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www.latinoamericantoday.com



LATINO AMERICANS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING



Latinos Embrace Thanksgiving



By Graciela Eleta

On Thanksgiving Day, many Hispanic homes will be filled with the familiar scent of turkey roasting, but the holiday preparations will also include other customary dishes that better reflect Hispanic heritage. Many Latinos may choose to follow American traditions and also opt to include Hispanic foods as part of the celebration.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, mixing the old with a new part of life is a way to show how thankful and appreciative Latinos are about their bountiful lives. Thanksgiving is sometimes known as “Día de Acción de Gracia” or “Día de Dar Gracias,” but the Thanksgiving name or traditions hold strong. Part of the unique U.S. Latino experience is creating a customized blend of Hispanic and American cultural cues and traditions. So, while all-American

at its core, Thanksgiving in a Latino home may still look and feel innately Latino from food and décor to a steady stream of Latino music, dancing and laughter. These things do not take away from the tradition, they only add more layers.

Along with the classic stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes and cranberries, *tostones* or *mofongo* (both made of deep-fried plantains), tamales, guacamole, tortillas, beans and specialty salsas and rice dishes (which vary by country of origin) might be found on the dining table. Cultural insights begin at home, and Latinos will tailor Thanksgiving to meet the duality of their culture in the U.S. and pay tribute to their Hispanic roots. Families with school-age children are also more apt to understand the unique holiday.

While Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Latin America—and the real history of the holiday beyond foodstuff might elude those who did not grow up with this history lesson—Latinos feel a special connection to its meaning of being thankful, and they appreciate sharing in its festivities. In fact, 76 percent of Latinos often celebrate U.S. holidays, and 86 percent of Latinos feel it is natural to live and act in ways that are typical of U.S. American culture, according to a Simmons Spring 2011 survey.

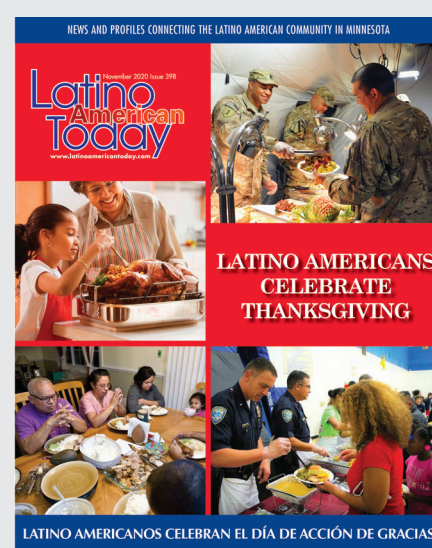
You might ask, does it matter if pumpkin flan is served rather than a pumpkin pie? And what if stuffing is seasoned with adobo, chorizo and peppers? Creativity is a large part of any family meal, and some food companies cater to a Latino palate that is unfamiliar with turkey and other traditional Thanksgiving fixings.

What matters is that marketing is used to invite Latinos to fully embrace the American tradition and its offerings. In a comScore study, 35 percent of Hispanics recalled products that they saw advertised, versus 31 percent of non-Hispanics. Thirty one percent of Latinos also enjoyed watching ads, compared with only 19 percent of non-Hispanics.

Although growth has slowed in the consumer product goods industry overall, companies that provide CPGs for Hispanics have seen more progression, and Latinos often turn to Spanish-language media to familiarize themselves with American traditions.

Food and beverage companies can do their part to offer choices and alternatives to Hispanic consumers that blend the two cultures. Think turkey with chorizo cornbread stuffing, or turkey hotlines in Spanish, for example.

But it's not the food itself that makes the holiday. It is family, and new and old traditions that make the day so special. After all, an occasion that combines family, food and fun is bound to be cherished.



On The Cover
Latino Americans
Celebrate Thanksgiving!

Latino American Today

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Hoy en día, es peligroso salir a la calle sin cobertura de salud. Puede haber ayuda disponible.

