

## **IT'S NOT OVER TILL IT'S OVER** **"Little Girl, Get up!" Mark 5:41**

Jake Nevins was the long-time trainer of the championship Villanova Basketball team. He found he was losing control of some of his muscles. After his doctor make some tests, the physician called Jake in and said, "The result of the tests show that you have Lou Gehrig's disease." With flashing wit, the veteran trainer replied, "It can't be, Doctor, I never played a game of baseball in my life.

That was a victorious and humorous way of handling serious bad news. Jake Nevins knew the consequences of the doctor's statement, but he also knew it would do no good to collapse in fear and worry. He had developed the philosophy of many persistent athletes which they often state in these words: "It's not over till it's over."

After Villanova won the national championship, someone took a picture of the unflappable Jake Nevins in his wheelchair. The players had draped a new from a hoop around his neck. With a charming smile, the aged and ailing trainer was holding one finger up signifying that his Tigers were first in the nation. Seeing the picture, one got the feeling that nothing could defeat Jake Nevins.

The philosophy of athletes which proclaims "It's not over till it's over" is a worthy one to adopt for ourselves. It is a reminder that, however bleak the prospects may seem, there is always hope. Our faith puts it another way – "It's not over even when it's over." That is to say we believe that in Christ, no matter what life hurls at us, we shall still be victors. We believe that concept because we are followers of one whom even death could not defeat. We believe that as we are in union with the resurrected Christ, we too shall be able to conquer all darkness and despair and even death itself. Remember the words of St. Paul?

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:35ff)*

Our legacy of hope comes from our Lord. Jairus' little daughter had a severe illness and his mind was concerned primarily about her. Jairus was a lay leader of his synagogue. And he knew something of the healing power of the Lord. The depth of Jairus' concern is seen in the fact that he fell prostrate at Jesus' feet. Then with anxiety vibrating from Him, he explained about his daughter's illness. Humbly he requested that Jesus come and lay His hands upon her that she might be healed. Jesus went.

Before Jesus and Jairus got to the bedside of the child, however, someone came to meet them announcing her death. "It's all over," they said, "She's gone." Don't impose on the teacher, Jesus, anymore.

It is interesting what Jesus did. Mark says, "...ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." In other words, "No, it's not over even though they just told you she had died."

We would be wise to remember that it may not be over for someone even when it appears to be so. Doctors and ministers have occasionally seen people revive after being pronounced dead or almost dead. People go in and out of Hospice all the time!

When Jesus and Jairus got to the ruler's house, they heard all sorts of weeping and wailing. Some even had the funeral flutes out and were piping a mournful dirge.

Jesus would have none of it. He said to the mourners, "Why do you make a tumult and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." Their response was a quick change from mourning to laughter, the laughter of ridicule and scorn.

Isn't it strange how the crowd has a tendency to laugh at someone who goes against accepted premises? Think back in history. You will find those who laughed at someone who challenged the so-called impossible. Didn't they laugh and scoff at David when he went out to take on the giant Goliath with only a slingshot and five smooth stones? Didn't many laugh when they were told Jesus had survived the cross and had been raised from the dead? They called it all foolishness. Didn't they laugh at Copernicus and Galileo when the scientists said that the earth revolves around the sun? Didn't they laugh at the Wright brothers when they began to experiment with the airplane? The brothers' very own father said, "If God had meant for men to fly, He would have given them wings."

All of this seems to say that we had best be cautious when someone attempts to challenge accepted practices and thoughts. They just might succeed in proving conventional wisdom to be wrong.

In Mark 5, Jesus had enough of the doubters. He put them all outside. Negative thinkers couldn't help in the least way. Then with the child's mother and father and his close friends, He walked into the room where the child was lying. Gently and lovingly, He took her by the hand and said tenderly, "*Little girl, I say to you, arise.*"

You can imagine the great joy which surged through the parents and the apostles when the little girl began to stir. Then she got up and walked! No doubt there was a lot of hugging and kissing with smiles bursting forth everywhere. "They were overcome with amazement," we are told. No wonder! Now everyone could laugh as much as they pleased. Now they had something to laugh about.

Miracles Still Happen. What they had witnessed was what we have commonly called a miracle. Christ had worked a miracle and Christ still works miracles! It is very important to remember the miracle working Christ and to keep saying to ourselves in the face of impossible odds, "It's not over till it's over; and in fact, it's not over even when it's over."

