

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1Thess. 5:16-18 NKJV

In this letter I am focusing on verse 18; “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” It could be said, give thanks in all circumstances.

There are three truths from this verse. The first: according to what Paul teaches, our gratitude is not linked to our circumstances. Circumstances may be good or bad, positive or negative, favorable or unfavorable. The invitation is to choose gratitude in every situation, regardless of the situation. Circumstances hold no authority over our gratitude. No matter if it's our marriage, job or neighbors. The second truth: our gratitude will always be an intentional choice. Gratitude is a choice, not a response and grateful people choose gratitude. Third truth: we will live as grateful as we are thankful. Thankfulness creates gratitude.

In *Springs in the Valley*, L.B.Cowman writes of a man who found the barn where Satan kept the seeds he sows in human hearts. The seeds of discouragement were more numerous than all the rest. Satan explained that those seeds could be made to grow almost anywhere. When Satan was questioned, he reluctantly admitted that there was one place in which he could never get them to thrive. “Where is that?” asked the man. Satan replied, “In the heart of a grateful man.”

We would want this to be our focus because it is not easy to give thanks in all circumstances. The truth is it's because God is worthy of our trust, obedience, and praise. Psalm 103:1-2 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not ALL his benefits.”

We are coming up on July 4, 2026—

In congress on July 4, 1776, The Declaration of Independence was unanimously passed by the thirteen United States of America. This declaration states:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Two hundred and fifty years have now past and God has blessed this country with an amazing foundation. And through all these years' there has been good and bad, positive and negative, favorable and unfavorable seasons, and yet God has been with us through them all. As we face the future, let us look to God in all circumstances with thanksgiving.

In His Service,

Karen

JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 5

Reader: Arlis Ballwahn

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12

Reader: Barb Bever

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65:9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

Reader: Lori Arndt

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65:9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 26

Reader: Leonard Arndt

9th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

AUGUST SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 2

Reader: Kirstin Arndt

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

Reader: Joel Arndt

11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

Reader: Barb Ornes

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: 21-28

August 23

Reader: Linus Arndt

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Reader: Lorrie Bever

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July

- 2nd Douglas Wildes
6th Collin Birkholz
8th Travis Anderson, Doug Birkholz,
Derek Erdman, Matt & Tiffany Bever
11th Katie Garske, Barb Savall
13th Gracie Brandau
17th Cory Dutton, Mathew Dutton
18th Brian Buchholz
19th Haley Jewell, Travis & Ann Anderson,
Bob & Louise Buchholz
24th Karl Radke, Lee Wyttenbach,
Mark & Sarah Gruen
25th Bob Gruen, Andy & Leah Brueggen
26th Arlis Ballwahn
27th Adam Brueggen
29th Sophia Erdman
31st Leonard & Dixie Arndt

August

- 1st Luke Kroeger
2nd Gene Dougherty
3rd Avery Arndt, Larry & Lorrie Bever
6th Ron Drews
8th Kristi Tormoen,
Marcus & Kim Buchholz
12th Erica Steinke
13th Ginger Arndt Sowle
14th Greg Bever, Andy Brueggen
18th Jaimie Zimmerman
20th Angel & Devon Christopherson
21st August Arndt, Marty Arndt,
Jerry & Pat Von Haden
23rd Carolyn Dougherty
24th Kirstin Arndt, Larry & Arlis Ballwahn
25th Lois O'Rourke
27th Amber Sebranek, Ken Thorson, Jr.
31st Barb Ornes

THOSE SERVING IN JULY

Altar: Dixie & Leonard Arndt

Communion Servers: Volunteers

THOSE SERVING IN AUGUST:

Altar: Nalani & Greg Bever

Communion Servers: Volunteers



July 26

We have placed paper on the back table. Fill in your favorite hymn and chances are we will sing the hymn on July 26. Or email your favorite hymn to wiltonchurch@gmail.com

The members of the congregation voted to go ahead with the purchase of this sign. This is a changeable letter sign and will arrive in approximately 10 weeks. We will use stone that matches the stone on the new steps.

The members granted permission to the council to spend up to \$15,000.00, although we feel the final cost will be around \$12,000.00. We have raised the funds from chicken and meatball dinners, Christmas decoration yard-type sales, memorials and donations from both members and non-members.



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NARRATOR 58

CABINET SIZE: 5'x8'

AR-1007571 Cust: 2004041

6/18/2026 CW/tBoos PROPOSAL

Scale: 5/8"=1' Cabinet Color: White

Signature _____

Date _____

Please confirm that all lettering, colors and graphics are correct before signing. Changes to artwork after signature is received will incur a \$500 art change fee.



While we have several email addresses, cell and/or landline numbers we want to make sure our records are truly up to date. This would include the college students.

Name_____

Address_____

City/Town_____Zip_____

Telephone_____cell, _____landline

Email address_____

Please complete and drop in the offering plate on Sunday or, better yet, send the office an email;

wiltonchurch@gmail.com

Please feel free to provide emails for each member of your household. We would especially like to receive the email of the college students.

FYI

I have the church telephone forwarded to my personal cell. You are welcome to call me direct @608-387-2311 or the church @608-435-6647. Both phones are setup for messages.

Nalani