Muchas familias en Minnesota están enfrentando dificultades debido a la pandemia por COVID-19. Para muchos de nosotros, sostener los gastos relacionados con la atención y servicios de salud pueden ser muy difíciles de afrontar. Si usted o algún familiar y conocidos están afrontando dificultades económicas debido a no contar con suficiente dinero, o si perdió su empleo, o sus horas de trabajo fueron reducidas; hay opciones para acceder ayuda disponible.

Los programas de salud pública de Minnesota ofrecen cobertura de salud a los residentes de Minnesota con ingresos económicos bajos o sin ingresos económicos. El Departamento de Servicios Humanos (DHS) tiene una página web nueva con información en Español sobre los programas de salud pública en Minnesota mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish. Invitamos a aquellos que necesiten cobertura de salud a preguntar si califican para Asistencia Médica o MinnesotaCare.

La mayoría de los residentes de Minnesota pueden solicitar en línea a través de MNsure.org. Sin embargo, sabemos que navegar los seguros de salud puede ser complicado y por lo tanto, usted no tiene por qué descifrarlos por su cuenta. Estas son algunas de las opciones para obtener más información sobre nuestros programas de salud.

- Conéctese con un navegador en su comunidad para obtener ayuda para inscribirse. Podrás encontrar un navegador que habla Inglés o Español en mnsure.org/help/find-assister/find-assister.jsp.
- Comuníquese con su oficina local del condado.
- Si tiene alguna discapacidad, llame al Centro de Discapacitados de MN (Disability Hub MN) al 866-333-2466.
- Si tiene 65 años o más, puede llamar a la línea de enlace de la tercera edad (Senior LinkAge Line) al 800-333-2433.

Todos necesitamos ayuda en alguna ocasión

Alimentos | Vivienda | Ingreso
Cuidados de la salud | Cuidado infantil



Everyone needs help sometimes

Food | Housing | Income | Health care | Child care



mn.gov/dhs/LatinoAmericanToday

¿No califica debido a su condición de inmigración?

La Asistencia Médica de Emergencia (Emergency Medical Assistance, EMA) ofrece cobertura para la atención y el tratamiento de afecciones médicas de emergencia a todo residente de Minnesota que no tenga una estatus de inmigración que le permita tener acceso a Asistencia Médica. EMA cubre aquellas afecciones médicas que de no tratarse en un período de 24 a 48 horas podrían:

- Poner su salud en grave riesgo;
- Ocasionar un deterioro grave de las funciones corporales; o
- Ocasionar un colapso grave de alguno de los órganos o partes del cuerpo.

Usted puede solicitar la Asistencia Médica de Emergencia a través de su oficina local del condado.

Prueba gratis de COVID-19 si no tiene seguro

Muchos residentes de Minnesota que no cuentan con un seguro de salud pueden realizarse la prueba de COVID-19 de forma gratuita. Aprende más a mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/spanish.

Todos requerimos ayuda en muchas ocasiones, estamos aquí para ayudarte.
Matt Anderson

Assistant Commissioner and Medicaid Director, Health Care Administration,
Minnesota Department of Human Services



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.latinamericantoday.com

Thanksgiving Amid Uncertainty and a Global Pandemic



Marci Malzahn

By Marci Malzahn

2020 will go in the history books as “the year to pause and reflect” among other descriptors. Many of us who are used to run on the treadmill of life with no rest were forced to abruptly stop. Some of us were literally thrown off the treadmill and we were not ready for the impact. Others found themselves slowing down to a complete stop. Yet others experienced the treadmill speeding up to the point of unsustainable speeds.

Who are you in this picture? How has the COVID-19 Pandemic affected your personal and professional life? Most importantly, how

has the Pandemic affected your spiritual life? Depending on your circumstances described above, if you found yourself suddenly on the floor, hurt, and disoriented because you either lost your job or someone you love died from the virus, did you ask others for help? Did you go to God for help and comfort?

