NOVEMBER 2026

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

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Next Newsletter will be JANUARY 2027!



The Epistle to the Elizabethans

Living in Thanksgiving

When I think of Thanksgiving I think of my early childhood in Richmond, Virginia. Thanksgiving would have the full flavor of the Fall season, with the changing color of the leaves on the trees in their brilliant brown and red colors, and of course the cold temperatures. I remember family visiting from Tennessee and the sounds of the Macy Day parade football filling the house along with a lot of sharing and laughter.

But… to be honest, I don't remember feeling all that thankful at the time. I was a child in those days and while my parents taught us to appreciate what we had, we simply didn't know what it meant to be without loved ones, and the basic provisions like food and shelter… I mean, seriously, when you grow up with it all it is easy to take it for granted!

Well, over the years I have learned a lot about the fragility of life. Those relatives that I loved seeing so much are no longer alive, and as I have grown up as an adult, I am gaining a real and deep understanding for what it means to be thankful. I am thankful for family and friends, and for the blessings of all of God's provisions and gifts. Folks, we have a lot to be thankful for all the time… Amen?

You know, Thanksgiving is not necessarily a religious holiday. In fact, it is not even a holiday celebrated around the world; it is an American holiday. The story goes that it began with a group of Pilgrims on December 13, 1621, after a bountiful harvest over the summer. They had traveled from their homeland to the new world seeking a new life for religious freedom and other things. And life was hard for those early Pilgrims; many died from the harsh conditions of the new world over their first seasons in the new land. This feast was a celebration that was actually a three-day feast as they began to have hope that they could survive.

However, the story of how it became a national holiday is a bit more convoluted. In 1789, following a proclamation by George Washington, Americans celebrated a day of thanks to God under its new constitution and, believe it or not, it was the Protestant Episcopal Church, under Washington, that first set aside this day of thanks. However, it was not official yet… it would not be until the time of Abraham Lincoln that the fourth Thursday of November would be officially declared a day of Thanksgiving. But even then, it was still not set in stone. In fact, it would not be until 1941 when Congress would finally make it an official holiday.

When it comes to Christianity, we do not have one day that is dedicated to giving thanks because, if you follow the story of Scripture, we are commended by God to live everyday with an attitude of thanksgiving. This is easy when we realize all that Christ has done for us and the hope of what He promises to do.

I don't know about you but there are times when challenging things happen that lead me to forget just how blessed I am. Can you relate? It may be a health crisis, or financial issues, or some family issue that clouds our minds from the blessings we have. The challenges of life do not have to steal our joy, living in thanksgiving keeps our focus on all the good we have. What are you thankful for this year? It really is all too easy to take things we have for granted, like family and friends, the basic provisions. Take the time …think about all that you have… what are you thankful for? My family and I want to wish each and every one of you the most blessed and happy Thanksgiving. Thank you all for all the love and support that you have shown us over the last year or so. Praying that God will continue to bless St. Elizabeth's! God bless you!

+Fr. Deke

NOVEMBER Birthdays	
Sharon Albee	1
Larry Thomas	2
Frank Torow	2
Betty Torow	5
Jean Wright	7
Frank Sanzo	9
Cindy Winters	9
Bernice Montefusco	11
Lorraine Rai Childs	15
Bruce Maurice	15
Lori Doolittle	16
Sarah Kelley	19
Margaret Warner	21
Darlene Kennedy	27
Ken Iverson	28
Barry Brown	29

NOVEMBER Anniversaries	
George & Nancy Shedler	2
David & Sharon Bean	8
Dan & Beth Cooler	11
Stephen & Maureen Hamlin	14
Alan & Patricia Baisley	23

Veteran's Day Wednesday, November 11th.....Honoring all who have served!

WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION and WORKSHOP

Saturday November 21st

3:00pm – 5:00pm

This is an opportunity to plan & share thoughts about how St. Elizabeth's might further develop our Missions/Outreach Programs in 2027. Come join the discussion as we review our current programs. Talk about where we might be more intentional. Explore new opportunities. We will discuss the role of our Endowment Fund towards these efforts. Light refreshments will be served. See signup sheet on bulletin board. All are welcome to attend.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE & COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 22nd

2:00pm – 3:15pm Riverview Park, Sebastian

This will be an outdoor celebration. Please bring your own chairs. What a great way to celebrate people of many faiths joining together.

Thanksgiving Service *Wednesday, November 25th 10:00am*

No Bible Study on November 25th due to Thanksgiving Service. We will resume on December 2nd

Thanksgiving Day Dinner *Thursday, November 26th*

Dinner served at 3:00pm (doors open at 2:30pm) Please bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert to share. Volunteers are needed please see signup sheet on bulletin board Tickets will be sold before & after both services - November 8th & November 15th ***$1.00/pp Adults & Child*** *Dinners to Go must be picked up by 2:30pm All are welcome to attend!*

SANTA FOR SENIORS ECW selected Santa for Seniors holiday gift drive as our Christmas project this year. Sponsored by the Senior Resource Association in Vero Beach. **Donations will be collected on November 15th – December 6th**. Please place all ***unwrapped*** donations in box located in Angel Office. Gifts cards to Publix, Walmart or Aldi are also welcome. Please place all Gift Cards in basket in Angel Office. See suggested donation items needed on bulletin board in Narthex. Thank you for your donation!

TOYS FOR TOTS We are collecting toys for children up to 17yrs old & special needs children ages 3-10. Please place all ***unwrapped*** donations in box located in the Narthex. **Donations will be collected November 15th - December 13th.** See suggested donation items needed on bulletin board in Narthex. Thank you for your donation & supporting Toys for Tots!

Coastal Connections Beach Cleanup

The Ecumenical group & St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church joined in with Coastal Connections on September 19th picking up trash at Amersand Beach (north of Wabasso on A1A)
St. Elizabeth's always helping the community…





All Saints Dinner

Sunday, November 1st





First Sunday of ADVENT
November 29th

Advent Study

November 29th – December 13th
Sundays 4:00pm – 6:00pm
Please bring a snack or dessert to share

Christmas Birthday Party for Jesus & Christmas Play

Sunday, December 20th 4:00pm - 6:00pm
More details will follow…

A word from our Jr. Warden, Ken Dean

Maintenance/Grounds

THANK YOU *to all our weekly volunteer maintenance crew who work so hard in maintaining our grounds so beautifully.* ***"Many hands make less work..."*** *Volunteers are always needed for any of our parishioners when they need a* ***"Helping Hand".*** *We appreciate any open availability you may have. If interested or have questions, please reach out to Ken Dean, Jr. Warden.*





Treasure Sale

Episcopal Church Women ECW

Our annual Treasure Sale held on October 23rd & 24th

What a busy and successful Treasure Sale we had because of all of you!
THANK YOU *to all our wonderful volunteers for their hard work! It was greatly appreciated!*
It was a blessing to have so many help and support the ECW!







Our next ECW meeting
Saturday, November 21st at 10:00am

December ECW Mtg & Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 19th

More details will follow…