

# Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

November 2023

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful”. Colossians 3:15

This month as we think on Thanksgiving may it move our hearts to consider what all we are thankful for. For our needs in this life our Heavenly Father has giving us innumerable gifts. We have continuously enjoyed all these blessings naturally. Our forefathers knew that their survival and existence was because of the providence of God. This time of year, as the weather gets colder, we thank God for the blessing of a warm home and the gift of nourishment, especially when we think on food for the winter. The blessing of a harvest not only for ourselves but also for the world.

For many this thanksgiving there may be someone less in your typical gathering and may leave you with a human void that hasn't been there before. This is a difficult place for any of us, but as God's children we rejoice amidst the loss that through it all, we are blessed with the promises in His word of the victory that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Far past all the earthly blessings that we cannot number, we have this greatest blessing of all, redemption and eternal life thru Jesus Christ our Lord. May this be the cause of our utmost praise and thanksgiving to God our Father, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and for our Comforter the Holy Spirit.

The first part of that verse reminds us “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which ye are called in one body.”

This peace that passes all understanding is one of the greatest gifts that we can have here in this life as we travel toward our heavenly goal. God has allowed that we His fallen children although so sin defiled can possess true peace within our hearts and souls. We know and believe that through the work and righteousness of Christ, in His name and blood, we can believe ALL of our sin forgiven and our hearts can be free and at peace!

God by His word and through His Spirit reveals this to our broken and penitent hearts and gives us the faith to believe it. Thank you, God for Thy undying love to sinner man. Thank you, Jesus, for Thy perfect obedience unto death for our salvation. Thank you, Holy Spirit that calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the entire Christian church on earth so that we may be God's children here on earth and chosen saints in Heaven for all eternity. May this peace rule our hearts and bind us together in one body of believers having grace and therewith peace with one another. We thank God for the care that He has for each of us through all of life's challenges, trials, tribulations, etc. Knowing that He has promised to guide us, comfort us, strengthen us, and carry us all the way home. We thank God for His word that is the same yesterday, today, and forever. May God continue to bless you and your families this season!

In God's Peace!  
Mark Traffie