

# WEEKLY SERMONETTE

## "Everywhere You Look—Thanksgiving"

By PreacherPastor Lyn Linde, Norton First United Methodist Church

Abraham Lincoln in his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863 said this:

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

He goes into a brief mention of the waste and loss of the war that is underway. How industry continues and the population grows and all of it is because of God.

In Lincoln's day and right up to this minute, people become so puffed up and prideful of their own abilities that they need to be reminded to be thankful to God. We even forget to pray and ask for mercy. We forget that everything comes from God.

The Psalmist said it a long time before Lincoln. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did.

The psalmist is referring to the time when the people were complaining in Exodus 17 about Moses leading them into the desert to die of thirst. Meribah and Massah mean quarreling and testing. Lincoln and the psalmist speak to the basic flaw of mankind, that starts with not being satisfied with what we have. We also have a tendency to develop an attitude of I did it, I deserve it - not I'm thankful for it.

The psalmist gives us an understanding that Thanksgiving is an attitude, an attitude we are to cultivate in our hearts if we are not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Having the right heart attitude also speaks to how we move into every new day.

So, as we think about being thankful we need to look in three directions. Let's start with UP.

Looking up is to notice the power and gifts of God. We need to get into the habit of thanking God. Not just on the one day a year that the country sets aside for the purpose.... We need to live not as thanks-giving but, thanks-living.

We should develop a habit of thanking God...He created us for His glory and so we should give Him the glory! That means, the good parking spot, the accident avoided, anything that we might call luck. That means that we actually share when something good happens and Give God the credit....AND tell people about it.

--A man was lost and walking in the desert for about five days...he comes to the home of a preacher.

Tired and weak, he crawls up to the house and collapses on the doorstep. The preacher takes him in and nurses him back to health. Feeling better, the man asks the preacher for directions to the nearest town. The preacher tells him the directions, and offers to lend him his horse. The preacher says, "However, there is a special thing about this horse. You have to say 'Thank God' to make it go and 'Amen' to make it stop."

Anxious to get to town, the man says, "Sure, okay" and gets on the horse. He says, "Thank God" and, the horse starts walking. A bit later he says louder, "Thank God, thank God," and the horse starts trotting. Feeling really brave, the man says, "Thank God! Thank God! THANK GOD!" and the horse is soon up to a full run!

About then he realizes he's heading for a huge cliff and yells "Whoa!" But the horse doesn't even slow! It's coming up REAL QUICK and he's doing everything he can to make the horse stop. "Whoa, stop, hold on!" Finally he remembers "AMEN!!!"

The horse stops a mere two inches from the cliff's edge, almost throwing him over its head. The man, panting and heart racing, wipes the sweat from his face and leans back in the saddle. Gasping for air he says with relief, "Thank God."

Being thankful to God is understanding his promises, that our God actually knows you exist. Yes...God knows you exist and he hears your prayers. He sent his son to remove the barrier of sin that separated us for Him.

Looking up we should notice the presence of God. Looking Up we should notice the plans of God. Looking Up we should notice the protection of God.

How about looking around ourselves? My life is pretty good. I am comfortable, perhaps I could even say content-Until all the advertising starts, the catalogs in the mail I rarely need anything.

I like my car until I see some of the really nice Vehicles and look at Gas prices...I am satisfied with my clothes-until I stroll through the Mall. I love our home - until I think of what it would be like to have a mansion or a log cabin on the shore of some remote lake.

I am satisfied with every area of my life - until I start comparing with someone else's life. Yea, preachers do that too. I feel like I have enough of everything - until I see someone who has more.

The secret of a happy life is not to get what you want but to live with what you've got. Most of us spend our lives concentrating on what we don't have

instead of thanking God for what we do have. Then we wake up, our life is over, and we missed the beauty of the present.

Verse 7 says, "for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."

It seems like we are so short sited that we don't know what we've got until it is gone.

Looking around me I am thankful for the generous provision of our God.

Looking around me I am thankful for the scenery which changes every season to something new and amazing.

Looking around me I am thankful for the people that God has placed around me.

How about looking inward to ourselves?

In a sense, thanksgiving is an expression of modesty. To offer thanks is to confess dependence, to acknowledge that others have the power to benefit you, to admit that your life is better because of their efforts.

The yearly celebration of Thanksgiving should only be a highlight of a year of thanks-living

The art of thanks-living. It is gratitude in action.

It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly. If it reaches your hand then it has reached your heart!

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 and showing you're thankful by doing things for others.

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.

A sincere heart will recognize the privileges of serving God/others.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Psalm 95:1-7

1. Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

3. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

4. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

5. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

6. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

7. For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

All glory be to God!