If you found yourself “slowly slowing down,” your business deals consistently going away and not booking new business while, at the same time, your kids’ school closed and now you have to play teacher. Did you pivot your business? Have you found new ways to bring income to your home? How are you coping mentally? How are your children doing with the “distance learning” or “in-person learning” during this time?

Lastly, if you are in the third category and your treadmill of life sped up to an unsustainable pace (like doctors and nurses treating COVID-19 patients or bankers doing Paycheck Protection Program loans), were you able to slow down eventually? Or did your body give in, you let go of the handles and flew off the treadmill? Were you able to establish boundaries to say, “No more, I cannot handle any more.”?

My personal experience was a mixture of slowing down from zero traveling and, on the other hand, increased work to stay on top of the banking industry. All my in-person speaking engagements were rescheduled from the spring and summer to now the fall. But God provided more consulting work when speaking was non-existent back in May. Overall, I have had some balanced days and some completely crazy days. But the best blessing throughout these past months is that my husband and I spend quality time at least once a week with our grandson. This is priceless and I thank God for this privilege daily.

Your responses to the questions above will vary based on your unique circumstances and your personal relationship with God. However, regardless of your situation, the entire world experienced the effects of the 2020

Pandemic in more than one way. Another way this year will go into history is as “the year that everything happened” and will never be forgotten. But you can prevail and continue life with God’s help.

The big question I ask myself and I ask you is: In the midst of uncertainty and during this Pandemic, have you used the additional time you’ve had to reflect on your relationship with God? Have you stopped to thank God despite the circumstances?

Thanking God during tribulation seems absolutely absurd and goes against our human nature. However, that’s *exactly* what we must do to obtain the grace, equipping, wisdom, and strength to get through adversity. When we thank God regardless of the circumstances we’re living through, He listens to us and He provides *everything* we need to get us through.

I encourage you to push through, believe in God, ask Him to help you through this tribulation and He will. Ask Him for wisdom and discernment as to what to do next, how to handle your children’s education, and to give you strength for each day. My hope is that this Pandemic has brought you closer to God and that your spiritual life will flourish because of this tribulation... I will leave you with these promises from the Scriptures:

John 16:33 (KJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Psalms 116:1 (NLT)

I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications.

Psalms 116:17 (NLT)

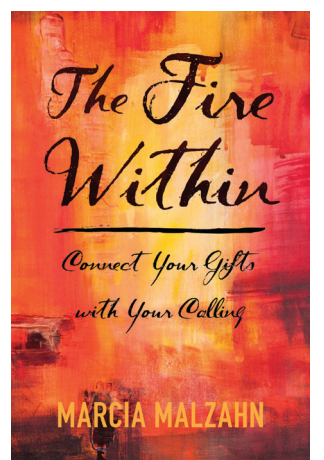
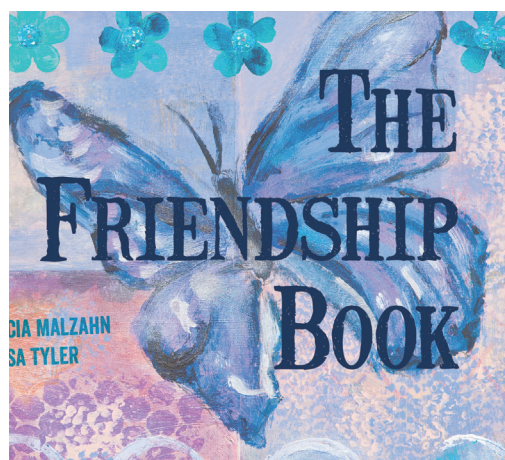
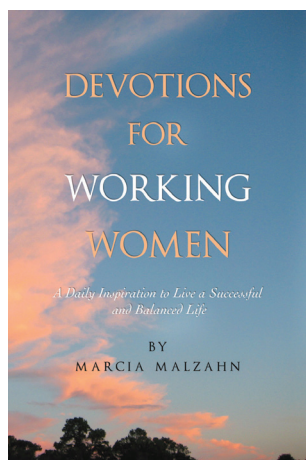
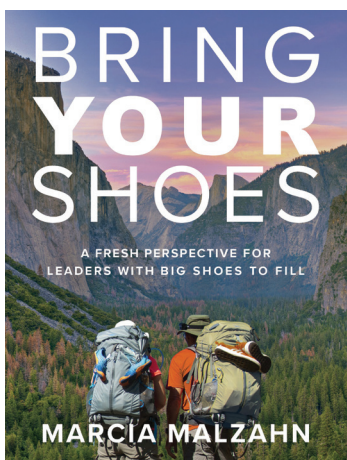
I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the Lord.