*"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26*

Those with the spiritual eyes to see, those with the faith to discern, know that God still performs miracles. Even if the absolute worst we can imagine happens to us, we can emerge as victors if we keep affirming that "*in everything God works for good with those who love him.*" *Romans 8:29.*

For it is sure and certain that not even death itself can conquer us with God's sustaining help. As far as Christians are concerned not only is it "not over till it's over;" it is not even over when it is over as far as life on earth is concerned. The God who created us, the God who redeemed us by the resurrected Christ, is the same God who will keep us in His care throughout all eternity.

*Pastor Schufreider*



# THANKSGIVING MISSION LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021 AT NOON



Bring your favorite Thanksgiving Side Dish to share!  
The meat will be provided.

Our project for the day will be to make Christmas Gospel Booklets for the shut-ins and those we know who might need to hear the Christmas Gospel.



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## OUR THANKSGIVING

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Let our lives be our Thanksgiving  
To our Father up above;  
Let us worship Him with kindness;  
Let us praise Him with our love.  
Let us honor Him with virtue;  
Let good deeds become our prayer;  
Let our lives be our Thanksgiving  
For the bounty that we share.

—Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Portland, OR

Each day God gives us the gift of 86,400 seconds.  
May we use a few of them today to say "Thank  
you".

*"It is good to praise the Lord."*  
Psalm 92:1



—Happy Thanksgiving—

## The Art of Thanksgiving

The art of thanksgiving is thanksgiving. It is gratitude in action. It is applying Albert Schweitzer's philosophy: "In gratitude for your own good fortune you must render in return some sacrifice of your life for other life."

It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly.

It is thanking God for your talents and abilities by accepting them as obligations to be invested for the common good.

It is thanking God for all that men and women have done for you by doing things for others.

It is thanking God for opportunities by accepting them as a challenge to achievement.

It is thanking God for happiness by striving to make others happy.

It is thanking God for beauty by helping to make the world more beautiful.

It is thanking God for inspiration by trying to be an inspiration to others.

It is thanking God for health and strength by the care and reverence you show your body.

It is thanking God for the creative ideas that enrich life by adding your own creative contributions to human progress.

It is thanking God for each new day by living it to the fullest.

It is thanking God by giving hands, arms, legs, and voice to your thankful spirit.

It is by adding to your prayers of thanksgiving, acts of thanksgiving.

*Wilferd A. Peterson*

# HOW THE DAY OF THANKSGIVING CAME TO BE

## They Came For The Sake Of Their Faith

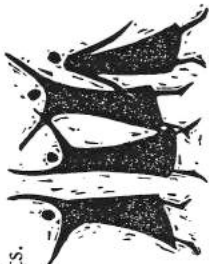
The religious immigrants who came ashore from the Mayflower in 1620 called themselves *Saints*. Because they had left the Church of England, they were called *Separatists* by others. The *Puritans* were those who remained behind in the Anglican Church to purify it from within.

The others on board, recruited to fill the ship, they called *Strangers*. These included the familiar John Alden, a maker of barrels, and Miles Standish, a soldier hired to oversee the new colony's defense. Americans applied the term *Pilgrims* to these religious dissenters two hundred years later.

## What Did They Find?

Once on shore, the immigrant explorers found that the Lord had brought them to a "goodly land" of thick forests, deserted cornfields, "and little running brooks, a place very good for situation." Patuxet Indians had lived here, but the settlers discovered that "a pestilential sickness" had almost wiped out the tribe three years earlier.

As if to test their faith, the 102 settlers themselves faced death in frightening numbers that first winter—six in December, eight in January, 17 in February, and 13 in March. Governor William Bradford wrote, "Scarce fifty remain, the living scarce able to bury the dead." To keep Indians from learning of their plight, survivors placed their dead in concealed graves by night. In addition, chimney sparks ignited the thatched roof of the Common House twice and rain melted the mud walls of their crude huts.



They Received From The Lord's Hand  
Spring's warmer weather brought better health and an Indian who walked into the colony and said, "Welcome." He was Samoset, an Indian leader who had learned English from fishermen. He introduced the colonists to Massasoit, leader of a neighboring tribe, and to Squanto, one of the last surviving Patuxets. Squanto also spoke English, because he had been kidnapped, held in England for a time, and later bought by a monk who freed him. He taught the colonists survival skills and helped establish friendly relations with surrounding tribes.

