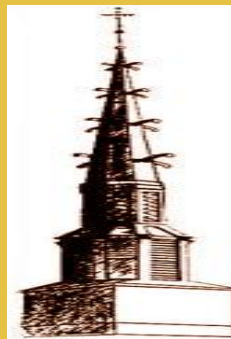


*In this week's Steeple >>>*

# The Steeple

- Message from Mark Wright
- Christmas in the Woods
- Dolls Due Dec 4th
- Office Closed for Holiday
- Advent Supper & Program
- Bookstore Open House
- Vestry Working Fantasy Land
- Holiday Concert Dec 15<sup>th</sup>
- YD Thanksgiving



November 26,  
2024



## The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

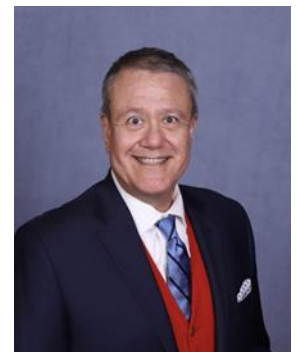


### Fr Nick and Family are on vacation this week

So, I asked Mark Wright, one of our St Luke's Family living in DC, to write an article on Thanksgiving from the Native American point of view. Mark is an amazing research analyst and historian and took my request to heart. It's a good read. Happy Thanksgiving and ENJOY! Penny

Thanksgiving is a wonderfully Anglican holiday and beloved harvest festival. After all, if it weren't for the Anglican Church running off all the religious Separatists and Nonconformists from England, the Pilgrims never would have come here in 1620, and we wouldn't have Thanksgiving Day. Or so we've been taught.

To set the record straight, the Pilgrims, while similar, were not the same as Puritans. The Puritans, wanted to simply Christianity and worship, and thought they could work within the existing framework of the Church of England—the official state religion of England—while still living their congregationalist way. The Pilgrims, on the other hand, felt that, according to their interpretation of the English Bible, the only way they could live according to biblical precepts was to leave the Church of England completely. They refused to attend mandatory Church of England Sunday services, and worshipped secretly their own way. Since the English monarch is the head of the Church of England, this was treason. Thus, they were deprecatingly called “Separatists,” and were hunted down, arrested, and persecuted for worshipping the correct God the wrong way. The Separatists eventually had to leave England, and moved to the Netherlands for a while, but despaired of their children becoming “Dutch,” and made the fateful decision to emigrate to the New World.



The Separatists and their story are quite romanticized. In fact, the P word (“Pilgrims”) and the image of the Pilgrims dressed like Puritans in buckled shoes and all black and white clothes (black dye was actually really expensive back then, and the Pilgrims couldn’t afford it) did not enter the American consciousness until about 1850. No one used the P word before that.

The Separatists were not the first Europeans to invade colonial North America and have thanksgivings. The first fully documented thanksgiving in the present-day United States actually took place on December 4, 1619, when 38 English settlers on the ship *Margaret* landed at Berkeley Plantation, near Jamestown, Va. Their charter from the Virginia Company of London, which funded their voyage and initial colony establishment costs, required that their day of arrival be observed as a day of thanksgiving to God. Interestingly, Berkeley Plantation was supposed to have been the Separatists’ North American destination, but on their voyage, they deliberately chose to avoid the warmth of southern Virginia, in favor of the harsh winters of Massachusetts. They were concerned that the English in Virginia were “too Anglican,” and that they would end up being persecuted again, so they wanted their own colony, far away from the Anglicans. This decision, I think, is largely responsible for half of the *Mayflower* passengers dying during their first winter, because, after a long, two-month voyage, they arrived in Massachusetts in early November, too late to plant any crops. I also can’t help but recall that the Pilgrims had spent time living in the Netherlands, so they may have been comfortable with settling close to the Dutch colony and city of New Amsterdam, which today is known as New York City.

There are several other claims of New World thanksgiving days. While just taking a random day off to pray, worship, and give thanks would be very unusual these days, during the 1509–47 reign of English king Henry VIII, special days of thanksgiving and days of fasting had become vogue, largely instigated by the Puritans, who helped to form a model day of thanksgiving that incorporated both a religious service and some form of family gathering and/or feasting—it was a day, not just a church service. When historians debate the “first Thanksgiving,” they now get stung by problems of Anglo-cultural favoritism, especially if they give preference to the English Puritan definitions requiring both a church service and a feast. Several noted historians have put forth the idea that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Spanish in St. Augustine, Fla., on September 8, 1565. There is also a thanksgiving religious service by Spanish explorers known to have occurred in San Elizario, Tex., in 1598. Plus, we need to acknowledge that, throughout history, in nearly every culture in the world, harvest festival celebrations were common, nearly always with feasting, and often with a religious or giving of thanks component.