Philippians 4:11 (NLT)

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Marcia Malzahn is president and founder of Malzahn Strategic a community financial institution consultancy focused on strategic planning, enterprise risk management, treasury management, and talent management. Marcia is a professional keynote speaker and published author of four books. You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at <https://crowning-achievements.com/> or email her at mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com. You can purchase Marcia’s books at Malzahn Publishing or Amazon.



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- Mejor Educación para todas las familias

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Paid for by Lacy Johnson for Congress



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City Council Ward 3
West Saint Paul



DAVE MEISINGER
PROVEN EXPERIENCE
== ★ ==
PROVEN RESULTS

VOTE November 3rd

Paid for by Dave Meisinger, 1242 Ottawa Ave. W, West St. Paul, MN 55118

Meisinger Seeks Re-Election to City Council

I am running again for city council to help ensure that W. St Paul's public safety remains the number one priority for the city! We have candidates running for office this year who want to eliminate/dismantle/defund our police and that CANNOT happen!

We cannot expose our seniors and our most vulnerable citizens to unchecked crime and disorder!

My past experience, as a twice elected Mayor and twice elected Councilman, have prepared me to help lead the city during these unprecedented and troubling times.

I respectfully ask for your vote on November 3rd and thank you in advance for your support!

—David Meisinger

Mariah de la Paz for House 52A Seat



Mariah de la Paz

HD52A is made up of West St Paul, Mendota, Lilydale, and the northern parts of Mendota Heights and South St. Paul.

By Claud Santiago

Mariah de la Paz the GOP endorsed candidate for House of Representative in 52A has been very busy these pass months, she works in the senior health care system. "I'm planning to bring my knowledge of working with seniors in this Covid-19 crisis to the State Capitol when I win this election" stated de la Paz.

Mariah who lives in West St. Paul is a conservative who has been active in politics for many

years and in 2018 served as a campaign manager for a congressional race in St. Paul. She is a busy single mother who still finds time to be active in the community working with various organizations to encourage Latino youth to stay in school and graduate.

52A is home to a large Latino community: West St. Paul is currently made up of 22% Latinos, South St. Paul 14%, and 4% in Mendota.

Mariah is running for office because she believes that the current DFL 52A incumbent house of representative Rick Hansen, who has held office since 2004 has been part of the DFL administration who has given us the

failed MNLAR and MNSURE systems costing tax payers millions and millions of dollars. Hansen is part of this failed leadership!

Our recent "civil unrest" in the Twin Cities that cost our business community millions and millions of dollars in damage and looting, was because of the failed current administration, Governor Walz and the mayors in St. Paul and Minneapolis. We never hear from our current house representative Rick Hansen about any of these issues. In 52A there was significant damage and looting.

"I am running for office so that our residents, business owners and families in 52A have a house representative who is for a smaller and more responsible organized government, reduced taxes and less regulations so that more businesses open, better schools and a well-funded police department for safer communities. I look forward to meeting with our community in the upcoming campaign to ask for their vote and to give me the opportunity to serve them at the State Capitol."

