

***“Count Your Many Blessings from God;  
Number Them If You Can!”***

**I**n the month of November, it is our custom to pause after the Fall harvest and count our many blessings from God and offer our thanks and praise for His unending goodness.

Consider, for example, your many blessings: children are back into the routine of school, learning and developing their minds. The harvest has been wrapped up for many of us, including our neighbors who have much larger farm operations than ours.

Our Sunday School (or JAM as it is now called) is back in session at church and impacting the lives of our little children. Although we are still working around the edges, trying to perfect it, the children are looking forward to coming to JAM and learning of Jesus!

It seems the new way of presenting the Bible lessons in grades PS through Sixth Grade is more appealing to the children and they like it very much.

Dads and Moms, are you bringing your youngsters to Sunday School or JAM? Are you coming to church with them? Do your children and teens see you joining them in giving thanks and praise to the Lord?

We will soon gather with our fellow believers at St. Paul Lutheran Church on the Eve of Thanksgiving to give thanks to God.

Here’s a wakeup call: When was the last time you attended this special Thanksgiving Eve service with your whole family and joined us in thanking God for His goodness and mercies?

Mark your calendar, put it on your cell phone, post it on the door of the frig, and tell your spouse and children, we’re going as a family to St. Paul’s Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. At this

service, we will celebrate Holy Communion and taste and see that the Lord is truly good to us.

Let’s not forget, then, that the root-word for “thankful” comes from the word “think-full.” In other words, we all need to fill our hearts and minds with thoughts of God’s goodness in Christ Jesus in order for us to be thankful and grateful to God for His tender mercies.

Without counting our many blessings from God, and numbering them if we can, we will lose the sense of thankfulness in our hearts and fail to come into His courts with thankfulness, and offering Him our praise for all His mercies.

The story of the Ten Lepers reminds us to fill our hearts and minds with the remembrance of God’s mercies. And like, the one thankful leper, when we see the Lord’s blessings with our own eyes, we stop in our tracks and return to Him with thanksgiving and praise.

The evangelist Luke writes, “Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan” (Luke 17:15–16).

We are not a Samaritan by birth but like the thankful Samaritan in our text, we are children of Abraham and trust Jesus to save us.

With the faithful remnant, we stop in our tracks on this month and return to God’s House with our whole family in order to give thanks for God’s many blessings to us; and, yes, we will hear the joyful words of our Lord Jesus, that our sins are forgiven by Him, too.

Count your many blessings from God; number them if you can! Happy Thanksgiving.

– Pastor Cliff Adair

