



**Join us for Our Thanksgiving Service
In the Family Chapel
Wednesday, November 24th
At 1:00 pm**

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving from Chaplain Gail

I love Thanksgiving because we have found a holiday that we can all recognize and celebrate regardless of our faith background. We, as a community of faithful people celebrate this day, not as just a secular day to eat copious amounts of food, but to gather with family and friends and show our gratitude for all we have. We claim this day as a sacred day – because we know that true thankfulness belongs to God – the source of sustenance and life itself. Often the world around us fills this day with “stuff” other than true thanksgiving. We slave over food, we fret about misbehaving family members, we jostle for position around the TV for the Macy’s parade or the football game, and some of us even go out shopping, especially as the stores try to lure us out of our homes to spend money.

The community of faith makes another way for us to celebrate. The community of faith says that if we are going to dedicate an entire day to thanksgiving, let’s talk about what giving thanks is really about – to whom we really need to give thanks. The Bible says, “It is good to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto His name.” In faith we, “Praise God! Bless God’s name! For God is good; God is steadfast love, God is eternal; God’s faithfulness is for all generations.”

To be honest, praise and thanksgiving is not necessarily something that we are always good at doing. We are really good at complaining to God, or asking God for things, or worrying to God. But we often forget to truly praise God, to thank God for God’s abundant love and faithfulness. I am not sure if our prayers to God tend toward being self-centered or we just are simply a culture who tends to complain or want something from God. And I am not saying those kind of prayers do not have a time and place. Our God can take all of that from us and more. But when we turn our prayers to prayers of thanksgiving, we may be amazed at how we, and all that we are worried about, are transformed. Centering ourselves in gratitude and thanksgiving puts even the direst of situations in perspective. We remember not only that God is with us, but we also see those around us differently. Our hearts grow in love and compassion simply by praising and thanking God. ***Amen***

Fun Facts About Thanksgiving

1. The first Thanksgiving took place in 1621.
2. Every Thanksgiving, the current U.S. president pardons a turkey.
3. Macy's has put on a parade every Thanksgiving since 1924.
4. Thanksgiving is the biggest travel day of the year.
5. The foods eaten for Thanksgiving dinner haven't changed much since 1621.
6. Americans eat over 280 million turkeys every Thanksgiving.
7. Cranberries are native to North America.
8. There is an official Thanksgiving postage stamp.
9. The wishbone tradition is much older than Thanksgiving.
10. Watching football is an integral part of most Thanksgiving celebrations.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Benediction

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds on the knowledge and love of God, and may God's blessing be upon us and remain with us always.

This service is offered by Pastoral Care Services of Atlantic General Hospital & Health System. We pray that it brings you strength and peace for this day and the weeks to follow.



The Peace of the Lord be with you.

Give thanks and bless God's name

For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Prayer

Thank you God for giving us another day, another chance to become a better individual, another chance to give and experience love. Thank you God for giving us health, for the food you provide, for the awareness you have awakened in us. Thank you for the energy that feeds our souls, the sun that warms our bodies and the air that fills our lungs. Because of you we believe in the good and have faith. Because of you we are learning to love and accept ourselves. Because of you we are blessed. God, stay connected to us today and always, for we need you in order to fulfill our spiritual tasks. God, show us how to love ourselves to be able to love others. Help us become the type of people that we would like to befriend, help us forgive ourselves and forgive others. God, make us a channel of your energy and help us understand. We thank you God for giving us another day, another opportunity to do it right. Keep us all close to you and listen to our prayers.

Amen

A Moment of silent gratitude for those we love.

Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God! It is He who made us, and we are His;

We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever

And his faithfulness to all generations.