

Thankful vs. Grateful

Well, the weather finally cooled down and we have been able to go grab our jackets and sweaters along with the ice scraper and umbrella. For those of us who like winter, a rousing "Hooray!" could be heard in their homes and hearts. For those who like the warmer temperatures, not to worry – Summer's just a few degrees away...

I was surprised to hear some people complaining so quickly about the weather. After all, it's only been a few days that it's been cooler and according to the weather man, it's going to warm up quickly again. Human beings are a peculiar lot. We appear to be discontent no matter what the circumstances. How sad.



You hear a lot of talk about being grateful and you can go to just about any Walmart or Target and find a "gratitude" journal. In some journals they have a section for each day labeled "Gratitude." So, what's the difference between being thankful and just saying "Thank you" to

someone verses Gratitude? What does Gratitude mean, anyway? Doesn't it mean that you're thankful for something/someone? Let's look it up...

According to Merriam-Webster gratitude is: the state of being *grateful* : **THANKFULNESS**.

And, Merriam-Webster's synonyms are:

- appreciation
- appreciativeness
- gratefulness
- thankfulness
- thanks

The Oxford Dictionary defines Gratitude as: *the quality of being thankful; **readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness***. (Emphasis mine)

According to a Michigan State University paper:

Gratitude is an emotion expressing an appreciation for what one has as opposed to what one wants, according to Psychology Today. Furthermore, Harvard Medical School offers that gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what one receives—tangible or intangible—as they acknowledge the goodness in their lives.

It goes on to state:

Remember that being grateful is about appreciating what one has, as opposed to what one wants. Being thankful or thanking someone often implies you are acknowledging your thanks for something that someone has given you.

Now, it's November. Thanksgiving is 4 weeks away. It the official kick-off of the Holiday Season in the United States. What will you be doing this Holiday Season? Will you be Thankful and or Grateful? Will you go crazy trying to find that perfect gift, or will you drop someone a note telling them how much you appreciate them and what they mean to you? They both might take the same amount of time – one spent in the store fighting crowds, the other sitting quietly with your favorite cool-weather beverage with a piece of paper and pen/pencil as you compose that letter. Which gift will mean more? One will cost the price of a stamp – not quite 70 cents. The other, well, you decide how much you want to spend.

While you're contemplating the answer to the above question, why not write a quick Thank-You Note to the Lord. He's done more for you and I than anyone else ever will. He opened heaven for us. It's just a thought. If you don't know where to mail it, just stick it inside your Bible. He'll get it.

Enjoy your November, and Happy Thanksgiving.

THANKFUL

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LEARN the most common mistakes English students make when doing writing tasks (essays, reports, articles, informal letters, etc.) so you can avoid them.

THANKFUL

Synonym : relieved
We usually use “thankful” when we are relieved that something unpleasant or dangerous didn’t happen.

thankful to do something

- Those whose homes were damaged were just thankful to be alive.

thankful for something

- He wasn’t badly hurt—that’s something to be thankful for.

thankful (that)

- We can only be thankful that there were not more casualties.
- I was thankful that the meeting didn’t last long, because I had to get home.

I’m thankful I could escape With my life.



GRATEFUL

Synonym : appreciative
We use “grateful” when we want to thank someone because they have given us something or have done something for us.

- Thanks for coming with me. I’m really grateful.

grateful for something

- I’m very grateful for all your help with the party.

grateful to someone for something

- She was grateful to them for letting her stay at their house.



grateful (that)

- You should be grateful that I didn’t tell your parents.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We're doing something different this year for our OCC Packing Party. We will be packing our boxes during the Sunday School hour with some breakfast goodies to get us started and keep us going. The party is set for **Sunday, Nov. 12 at 8:30**. If you can't make it that early, don't worry, just come a little early for church and join us in the parlor on the first floor and pack a free box.