For more information, visit: <https://www.delapazforhouse.com>



Mariah with MN Rep. Eric Lucero

Help Me Win Minnesota's House District

52A

MNGOP



Mariah De la Paz
*Candidate for Minnesota
House of Representatives
HD52A*



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The Right Choice for State House of Representatives • HD52A

WHY VOTE REPUBLICAN?

LATINO AMERICANS and REPUBLICANS agree that:

- Families should make the decisions about education and health care.
- Renewed economic prosperity is the best solution to most of our problems.
- We support Safety in our Communities.

GET OUT THE VOTE!

Your vote, your voice - it matters.



This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by HD52A Republicans - www.hd52amngop.com and HD52B Republicans - www.gop52.com. It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.

Vota por Tomas Settell



Comparto contigo en la celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Hola, Mi nombre es Tomas Settell y soy su candidato para representarlo en el Distrito 52 del Senado del Estado de Minnesota en Lilydale, Mendota, West St Paul, South St Paul, Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, Sunfish Lake y parte de Eagan si estoy elegido este Noviembre por ti.

Agradecería su voto el 3 de noviembre de 2020. En este momento crítico de la historia de nuestra nación, SU voz es MUY importante. ¡Debemos recuperar nuestra libertad y con tu ayuda podemos!

Este mes es una celebración de la gran historia de nuestra nación de aquellos que han inmigrado de raíces hispanas. Cuando vivía en Uruguay, Brasil y España, además de viajar a Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, México y Portugal, aprendí mucho de nuestra rica herencia y cómo ha impactado positivamente a nuestra gran nación.

Los valores familiares que todos apreciamos son fuertes en la comunidad latina, pero están bajo ataque. Quiero empoderar a los padres a tener la capacidad elegir en la educación de sus hijos, dónde van a la escuela y qué es importante para ellos. Quiero defender y proteger sus negocios, trabajos y bajar tus impuestos de ingresos.

Estoy al lado de nuestra comunidad hispana y latina y las amo mucho. Por favor salga y vote el próximo noviembre. Su voto marcará absolutamente la diferencia. Para obtener más información, visite me sitio web y comuníquese conmigo si tiene alguna pregunta. ¡Espero tener su voto el 3 de noviembre! www.tomasforsenate.com

¡Solo SETTELL(conformarse) por la libertad!

VOTE

TOMAS SETTELL

For Minnesota Senate • District 52

**Tomas Settell
District 52**

*I join you
in celebrating
Hispanic Heritage
Month!*

Prepared and Paid for by the Tomas for MN Senate Committee, www.tomasforsenate.com

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- Maria, day 1 of quitting vaping

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QuitPartnerMN.com
1-800-QUIT-NOW

Partnership for a ConnectedMN Awards \$2.1 Million in Grants to Organizations Serving Digital Access Needs of Minnesota Students

Communities throughout state positioned to address student needs for technology and resources

To address digital inequities faced by students in Minnesota, Partnership for a ConnectedMN, a public-private partnership of private businesses, philanthropic entities and community leaders, today announced that it has awarded \$2.1 million in grants to 23 nonprofits serving the connectivity needs of students and their families. ConnectedMN grants will serve an estimated 68,000 students and families in urban and rural communities, who will gain access to computing devices, critical support services and the internet.

ConnectedMN was founded by Best Buy, Comcast, Blandin Foundation, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation and the Minnesota Business Partnership, in collaboration with the administration of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. In June, ConnectedMN announced that their goal was to bring technology and internet access to students most challenged by the sudden shift to online school, including low-income families, Indigenous and students

of color, and communities across both urban and rural Minnesota. “What’s an afterthought for most of us, wi-fi connection and access to technology, shouldn’t be a dream for Minnesota children facing homelessness,” said Monica Nilsson, Executive Director at Haven Housing, a ConnectedMN grant recipient. “A ConnectedMN grant will allow homeless children, those with the fewest resources, connectivity, stability and consistent support to complete their homework, even when they don’t have a home.”