## That We Might Be Free



Our Veterans risked their lives to serve our country and protect our freedom. Each time we cast our ballot...when ever we express a political opinion without fear of reprisal...every week as we worship freely let us remember the months and years they sacrificed as they defended the rights which we enjoy today. This Veteran's Day, honor the selfless men and women who have paid with a portion of their lives that we might be free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Chronicles 15:1-16:7	1 Chronicles 16:8-43	2 Chronicles 35:1-19	Zephaniah 3:14-19	Malachi 3:5-18	2 Corinthians 8:1-24	2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
Copyright 2010, Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P. O. Box 8187, Charlottesville, VA 22906, www.kwnews.com

**Moffet Drug Store**  
"Prescription Specialists"  
Hallmark Cards and  
Russell Stover Candies  
102 S. State - Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-2721

**S-B CUSTOM LEATHER WORK  
AND BOOT REPAIR**  
"We Repair Shoes, Boots and Saddles"  
Scotty Harman - 785-470-1244  
Brett Olive - 620-339-9585  
711 N. State Street - Norton, Kansas

**McMullen Real Estate**  
Donald McMullen, Broker; Robert Wyatt  
McMullen & Wyatt Auctions  
Auctioneers - Realtors  
• Farm • Estate • Antiques • Households  
113 N. State - Norton - Phone 877-3299

**Norton Animal Health Center**  
Complete Large and Small Animal Service  
801 W. Holme - Norton - Phone 877-2411  
Aaron R. White, DVM  
Sarah Ketterl White, DVM  
Monday thru Friday: 8-5; Saturday: 9-Noon

**Engel's Sales and Service**  
Complete Auto Repair  
Small Engines and  
Lawn Care Equipment  
•Toro •Lawnboy •Stihl Chain Saws  
209 W. Lincoln - Norton - Phone 877-3391

**Bridges Group Inc.**  
"Serving the Norton  
Area Since 1894"  
117 N. Kansas  
Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-4016

**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
Insurance • Investments  
Joy S. Johnson, Agent  
205 N. Kansas - 785-877-3221 - 800-339-0028  
JoyS.Johnson@fbfs.com

**Whitney Construction  
and Farms**  
•Terracing  
•Dozer Work  
•Ponds  
9499 Rd E3 - Norton - Phone 785-877-3745

**Nelson Bros.  
Construction, Inc.**  
General Contractors  
Butler Buildings  
Equipment Rental  
Route 3 - Norton - Phone 785-877-2554

**Ag Valley  
Co-operative**  
Elevator - Service Station  
877-5131 or 877-5188 - Norton  
Clayton Branch -  
Phone 785-693-4522

**Pizza Hut/Taco Bell**  
Come Join Us for Our  
"SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET"  
Pizza, Pasta, Salad and Dessert  
FREE COFFEE or TEA  
W. Hwy. 36 - Norton - Phone 877-3359

**First State Bank**  
"Your Progressive  
Community Bank"  
MEMBER FDIC  
105 W. Main - Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-3341

**Mainstreet  
IGA**  
"Your Local Affiliated  
Full Service Grocer"  
313 W. Main - Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-2422

**Security Abstract Company**  
Abstracters Title Insurance Agents  
•Home Loans  
Prompt - Efficient - Confidential  
214 E. Washington - Norton - 877-2141  
Jolene L. Weiser, Owner

**Norton Flowers,  
Gifts and Greenhouse**  
Fresh and Silk Arrangements  
Trees, Shrubs, Bedding Plants  
209 N. Kansas - Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-3345

**Lee Hardy Construction LLC**  
New Construction • Concrete  
Roofing • Remodeling • Decks  
— Electrical • Rental Service —  
874-4315 or 871-0832-1120 N. State, Norton

**American  
Family Insurance**  
Curt Wahlmeier, Agent  
•Auto •Home •Health •Life •Commercial  
"All Your Protection Under One Roof"  
111. W. Washington, Norton - 877-5802

**Don's Floor Covering**  
Residential and Commercial  
•Carpet •Sheet Vinyl •Tile  
Levolor Blinds - Panasonic Vacuums  
113 W. Washington - Norton, Kansas  
877-3002 - Don Kaus - FREE ESTIMATES

**Countryside Veterinary Clinic  
of Oberlin, P.A.**  
N. Hwy. 83, Oberlin, Kansas (North of Sale Barn)  
785-475-3808 - 1-800-953-3808  
Mark R. Olson, D.V.M. • Travis A. Hissong, D.V.M.  
24-Hour Emergency Service

**Destination  
Kitchen** Everything under the sun for your kitchen  
115 W. Main, Norton, KS • 877-2911  
Cindy Boller and Georgia Mann

**Las Canteras Mexican Restaurant**  
DAILY SPECIALS  
Monday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.  
Friday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
A Family Owned Business - One in a Chain of Eleven  
203 W. Washington, Norton - 785-874-4074

# KANSAS CLASSIFIEDS AD NETWORK

**Adoption**  
ADOPT Educated, happily married couple desires to adopt newborn. Can give warmth, love and security. Expenses paid. Call John and Kim at 1-800-771-3462

**Adoption**  
ADOPTION - Love, security, warmth and absolute devotion await your child. Let us help each other. Call Suzanne (anytime) 1-888-803-1883 Expenses Paid.