For those of you that may not be familiar with Operation Christmas Child, it is a project of Samaritan's Purse, run by Franklin Graham. The focus is to tell children how Jesus loves them. They train the people who pass out the boxes--usually missionary churches in foreign countries with hopeless religions. The children receive gospel booklets with the gifts which they share with their families and friends. This often brings parents, siblings, and friends to accept Christ and become active members in the local church. Friends are reached, churches grow, new churches are started and communities are transformed. You can google "OCC shoebox stories" and read many stories about how these simple shoeboxes are used by God.

Join us for the fun, AND help us spread the Good News!
November 12 8:30 a.m. in the Adult SS room

November, 2023

Serving this month:

- 5 The Grays
- 12 Joe Glass/Chuck Gray
- 19 The Wackerlys
- 26 The Lees

Communion Deacon: Chuck Gray
Alternate: Bill Heierding

Happy Birthday!

- 5 Raymond Cole
- 17 Guiliana White
- 18 Joe Ralls
- 29 Jevon Wright



December, 2023

Happy Birthday:

3 The Grays
10 Joe Glass/Chuck Gray
17 The Wackerlys
24 The Lees
24 Heierdings
31 Grays

7 Cindy Brown
8 Evan Sellars
9 Claudia Wright
9 Jenny Johnston



Lutherans for Life

November 5 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26A) – The Lord our God has given us sexuality for relationship, family, and community. These matters cannot become merely private choices or personal preferences. What we do with our bodies also affects our neighbors (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6). Abortion reveals that lust always leads to destruction. Marriage and parenting prove we do not need abortion – indeed, these gifts leave us no room for it!

November 12 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 27A) – Like the parable’s bridegroom, Jesus often meets us in unexpected moments (Matthew 25:10). He even sometimes hides in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses in order to rescue and bless. So, we dare not ignore the poor and needy neighbors who cry out for deliverance (Psalm 70:1, 5) from abortion and assisted suicide. If we do indeed love the Lord’s salvation, then let us say so (Psalm 70:4)!

November 19 – Pentecost XXV (Proper 28A) – Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

November 26 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 29A) – Guilt and grief can devastate those who abort their own children (Matthew 25:37-38). The Lord God longs to relieve their wounds with His forgiveness (Ezekiel 34:16). If Jesus overcomes death for us, He can also subdue it for them (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). May our mouths make the joyful noise (Psalm 95:2) of explicitly applying His atoning grace to every sin!

December 3 – Advent I – Surprise pregnancy intimidates, and terminal diagnosis terrifies because they darken the future. But Jesus the Savior looks through walls and sees around corners (Mark 11:2-3). He has promised abundant and everlasting life as the one who both secures the ends and supplies the means. God is faithful and will sustain (1 Corinthians 1:9); can we confirm it with our testimony (1 Corinthians 1:6)?

December 10 – Advent II – John the Baptist prophesied the Gospel of the Kingdom that with Jesus’ blessing is always coming (Mark 1:7-8). Even during surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, He is not slow to keep His promises. Instead, He acts patiently, not wishing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Aren’t we crying out about it as this generation’s voice in the wilderness (Mark 1:3)?

December 17 – Advent III – Those who believe cannot help but speak. God’s love for every human life has filled our mouths with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:2). We have His permission to give voice to this Gospel in all circumstances and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Our

time has come to bear witness to the Light (John 1:6-7). Confess and do not deny (John 1:20) the sanctity of life!

December 24 – Advent IV/Christmas Eve – Almighty God has profound interest and investment in childbearing and childrearing (2 Samuel 7:12; Luke 1:31). He has made this relationship and vocation central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every mother and father, every son or daughter embodies the love of the Lord for humankind. While abortion attempts to conceal the realities, our sanctity-of-life advocacy gets to reveal this delightful mystery (Romans 16:25).

December 31 – Christmas I/New Year's Eve – Christmas – and a new year – offers opportunity for the joys of looking forward. Simeon and Anna exemplify and inspire faith that finds strength and celebration in anticipating. The Heavenly Father who escorted us thus far will also usher us ever onward. Neighbors facing surprise pregnancies or suffering terminal diagnoses need to know. For their sake, please do not keep silent (Psalm 62:1)!