Thanksgiving Events Across Our Division

Living in Gratitude
I heard recently about a member in one of the churches of the Division. This man goes about consciously looking for God’s blessing in his life; it might be a new friend, a business success, or just feeling especially healthy one day. But when he feels blessed by God, he puts a $1 bill or a $5 bill in a cup in the cup holder of his car.

Here’s where it really gets good: Once the cup in his car has been filled with money, he begins to look for someone in need. And when he finds that person, he “empties the cup” as a blessing on their life and as his offering of thanksgiving....

It has been said that Christians are blessed to be a blessing. I don’t know if you are at a high point or a low point in your life. But why not look around you and identify those ways in which God has blessed you? During this Thanksgiving season look around and show your thankfulness to God by being a blessing to someone in need. – Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division (Excerpt from November, 2013 Adventist World, NAD Perspective, p. 17)

Below are the events we have received for this publication. If you don’t see an event featured for your area, check your local conference web site.

MID-AMERICA UNION
Shawnee Mission Medical Center is once again hosting the Celebration of Thanksgiving, a free concert this year featuring Christian singer/songwriter Francesca Battistelli, a
Grammy nominee and six-time Dove Award winning artist. Battistelli writes pop, soul-infused music to motivate and encourage listeners of any age. The inspirational concert will take place at 3:30 pm on Saturday, November 23, at Cross Points church located at 6824 Lackman Road in Shawnee, Kansas. Attendees are encouraged to bring food items to donate to Harvesters, but donations are not required. For tickets, visit ShawneeMission.org/Celebration.

NORTH PACIFIC UNION
Thanksgiving Holiday Breakfast: Our annual Thanksgiving breakfast will take place on Sabbath, November 30, at 8:30 a.m. This is a time we can fellowship and reflect on the goodness of the Lord this past year. This will take place at the Sandpoint Adventist Church in Sandpoint, Idaho. Info: (208) 263-3648.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: The Otis Orchards church in Otis Orchards, Wash. is having a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 24, at 1 p.m. Anyone in the community who wants to come is welcome. We will have a professional rodeo clown balloon tier there to tie balloons for the kids. Come enjoy the fellowship. Info: (208) 262-9741

Special Thanksgiving Celebration Sabbath: Spokane Central Seventh-day Adventist church will be having a Special Thanksgiving Celebration Sabbath starting at 10:45 a.m., November 23, with music, testimonies and a delicious luncheon. Info: (509) 328-5900

Sabbath before Thanksgiving day: A highlight of the year at Spokane's Southhill Seventh-day Adventist church is the special emphasis given the Thanksgiving Season on the Sabbath before Thanksgiving day. The service is favored by many of its members playing in an orchestra that presents beautiful seasonal music and is interspersed with solos, congregational readings, quartet, ladies group. A memorable part of the service is the response from the congregation as they express individually what they are thankful for. This service is followed with a festive and delicious Thanksgiving dinner. A day we have repeated for years and that is enjoyed by all. Info: (509) 448-6425

PACIFIC UNION
Special Thanksgiving Concert: Colloquy Speaker Series: Heritage Singers Quartet, Pacific Union College Church, Angwin, Calif., Thursday, November 21, at 10 a.m. The Heritage Singers Quartet will perform a special Thanksgiving concert for Pacific Union College's Colloquy Speaker Series. Join us for this free event in the PUC Church and enjoy songs of praise to the Creator! For more information: www.puc.edu, pr@puc.edu, (707) 965-6303

Lest We Forget Thanksgiving Service: Tuesday, November 26, with a soup supper at 6 p.m. followed by the service at 7 p.m. This is an interfaith service that is open to all the churches in the Weaverville, Calif. area to attend. It is part of the Trinity County Ministerial Association series of services leading up to Christmas. Pastor Murray Miller will be the speaker and will touch on the need to remember how God has blessed us in the past, lest we forget and fail to remember Him in the future. Location: Seventh-day Adventist Church of Weaverville located at 1771 Main Street. Info: http://weaverville.adventistfaith.org/contact-us
Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Are you thankful for what God has done in your life? Then come and rejoice in your blessings as church and community come together to share a Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 24 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Yuba City, Calif. Seventh-day Adventist Church Fellowship Hall, 1460 Richland Road, Yuba City, CA 95993. RSVP to yubacitysda@gmail.com. Info: www.ycadventists.org