## A Season Of Plenty

With autumn came a season of plenty. The colonists wrote, "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together." The Lord had not forsaken them or their cause. Nor had Massasoit, who brought 90 people of his tribe with more food. Together the people—red and white—celebrated "the fruits of our labors" with feasting, contests of marksmanship and other games.

## A Day of Public Thanksgiving

Years later, while George Washington was camped at Valley Forge, he prayed for help and saw God's answer when the French sent assistance. Washington called for a day of thanksgiving among his troops.

Later, in 1789, President Washington proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving, November 26, as "a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer in gratitude for God's allowing the American people to establish a form of government so conducive to their safety and happiness."

Canadians celebrate a national Day of Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October.

## Thanksgiving Table Prayers

*Before the Meal*

**Let us recount the wonders of our God—**

Whose voice broke into the chaos, bringing light and order; whose hands molded clay into human form; whose mouth breathed the spirit of life; whose providence echoes through the earth in the form of field and forest, meadow and mountain, food and flower.  
*Keep alive our wonder!*

**Let us recount the wonders of our God—**

Whose Bethlehem birth brought God close; whose life of teaching and healing revealed God's kingdom; whose death and resurrection opened the way to everlasting life.  
*Keep alive our wonder!*

**Let us recount the wonders of our God—**

Whose fire enlivens God's people throughout all time; whose rushing wind blows through our congregations; whose Spirit binds us together with family and friends, building in us the bonds of love.  
*Keep alive our wonder!*

**God of wonder, Lord of life—**

Give us the eyes of faith—eyes that see you moving in our lives, working your wonders! Amen.

*After the Meal*

**Almighty God:**

In your goodness you give us all things—tables heaped with food, hearts filled with love, mouths and ears brimful with happy conversation. So much you give, continually catching us up in the wonder of your gracious giving. Keep alive our wonder. Help us to express it fully in our thanksgiving. And make our wonder ALIVE—part and parcel of lives that reflect the love of our wonderful God. Amen.

## God's Wonderful Works

*From Psalm 107*

**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,**

for his wonderful works to humankind.

**For he satisfies the thirsty,**

and the hungry he fills with good things.

## A Thanksgiving Topic

□ Recount three times when you were struck by the wonder of God. How did you react?

## Thankfulness for What You Could Not Afford

Suppose God charged us for the rain,

Or put a price on a songbird's strain  
Of music the dawn-mist on the plain.

How much would autumn landscapes  
cost,  
Or a window etched with winter's frost,

And the rainbow's glory so quickly  
lost?

Suppose that people had to pay

To see the sunset's crimson play  
And the magic stars on the Milky Way.

Suppose it was fifty cents a night,  
To watch the pale moon's silvery light,  
Or watch a gull in graceful flight.

How much, I wonder, would it be worth  
To smell the good, brown, fragrant  
earth

In spring? The miracle of birth—

How much do you think people would  
pay

For a baby's laugh at the close of day?  
Suppose God charged us for them I  
say;

Suppose we paid to look at the hills,

For the rippling mountain rills,

Or the mating song of the Whippoorwills,

Or the curving breakers of the sea,  
For grace, and beauty, and majesty?

And all these things He gives us free!

*Missionary Messenger*





# Don't Give Up on Your Local Church

by David Brickner, Executive Director

**A**s executive director of Jews for Jesus, I have built strong friendships—friendships that I deeply appreciate—with many of the pastors at churches where I'm privileged to speak. As we share our concerns and prayer requests, one familiar refrain I am hearing is, *What will our church look like as we encourage our people to regather in person, and what shape will our ministry take?* It seems that many people are choosing to stay away from in-person services for reasons that are no longer related to the virus.\*

Hebrews 10:25 comes to mind. "Do not forsake assembling together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." I think this command may

be one of the most crucial for us to remember in this moment in history.

I've had many occasions to point out Hebrews 10:25 over the years, because many new Jewish followers of Jesus find it difficult to commit to attending a local congregation. I think I've heard just about every imaginable reason why some people think it is okay to forsake assembling, and I haven't heard any new ones recently.