Minnesota students will continue to face challenges when learning at school and at home. ConnectedMN is committed to meeting the needs of students impacted by COVID-19 while also finding long-term solutions to ensure that they have equitable access to education through distance learning.

For more information about ConnectedMN and how businesses, philanthropic organizations and individuals can get involved, visit **www.connectedmn.us**.

¿Tiene usted dificultad para usar el teléfono debido a una pérdida auditiva, o una discapacidad del habla o física?



Para acceder a maneras más fáciles de usar el teléfono, comuníquese con el Telephone Equipment Distribution Program (Programa de Distribución de Equipos Telefónicos).

**800-657-3663
mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing**

El Telephone Equipment Distribution Program es financiado mediante el Programa de Acceso a Comunicaciones en Minnesota (TAM, por las siglas de Telecommunications Access Minnesota) del Departamento de Comercio (Department of Commerce) y administrado por el Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Minnesota (Minnesota Department of Human Services).

mn DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
SERVICES DIVISION



When we **unite as changemakers**, we can disrupt inequitable systems and address longstanding racism and oppression to create a community where **all people thrive.**

The need for change is now.



GTCUW.ORG

¿Hay algo que agradecer en 2020?



Saúl Carranza

Por Saúl Carranza

La historia del día de acción de gracias dice que en 1621 un grupo de peregrinos ingleses en Plymouth, Massachussets, compartió una comida con los indígenas Wampanoag para celebrar la cosecha de otoño. Este grupo llegó en el barco Mayflower huyendo de la persecución religiosa en Europa. Pero después de un trágico año en el que en el que sin el favor de Dios y la compasión de los nativos todos hubieran muerto por el hambre, frío y enfermedades. Aunque solo la mitad sobrevivió. Reconocieron que era justo agradecer por la vida, por la primera cosecha y por un futuro prometedor.

Esa historia de triunfo y sufrimiento se parece mucho a la que algunas familias han tenido que vivir en este año. Aunque el 2020 no ha terminado de escribirse. El llegar al mes de acción de gracias nos ofrece la oportunidad para preguntarnos: ¿en un año tan irregular y difícil, por qué estar agradecidos? Seguramente usted ha escuchado muchas quejas sobre este año. La pandemia, incendios, crisis económica, huracanes, terremotos, pérdida de trabajos, cierre de escuelas y quien sabe que tantas cosas más.

Se cuenta que una vez asaltaron al Pastor Matthew Henry, el famoso comentarista bíblico del Siglo XVIII y cuando algunos de sus amigos le preguntaron cómo se sentía Henry les contestó: “Me siento muy agradecido con Dios... de hecho, tengo cuatro cosas por las cuales estarle agradecido en cuanto a esto que me ha pasado. Primero, le estoy agradecido porque es la primera vez que me asaltan. Segundo, le estoy agradecido porque me robaron la bolsa y no me quitaron la vida. Tercero, le estoy agradecido porque, aunque se llevaron todo lo que tenía encima, no era mucho. Y cuarto, le estoy agradecido porque me robaron a mí y no fui yo quien robó”.

Aún en la más difícil de las pruebas siempre hay una buena razón para dar gracias. Si tenemos vida, si tenemos una familia que nos ama, si tenemos un techo, un plato de comida y tenemos esperanza podemos decir: “Gracias Dios por todas tus bendiciones sobre mí”. Pero quizás nadie como el Expresidente Abraham Lincoln en su proclama de 1863 quien después de mencionar todas las bendiciones recibidas en medio de una encarnizada guerra dijo:

Is There Something To Be Thankful for in 2020?