Another important “first thanksgiving” we should talk about is the event that is credited as the first Canadian Thanksgiving. Canada’s Thanksgiving Day is on the second Monday of October, which is also the American federal holiday for Cristoforo Colombo. The Canadian story revolves around Sir Martin Frobisher (ca. 1535–1594), an English pirate and privateer, who explored Canada seeking a Northwest Passage to Asia. In 1578, while on his third voyage from England, icy waters and winter storms forced his ships to land. As they landed on Baffin Island, they found a group of indigenous peoples, for whom he and his crews hosted a joint feast. The survivors from his nine ships issued a proclamation of “general thanksgiving to God.” While this date is earlier than either Plymouth or Jamestown, many scholars find that the account is not well-enough documented.

Whichever of the four claims to the first Thanksgiving one wishes to accept, there is one thing for certain. Thanksgiving Day in 1621 was never about the Pilgrims. The December 18, 1777, thanksgiving proclaimed by the Continental Congress was never about the Pilgrims. When that good Anglican president, George Washington, issued a proclamation for a thanksgiving day on October 3, 1789, it was never about the Pilgrims. When Abraham Lincoln issued his proclamation for a thanksgiving day on November 26, 1863 (the last Thursday of the month), during the height of a brutal war, it was never about the Pilgrims. Even in 1939, when Franklin Roosevelt moved the date to the second Thursday of November to improve the economy with early Christmas shopping during the Great Depression, it was never about the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims are never mentioned. It's all about God.

Americans just instinctively understood that it was meet and right to set aside a day to thank God for his gifts, his protection, and his love. It's a happy time. And, if everybody keeps their mouths shut about politics, it will be a good day.

In modern times, where special interest groups are constantly challenging the established norms and mores about our society heroes, we Indians are being told that we should not observe Columbus Day and Thanksgiving Day, or honor the Pilgrims. Someone asked me yesterday how I felt about that, which is why I am writing now.

I have a suggestion that applies to all sorts of things when people suffer terrible existential angst when confronted with new and different cultures, or well-established, old customs that just feel wrong today. Embrace the difference! Learn about it. Talk to people from that culture. Education is always good. And you can pull unique cultural practices into your own life. Moreover, it does no good to wallow in "guilt" because one of your ancestors did an abominable thing. That was them, in a different time, a different place, a different culture. There is nothing you can do to fix it, especially if all the involved parties are long dead. Relax....It. Wasn't. You! I don't hold you responsible.

Getting back to American national holidays, I can understand the rationale for "cancelling" and rejecting celebrations of Columbus. He, perhaps a victim of his times and culture, really did perpetrate some bad things. While the Vikings, Chinese, and Polynesians were in North America first, they did not leave a path of death, deceit, and destruction. English and Spanish colonists to the New World were particularly bad, and colonists from other countries joined them, to commit all kinds of atrocities, they tried to enslave indigenous people, they stole land, and they attempted genocide. Their church in Rome allowed them to think of indigenous peoples as inferior beings in need of guidance and education, let them trample all over native culture and human rights, and let them seize Indigenous lands without compensation under what Rome called the "discovery doctrine." Then, of course, we certainly can take judicial notice of the real villain in the European immigrant story: disease. From the time Columbus was in Hispaniola in 1492, until the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1621, anywhere from 65 to 90% of the indigenous population of North America succumbed to plagues and died from European illnesses.

Bad things happened. Telling Indians they shouldn't observe Thanksgiving, though, is disingenuous and scapegoating. Yes, the Europeans brought diseases to which the indigenous people had no immunity, but that damage was done before the Separatists arrived. It wasn't their fault. The Separatists also negotiated with the Wampanoags, with Squanto as translator, for use of land with compensation to the tribe (in essence, a purchase, but in that era, most Indian tribes in North America had no concept of the private ownership of real property), so they weren't land thieves. I just don't find the Separatists to be offenders to the Indians. I can't just make them scapegoats for Spanish lust for gold, and English lust for world dominance, then forgo my turkey and pumpkin pie. I remember, though, not to worship or idolize the Pilgrims. After all, these were the people who passed laws criminalizing Christmas! But, for the other part, yes, I think we should pause now and then to acknowledge God and give thanks for our lives and all the blessings we have received.

If European-American behavior over the centuries towards the native and indigenous peoples of North America really, really bothers you that much, then let me suggest that you remember our ancestors, and honor our culture by incorporating some Indian foods into your Thanksgiving dinner. On my family table, every Thanksgiving, I always prepared a bowl of dried corn soup stewed with pork steak. When my White friends were successful enough and remembered me, I was always happy to include a nice venison roast alongside the turkey. And, then, of course, there are all of the popular foods that originated in North and South America, not taken to the Old World until after Columbus and the onset of the Age of Exploration. For Americans who still eat almost exclusively European foods, what would you do without chocolate, tomatoes, corn, white potatoes; bell, jalapeño, cayenne, and tabasco peppers; avocados, pecans, vanilla, blueberries, and many varieties of beans and squash.