Some people feel genuinely alienated over a specific grievance, but such feelings can often be resolved through conversations with God and the people involved. Yet it seems like many don't feel so much



## **We relentlessly pursue God's plan for the salvation of the Jewish people.**

Jews for Jesus operates in 12 countries with international headquarters at 60 Haight Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-5802; phone: (415) 864-2600; email: [jfj@jewsforjesus.org](mailto:jfj@jewsforjesus.org); web: [jewsforjesus.org](http://jewsforjesus.org); editor: Ruth Rosen; art director: Paige Saunders; Photo this page Romrodinka via Dreamstime.com; Text and photos ©Jews for Jesus unless otherwise indicated. ISSN 0740-5901, Volume 01:5782, October 2021.





alienated as they feel ambivalent—lacking the motivation to reengage the habit and spiritual discipline of committed attendance at their congregation.

We live in a consumer-oriented society, and if we don't actively fight that mentality, it can creep into our attitudes toward the church. Do we attend because we are disciples of Jesus, supporting our community of fellow believers? Or are we there as consumers, looking for what we can get out of church? Consumers decide to patronize stores, restaurants, and yes, churches that meet their approval. Disciples assemble with other disciples because it is part of who we are; our identity is shaped by our commitment and obedience to Jesus.

It's been a blessing for many of us to be able to stay connected and participate in church services online when we had no other option. But in a way, online church can unintentionally contribute to the consumer mindset because it is so much easier to shop for a better preacher or better music from your couch, with your remote control.

I was excited when our church began meeting together again, and I'm sure many of you were also. But if you (or someone you know) are having a hard time with regathering, I'd like to encourage you to rejoin the body you were committed to attending before the pandemic (provided you are still in the area). Grow where you

**When you love someone, you care for and uphold the people they love. Those who truly love Jesus can't help loving the church because, "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her . . ."**

were planted rather than becoming a church shopper and a church hopper. Leaving one fellowship makes it easier to leave another . . . and another. Such a pattern of leaving stunts growth and starves the soul. Don't risk spiritual starvation. You can thrive in a body of believers seeking together to cope with the challenges of our

## **prayer prompts** You can help us move mountains!

Please pray for:


- God's people to show their love for Jesus by showing up for Him and one another at their local churches
- God to continue His work in the hearts of Jewish people our Massah team shared with in Guatemala, and especially Or, Rachel, and Golda
- the children and staff at our first-ever Camp Gilgal taking place in Paris this month
- our missionary trainees as they continue learning to fulfill their calling

fast-changing world, or you can withdraw and suffer the consequences on your own.

Yeshua told Simon Peter, "On this rock I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). He is still building His church, and *that church is His bride*. There's an old Yiddish proverb that begins, "*Ale kales zaynen sheyn*," which means, "All brides are beautiful." Many people today are inclined to sneer at the church's shortcomings and walk away. No groom would take kindly to those who treat his bride that way—how much more does our Savior care about the treatment of His Bride?

When you love someone, you care for and uphold the people they love. Those who truly love Jesus can't help loving the church because, "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, . . . so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25, 27). So, let's show our love for Jesus more and more each day by being an integral part of the church—and longing for the day when we will appear before Him together!

*\*Editor: When David wrote this, churches were able to meet in person. We realize that the situation may change by the time you read this.*



AUGUST 2021

## A note from LCMS Missionaries, James & Christel Neuendorf

### Sent out together!

Luke 10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

There is a certain thrill of excitement and a corresponding sense of dread that comes along with this text isn't there? Christ sends out the disciples on their world changing mission, and then immediately adds that they will not be going out into the world unopposed. In fact, the opposite is true, they will be under constant fire, overwhelmed by enemies on every side, and they will do all of this without any defenses of their own other than the Lord's promises and someone beside them to remind them of those promises.

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He didn't send them alone, but rather in pairs. Furthermore, He didn't send them anywhere that He Himself was not going, (notice it says "where he himself was about to go.") God knows what we need and does His work through us in teams, groups, and congregations, just as lambs are not sent out alone but in flocks where they can close ranks.

### Prayers:

- CARD Ponce construction
- Transition for the Lehman family
- Thanksgiving for the return of the Maitas

Because of various scheduling complications caused by the times we live in, our summer as a mission team was spent with many periods of extremely low staffing, and this was especially difficult.

We eagerly were awaiting the return of Ashley and the Maitas and the arrival of the Lehman family, our newest Puerto Rico team members. Now, as of this week for the first time in almost a year, we are back to our full strength as a missionary team. What a gift!