**Adoption**  
PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? A childless energetic, spiritual, committed couple seeks to adopt. Financially secure. Healthcare professionals. Expenses paid. Gil & Dave 1-888-580-ADOPT (2367)

**Auctions**  
Building Material Auction Over one dozen Cabinet Sets, Granite countertops, Hardwood and tile flooring, exterior, interior doors, gas fireplaces, and more. Sunflower Building 2000 N. Poplar, Hutchinson Ks flinthillsauctions.com

**Help Wanted**  
Between High School and College? Over 18? Drop that entry level position. Earn what you're worth!! Travel w/Successful Young Business Group. Paid Training. Transportation, Lodging Provided. 1-877-646-5050.

**Help Wanted**  
Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your Own Local Candy Route! 25 Machines and Candy All for \$9995. 877-915-8222 All Major Credit Cards Accepted!

**Help Wanted**  
DRIVERS- Owner Operators. \$1,000 No Hassle Sign-On Bonus! Excellent Rates & Paid FSC. Home Daily with Regional Runs based out of Kansas City. CDL-A with 1 year tractor-trailer experience required. Call Comtrak at 866-338-2958, or apply online at www.comtraklogistics.com.

**Help Wanted**  
Drivers/CDL Training - CAREER CENTRAL We Train and EMPLOY you. Company Drivers Up to 40k First Year. New Team Pay! Up to .48c/Mile. Class A-CDL Training Regional Locations! (877) 369-6810 www.centraldrivingjobs.net.

**Help Wanted**  
\*\*\*Home for the Holidays\*\*\* OTR Drivers APU Equipped Pre-Pass EZ-pass Every 60k mile raises. 2007 and newer equipment. Passenger/Pet Policy 100% NO touch. 1-800-528-7825

**Help Wanted**  
INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED. Most earn \$50K-\$100K or more. Call our branch office at 913-385-2022. Ask for Joey Flint or e-mail john.flint@insphereis.com. Visit www.insphereis-kansascity.com

**Help Wanted**  
NATIONAL CARRIERS needs O/O's, Lease Purchase, Company Drivers for it's Expanding Fleet. Offering Regional/OTR runs, Outstanding Pay Package, Excellent Benefits, Generous Hometime. 1-888-707-7729. www.nationalcarriers.com.

**Help Wanted/Truck Driver DRIVERS**  
Company \$1000 SIGN ON BONUS FFE seeks Class A CDL & 1 yr. exp for OTR. Also hiring O/O's. Students Welcome. Call 800-569-9232 or recruit@ffex.net

**Homes for Sale**  
ATTN: LAND OWNERS \$500 and a Deed is what you need to purchase New 3 or 4 bdrm Home. FREE Furniture Pkg to first 5 buyers! 316-425-7940

**Manufactured Homes**  
4 BEDROOM DOUBLEWIDE. Will move to your land. Can include utilities installed on your land. We can move quickly. 785-862-0321

**Misc.**  
AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for high paying Aviation Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance. 888-248-7449.

**Misc.**  
ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. \*Medical, \*Business, \*Paralegal, \*Accounting, \*Criminal Justice. Job Placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call 888-220-3977 www.CenturaOnline.com

**Notice**  
State Treasurer Dennis McKinney cut his salary, reduced spending and returned the money to taxpayers. That's leading by example. Paid for by McKinney for Kansas; Michael Braude, Treasurer.

**Steel Buildings**  
For Sale 20 x 8 x 8 ; 40 x 8 x 8 ; 48x8.5x9.5; 53x8.5x9.5 SHIPPING CONTAINERS. Camlock doors, hardwood floors support forklift. Delivery available. 1-785-655-9430 Solomon. www.chuckhenry.com complete web listing, photos, specs, pricing.

**Are you or someone you know caring for an aging family member or friend?**  
A caregiver's greatest challenge is knowing what resources are available locally and how to find them.  
If you have caregiving questions, call your Kansas Area Agency on Aging.  
1-866-457-2364 or visit www.k4a.org

**Do The Dead Speak?**  
**John Edward LIVE!**  
Author & Psychic Medium  
He has captivated audiences worldwide on his internationally acclaimed talk shows, "Crossing Over" & "Cross Country". Don't miss this intimate evening with John Edward.  
**Get Tickets! ... who will be there for you?**  
Wichita, KS Wednesday, Mar 16th - 7pm  
The Orpheum Theatre  
Get Tickets at: www.JohnEdward.net or call: 316-755-SEAT

**Executive Director  
Flinthills Services, Inc.  
El Dorado, Kansas**  
Nonprofit agency providing services in Butler County for persons with developmental disabilities seeks experienced executive director. 85 employees, \$3.2 million budget. Three years experience in social sector position with budget and supervisory responsibility; bachelor's degree in liberal/business arts; stable employment history and progressive career advancement required. Five years experience in social sector management as administrator or assistant administrator; three years professional experience working with persons with disabilities; master's degree in business or public administration or related field; and previous experience living or working in a Midwest community preferred.  
Application letter with resume, salary history and four work-related references in confidence: mflentje@austinpeters.com (in one integrated file). Preference to applications before November 19. See profile: www.flinthillsservices.org