As Episcopalian or Anglican Children of God, it is part of our faith to think that a day of thanksgiving and prayer is a good thing. It is the law of our religion to love other people as we love ourselves. Thanksgiving is good. As an American Indian, I see absolutely nothing wrong with praising God, or giving thanks, and, if the day happens to go along with delicious food, I'm in.

Long ago, the Episcopal Church U.S.A., declared Thanksgiving Day to be a religious holiday. The Book of Common Prayer points us to Bible readings, litanies of thanks, collects, and special prayers to use on Thanksgiving Day, plus we have some good songs of thanks and praise in our Hymnal 1982. Wow! Did you know that Thanksgiving was a religious holiday? Does that suggest that perhaps we ought to go to Mass on Thanksgiving morning, or at least Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. I can't recall when the last time was I saw a poor person in St. Luke's, so is our wealth something for which we should thank God? Should we borrow a phrase from our Roman Catholic brethren and sistren, and consider Thanksgiving Day a holy day of obligation?

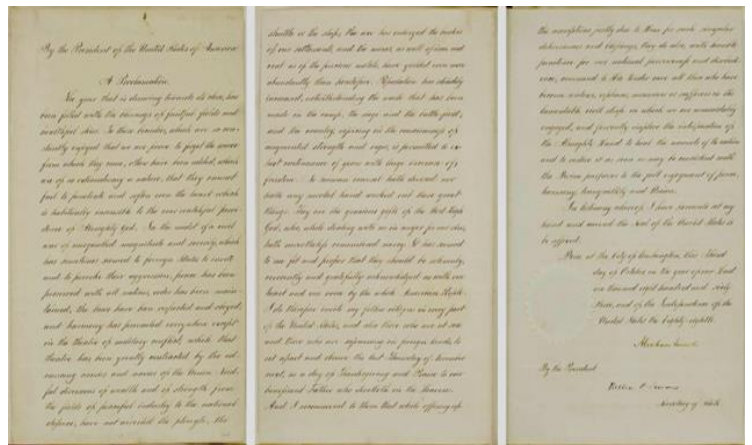
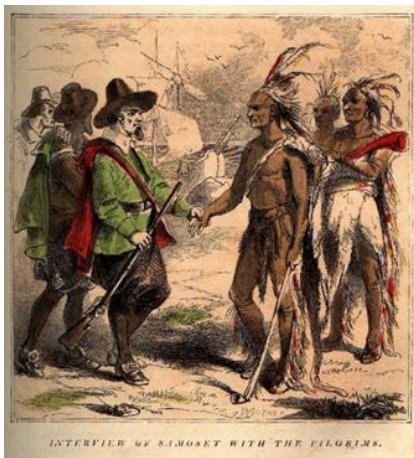
Stop clutching your pearls and fretting over a potential 10 a.m. church service on Thanksgiving morning. Yes, you know that by Mass time at 10 you're already bored of the parade and its prerecorded lip-syncing, the dog show will get rebroadcast in the evening, and that none of the really good football games are going to be broadcast that early in the day. What do you have to lose? Bartlesville has the triple blessing of being in Cherokee country, Delaware country,

and Osage country, and there are dozens and dozens of Indians living in the Bartlesville area who are descended from other tribes. I'll venture that the vast majority of Indians in the Bartlesville area are going to celebrate and observe Thanksgiving Day. We tend to deal with our future, and not wallow in sadness for past acts that occurred before we or our parents were born. And, we Indians pray a lot. While some tribes in Oklahoma are blessed to have retained their traditional religions, most of the local Indians come from tribes that were evangelized by the Catholics (Jesuits), the Episcopalians, the Methodists, the Quakers, and the Baptists. We Indians are happy to share our God with you. You can pray for the Pilgrims. Or not.

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18  
*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

Mark Wright is a bassinet Episcopalian (meaning, he was born at Jane Phillips back when it was still Episcopal), and was baptized and confirmed at St. Luke's. He has been a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church—K Street in Washington, D. C., since 2005. He formerly was an adjunct instructor of modern American history at Tulsa Community College.



ILLUSTRATIONS

Interview of Samoset with the Pilgrims, book engraving, 1853.

[Ed. note: After the Mayflower passengers landed at Plymouth Rock, eventually, Wampanoag Chief Massasoit sent Samoset to make first contact with them, since Samoset spoke English. Samoset later introduce the Englishmen to Squanto, who would then take a more active roll in translation. Some historians report that on March 16, 1621, Samoset walked into the Separatists' village, and, upon seeing the Englishmen, said to them in English, "Welcome, Englishmen, Welcome! Do you have any beer?"]