Working on a missionary team is a tremendous blessing that is hard to describe to anyone who hasn't experienced it, and we are incredibly blessed to have such an incredibly dedicated and talented team on which to serve. Jesus is at the center of the sending, and He is the one who is ultimately going to every place in which He sends His representatives, but He doesn't ask us to do this alone.



He doesn't even ask us to be satisfied only with His spiritual presence or the company of the Holy Spirit, but rather sends us together in a community of the baptized to support one another, remind each other of the promises He gave us, and to be Christ to one another when the challenges come.

This month we are giving thanks to God for our missionary team in Puerto Rico, but we are also giving thanks to God for you our faithful supporters who have been with us every step of the way. Very soon we will be coming to the United States for a visit and we hope to spend some time together with our supporting community as well!

Praise God for sending workers to the harvest fields, and pray earnestly for Him to send even more!



On August 29, Pastor Adam Lehman was installed as Missionary Pastor to Puerto Rico! We are blessed to serve alongside the Lehmans here in Ponce! Thursdays have become our visit days to check in on members as well as those who we have met through various church activities.

Fellowship nights on a roll! Wednesdays and Fridays have become our fellowship nights in Mayaguez and Ponce. We praise God they continue to be an opportunity to share together as the body of Christ. As we are able to go on more visits, there are some situations in which it is difficult to contact or go to someone's house. Having these fellowship nights give members and friends the opportunity to come and visit, have a meal with "family", and be apart of the community of believers.

#### **LCMS**

Adopt Us as your missionaries by visiting  
[www.lcms.org/Neuendorf](http://www.lcms.org/Neuendorf)

A check can be made out to LCMS  
with "A16166-69181" in the memo and sent to:

#### **LCMS**

**P.O. Box 66861**  
**St. Louis, MO 63166-6861**

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[www.missioncentral.us/Neuendorf](http://www.missioncentral.us/Neuendorf)

A check can be made out to Mission Central  
with "A16166-69181" in the memo and sent  
to:

**Mission Central**  
**40718 HWY E16**  
**Mapleton, IA 51034**

Online church via Zoom: (Sunday at 9:15 am)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4361493761>

Meeting ID: 436 149 3761

Password: 350350

Online Bible Study via Zoom: (Wednesday, 10:00)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74850656109?pwd=WDF4RUo5WCVcIjBPbklaNlI3am12QT09>

Meeting ID: 748 5065 6109

Password: 8QPuWG

# Trinity Lutheran Church

## November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am – Bible Study	3 10:00 am – Online Bible Study	4	5	6
7 9:15 am – Zoom Service 10:45 am – In person Service	8	9 10:00 am – Bible Study	10 10:00 am – Online Bible Study	11	12	13 9:00 to 12 noon – Trinity Work Day
14 <i>LWML Mites Sun</i> 9:15 am – Zoom Service 10:45 am – In person Service	15	16 10:00 am – Bible Study	17 10:00 am – Online Bible Study	18	19 12 noon – Mission Luncheon	20
21 9:15 am – Zoom Service 10:45 am – In person Service 12 pm – Voters Meeting	22	23 10:00 am – Bible Study	24 10:00 am – Online Bible Study	25 9:00 am – Thanksgiving Service	26	27 8:00 am – Men's Prayer Breakfast
28 9:15 am – Zoom Service 10:45 am – In person Service	29	30 10:00 am – Bible Study				



1: Gloriann Jones	3: Doris Ehlers
10: Pastor Jeff	15: Sue Volmer
20: Jack Volmer	23: Jeff Spencer

LWML Mites  
Collection for  
October:  
\$125.91

## TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICES

Zoom service remains for now at 9:15 am for those who are not able to make it to church

Sunday Service: **Meeting ID: 436 149 3761** (Sundays at 9:15 am)  
Password: 350350

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/4361493761?pwd=YnFHZWpPWXpJV2dZeTErZkpmbHFMUT09>

Bible Study: **Meeting ID: 748 5065 6109** (Wednesdays at 10:00 am)  
Password: 8QPuWG

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74850656109?pwd=WDF4RUo5WCtVclBPbklaNlk3am12QT09>

Trinity Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

1245 El Camino Real

Burlingame, CA 94010

## Worship Schedule

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

### *Bible Study*

Tuesday 10:00 am

### *Sunday School*

Sunday 10:00 am

### *Worship*

Sunday 10:45 am