By Saúl Carranza

The Thanksgiving story tells that in 1621 a group of English pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, shared a meal with the Wampanoag Indians to celebrate the fall harvest. This group arrived on the Mayflower ship fleeing religious persecution in Europe. But after a tragic year, in which, without the favor of God and the compassion of the natives, everyone would have died from hunger, cold, and disease. Although only half survived. They recognized that it was fair to give thanks for life, for the first harvest, and for a promising future. That story of triumph and suffering is very similar to what some families have had to live this year. Although 2020 has not finished being written. Coming into the month of Thanksgiving offers us the opportunity to ask ourselves: in such an irregular and difficult year, why be thankful? Surely you have heard many complaints about this year. The pandemic, fires, economic crisis, hurricanes, earthquakes, loss of jobs, school closings, and who knows what else.

It was said that once Pastor Matthew Henry, the famous eighteenth century biblical commentator, was assaulted and when some of his friends asked him how Henry felt he replied: “I am very grateful to God ... in fact, I have four things for I am grateful to him for this that has happened to me. First, I am grateful because it is the first time I have been assaulted. Second, I am grateful to him because they stole my bag and did not take my life. Third, I am grateful to him because ‘Although they took everything that was on me, it wasn’t much. And fourth, I’m grateful to them because they robbed me and it wasn’t me who stole.’”

Even in the most difficult of trials there is always good reason to give thanks. If we have life, if we have a family that loves us, if we have a roof, a plate of food and we have hope, we can say: “Thank you God for all your blessings on me.”

But perhaps no one like former President Abraham Lincoln in his 1863 proclamation who, after mentioning all the blessings received during a fierce war, said:

“I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those

“Por lo tanto, invito a mis conciudadanos en todas partes de los Estados Unidos, y también a aquellos que estén en el mar y aquellos que estén viajando en tierras extranjeras, a apartar y observar el último jueves de noviembre próximo, como un día de Acción de Gracias y Alabanza a nuestro caritativo Padre que mora en los cielos. Y les recomiendo que al ofrecer las atribuciones que justamente se le deben por tales bendiciones y libera-ciones, también, con humilde penitencia por nuestra desobediencia y perversidad nacional, encomienden a su tierno cuidado a todos aquellos que se han convertido en viudas, huér-fanos, enlutados o sufridos en la lamentable lucha civil en la que estamos comprometidos ineludiblemente, y que imploren fervientemente la interposición de la Mano Todopoderosa para sanar las heridas de la nación, y para que la restaure tan pronto como sea conse-cuente con los propósitos Divinos para el completo disfrute de paz, armonía, tranquilidad y Unión”.

Claro que tenemos mucho porque estar agradecidos y celebrar los pequeños y grandes milagros con los que Dios nos bendice cada día. Los CDC hacen las siguientes recomen-daciones para su celebración de acción de gracias.

- Tener una cena pequeña solo con personas que viven en su hogar

- Preparar recetas tradicionales para familiares y vecinos, especialmente aquellos con mayor riesgo de enfermedad grave por COVID-19, y entregarlas de una manera que no implique el contacto con otras personas

- Organizar una cena virtual

- Comprar en línea en lugar de en persona el viernes después del Día de Acción de Gracias o el próximo lunes

- Ver eventos deportivos, desfiles y películas desde casa

Por favor tómelos en cuenta y disfrute un muy feliz día de acción de gracias.

Saúl Carranza

Coordinador de Ministerios Hispanos Iglesia del Nazareno.
(763)245-2378; pastorcarranza@gmail.com

who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.”

Of course, we have a lot to be thankful for and celebrate the small and great miracles with which God blesses us every day. The CDC makes the following recommendations for your Thanksgiving celebration.

- Have a small dinner only with people who live in your home.

- Prepare traditional recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, and deliver them in a way that does not involve contact with other people.

- Organize a virtual dinner.

- Buy online instead of in person on the Friday after Thanksgiving or next Monday.

- Watch sporting events, parades, and movies from home.

Please take that into account and have a happy Thanksgiving Day.