President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation of October 3, 1863 (Presidential Proclamation 106), National Archives, General Records of the U. S. Government.

Cornelis Ketel (1548–1616), Painting of Sir Martin Frobisher, 1577. Bodleian Library, Oxford University, Oxford, U.K,

YOU ARE INVITED!

*Let's make a joyful noise!*

# Christmas in the Woods

*Food & Drinks  
&  
Holiday Cocktails*

*Face Painting  
&  
Fun for Kids!*

**December 7th • 4-8p.m.  
1000 Hazel Ct.**

rsvp is welcome - 918-914-3263 - Nancy Woods

## CONCERN NEEDS

Concern's current needs are canned green beans, tuna and chicken; and homeless - single serve canned proteins, reusable vinyl or canvas bags and toothpaste.

## *Prayer List*

**Please pray for:** Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Tony Clapper, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Jack Smith, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Shawn, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Jim Carroll, Kate Carroll, Steve Linn, Chuck McCarty, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Estelle Sams, Adam Thomas, Bob Lambert, Carla Curry, Jack Bridendolph, Tom Oakes, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, Don McCoy, Jean McCoy, Audrey Harris, Peggy Rockey, and Lauren Barlowe

**Please add the following to your prayers this Twenty Seventh Week after Pentecost  
Diocesan Center and Staff**

## At Luke's Place : Nov 26th– Dec 4<sup>th</sup> , 2024

- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Office closes at noon  
Nov 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving office closed  
Nov 29<sup>th</sup> Office closed for holiday  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel  
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave  
Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Ladies' Prayer Partners  
Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Spiritual Discovery Book group, 9:30am, Library  
Nominating Comm, TBA, Vestry Room  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Choir, 5pm, Choir Room  
YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall  
Advent Soup Supper and Program, 6pm, Metcalf

### Birthdays and Anniversaries Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### Birthdays



Nan Buhlinger (12/3)  
Jen Peterson (12/3)  
Jo Baughman (12/4)

#### Anniversaries



If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

## Foster Children Christmas



Baby Dolls Due Back Dec 4<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for your generous giving!



December 15th 4 pm at St. Luke's  
Christmas Concert & Reception 🎵

Featuring the Bartlesville Bells handbell choir, The Recorder Consort, piano and organ duets by Susan Mueller and Marjoleine Gravely, Keeli & Daisy Droege (vocal, piano)

Reception will be in Metcalf Hall immediately after the Concert



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

Come and check out your St Luke's Bookstore for Advent calendars, Wreaths, Candles, and Devotionals. Get ready for this Advent Season with the help of St Luke's bookstore! All profit goes to Outreach in the community. (See further for the Bookstore's Open House info!)



Come and Support Your Vestry at Fantasy Land of Lights in Johnstone Park, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-10pm! Vestry members from St Luke's will be working at the Gingerbread House and hoping to spy some St Luke's folks enjoying the lights! So make sure you drive through the park and stop to say hello to your Vestry members on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>!



# YD Thanksgiving

We loved having our YD kids and families together this week, celebrating an early Thanksgiving! Our tasty potluck was followed by an energetic (and humorous) game of Jeopardy! Check out the attached photos.





Office will be close at noon Nov 27<sup>th</sup>  
and closed Nov 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> for  
Thanksgiving Holiday

Happy Thanksgiving from your St  
Luke's Staff!

*Join us for some  
holiday cheer!*

# Christmas Open House

at  
**St. Luke's Bookstore**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7  
10AM TO 3PM

.....

- ~See Santa and Mrs. Claus from 1-2PM.
- ~Explore a curated selection of inspirational books, gifts, and seasonal items perfect for Christmas giving.
- ~Enjoy complimentary holiday treats.
- ~Enter our hourly raffle drawings.



# Advent



A Season of Reflection and Reverence

Wednesday Evenings 6:00 p.m. to 7:30p.m.

Dec. 4th, 11th, 18th.

Light Supper + Reflection + Vespers

Sign ups for meal prep outside the Church Office

## St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – [Nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:Nancywoods120@gmail.com)
- Jo Baughman – [jybokla@aol.com](mailto:jybokla@aol.com)
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – [kscozby916@gmail.com](mailto:kscozby916@gmail.com)
- Chad Ellis – [w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com)
- Karen Lewey – [kgrammy07@yahoo.com](mailto:kgrammy07@yahoo.com)
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- Erin Roper-
- Robert Lonski- [rjtazski@yahoo.com](mailto:rjtazski@yahoo.com)

### Bereavement Team 2

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Wendy Halll, Karen Lewey, Debbie Mueggenborg

#### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
269-788-7063; [RevPhares@outlook.com](mailto:RevPhares@outlook.com)

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist  
918-697-8509 [keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)



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918-336-1212  
Or contact  
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

