

Thoughts From the Pastor's Study

As I write this, it is still the month of November and prior to Thanksgiving Day. Therefore, I wish you all a “Happy Thanksgiving.”

There is so much in our country and in our lives for which we can be thankful. I hope for you all these things include family and friends, a warm home and enough food to nourish you and those that you love. I hope that you also enjoy financial security and freedom from violence. Most of those things are blessings that we might take for granted in our lives. There are those in our community (and maybe even our church) who are not able to take them for granted. May God grant us the insight and wisdom to recognize the needs of those around us and respond to their needs.



While we celebrate the last Thursday in November as a day of Thanksgiving, many of the indigenous people of this country observe the day as a “Day of Mourning.” They see the day as a symbol of all that was historically taken away from them in the past. May God grant us the humility to recognize the pain felt by our native-American brothers and sisters.

When the people of the Cherokee Nation were forcibly removed from their homeland during what has become known as the “Trail of Tears”, women of the Moravian Church accompanied them on their journey and shared their experience. One place they settled was at Oaks, Oklahoma. Those Moravian women died from disease soon after they arrived in Oklahoma and others from the Moravian Church took their place.

Eventually, people from the Danish Lutheran Church took over supporting the Cherokee people from the Moravians. Oaks Indian Mission, Ebenezer Lutheran Church and our synod still serve the needs of indigenous people at Oaks.

Gifts from this congregation and the ministry of Pastor Dick and Joyce Jebson have been part of that support. Let us continue to support our brothers and sisters at Oaks Indian Mission while, at the same time, we recognize the reality of their “Day of Mourning.”

Blessings,
Pastor Carl