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Sorting the Big Ones Managing the Bison Herd at Minneopa State Park



By Dan Ruiter, DNR Information Officer

As the sun came up on a crisp October morning, Blue Mounds State Park came to life with a buzz of activity. This was no sleepy fall day. The bright blue skies contrasted with the prairie's brown and purple hues around the bison range's treeless landscape, just as the quiet morning broke to the gathering 25 workers and volunteers. Their mission on this day: sorting the park's bison herd and providing health checks and vaccinations.

With 106 bison to sort, the work needed to be done efficiently.

Walking westward towards the maze of pens, you start to hear activity.

The clanging of gates. The barking of orders.

And the unmistakable grunt of the bison.

The two conductors of this yearly orchestra are Blue Mounds State Park manager Chris Ingebretsen and park buildings and grounds supervisor Dan McGuire. They are able to give the orders to help move the bison through the system.

"Heifer!"

"Open the gates!"

"Yearling bull!"

The shouted orders from Ingebretsen and McGuire inform the crew what needs to happen. A series of wheeled gates line a narrowing chute helps direct the bison where they need them to go – a large mechanized crate that allows the attending veterinarian to examine the animal. The bison receive vaccinations before hair and blood samples are taken, which will help detect disease and lineage. The pair help determine which bison stay at Blue Mounds, and which ones go to auction.



Sorting and vaccinating this rare herd is critical. As part of the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd, the bison are special because they rank among the five percent of bison that have no cattle genes. After being hunted to near-extinction, well-meaning ranchers and conservationists bred the plains bison with cattle in the attempt to stave off extinction.



These majestic animals that once freely roamed the nation's prairies are now mostly confined to America's bison ranches, but a small number have the good fortune to roam some of America's largest national parks, and a select number of parks run by their respective states.

Such is the case in Minnesota, where the Department of Natural Resources has maintained its own bison herd for the past six decades at Blue Mounds State Park. That herd has expanded to the Minnesota Zoo, and in 2015, Minneopa State Park where they continue to educate visitors from around the Upper Midwest about these animals' important roles in prairie ecology and Native American survival and spirituality.

This thriving herd is continually changing. The calving season from May to July bring new members, and as each park reaches its capacity of bison, the fall management determines which ones go to auction to help grow and improve herds at private ranches, and in some cases, help continue genetic diversity in other conservation herds.



Comcast Launches New “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” for Cities, Schools, and Students as Nation Gears Up for the Academic Year • Adds Free xFi Platform for Parents to Protect Children’s Devices and Monitor Online Activities • Continues to Offer 60 Days of Free Internet Service for New Internet Essentials Customers

With distance learning plans rolling out across the country due to the coronavirus, Comcast today announced a new program for cities, schools, and nonprofits to connect large numbers of low-income K-12 students to the Internet at home. The “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” is designed to help accelerate Internet adoption at a critical time. In nearly ten years, Internet Essentials has become the nation’s largest and most successful low-income Internet adoption program and has connected millions of people to the Internet. It offers households low-cost, broadband Internet service for \$9.95/month, the option to purchase a heavily subsidized computer, and multiple options for digital literacy training. Comcast also announced today it is giving all Internet Essentials customers its innovative xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their children’s WiFi connected devices.

The new “Internet Essentials Partnership Program” (IEPP) enables cities, schools, and nonprofits to collaborate to help fund and connect large numbers of K-12 students with broadband Internet service and devices like laptops and tablets. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has already signed up more than 70 schools across the country, including seven here in the Twin Cities. Comcast continues to offer new Internet Essentials customers two months of free Internet access if they sign up before the end of 2020. Comcast also continues to forgive any back debt due so more families can apply.

All Internet Essentials customers now have free access to Comcast’s innovative xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their family’s WiFi connected devices, set safe browsing modes so children can only access age-appropriate content, and pause devices for dinner or bedtime.

Comcast announced plans to convene a series of virtual national and regional summits this fall to help tackle the challenges of broadband adoption.

For more information, please see the attached press release or go to www.comcastcorporation.com. Thanks, as always for your interest and partnership, and please feel free to reach out with any related questions.