“An Attitude of Gratitude” Thanksgiving Sabbath Service: The Utah Samoan Church in Taylorsville, Utah, will be holding a special Thanksgiving Sabbath on November 23, at 11:00 a.m. It will be a musical service filled with special testimonies of what God has done in individual lives, along with Thanksgiving praises to God. The service will begin with children dressed for the season, marching from the entrance of the church to the front. They will carry baskets of fruits and vegetables, expressing gratitude to God for a great harvest. The congregation will be the speaker with singing, praise and sharing testimonies of God’s blessings. Wonderful music that soothes the soul and uplifts the spirit will be presented. The program will be followed by a Thanksgiving fellowship dinner. All are invited. Also, baskets have been prepared for families inside and outside of the church that are in need of support from the church during this special season. Info: (385) 315-0373

Thanksgiving and Week of Prayer will be held at the Summit Christian Academy, Salt Lake City, Utah, all next week. Every morning at 8:30 we will have Chapel with praise songs and inspirational stories. Pastor David Solomon Hall, Sr., will be our speaker Monday morning. Throughout the week the students will do community service projects, one of which will be delivering fruit baskets to our neighbors. They will also do a bake sale to benefit relief organizations that are helping after the typhoon in the Philippines.

On Tuesday, November 26, we will spend the entire morning doing Thanksgiving-related activities. Our school has made it a tradition to celebrate Thanksgiving in a great way that brings our students together in cooperation and teamwork. We begin our celebration by singing praise and Thanksgiving songs together. There is always a spoken message from one of the teachers emphasizing how much we have to be thankful for or a topic related to the first Thanksgiving.

We start our activities following the worship service. These include teams made up of pre-K through 8th grade. We have various relays that include canoe races (scooters tied together) carrying pumpkins, cranberry races, and building and decorating tepees. We always have a scavenger hunt that involves different items related to the first Thanksgiving. We end our celebration with a traditional feast, corn chowder or breakfast. This binds our students to each other, the school, and God, and it is worth the effort. Info: info@scautah.org, or (801) 613-1722.

The Truckee, Calif. Seventh-day Adventist Church Thanksgiving project: For the last three Sabbaths we've been announcing to our church members to bring cans of food, beans, rice, dry food, etc., for the most needy people of the community. We are planning to get in touch with the local schools and see which the families have the greatest needs so we can send them food baskets on Saturday afternoon, November 23. The members are excited to help, and this activity will exhibit the values of the Church toward the community.

The 25th Annual Thanksgiving Community Feed of the Valley Crossroads Church in Pacioma, Calif., will be conducted on Thanksgiving day, November 28, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. It draws whole families from the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County to enjoy a free, home-cooked, traditional Thanksgiving dinner and also receive free clothing or a bag
of food to take home. The event also attracts volunteers, some have been participating since the first Feed 25 years ago. (11350 Glenoaks Blvd.) Info: www.valleycrossroads.adventistfaith.org

**Keeping the Vision**, a Thanksgiving benefit concert in celebration of the 80th Anniversary of White Memorial Adventist School. We invite you to stand with us in keeping the vision of Christian education for all children. November 26, 7:00 p.m. White Memorial Adventist Church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles, Calif. Admission: $5.00. Info: (323) 268-7159

**Annual Greater Los Angeles Region Thanksgiving Eve Feeding on Skid Row** in downtown Los Angeles, on November 27, is a collaborative effort by seven churches: Breath of Life, Tamarind, Berean, Altadena, Miramonte, Norwalk and University. Annually, nearly 800 homeless persons are fed by this effort. Volunteers are primarily Pathfinders, but anyone over the age of 12 is encouraged to participate. Setup is at 6:30 p.m., feeding at 7:00 p.m. Info: (310) 674-4061

**Annual Thanksgiving Gratitude Service and Brunch**: November 28, 8:00 a.m. Oxnard, Calif. All Nations Adventist Church, 211 W. Birch St. Info: (805) 604-0080

**Thanksgiving Breakfast and Worship in MacArthur Park**. Central Spanish Church will provide a hot breakfast for 300-400 homeless in the park and conduct a bilingual (English and Spanish) Thanksgiving service, with a message and music accompanied by guitars. November 28, 7:00- 8:30 a.m. 2230 W 6th St., Los Angeles, Calif. Info: (213) 381-1905

**Thanksgiving Concert**, featuring Melvin Williams of the world-renowned gospel singing group, The Williams Brothers. Also on the program will be Echoes of Praise, Compton Community Singers and Nicholas Miller and Spirit of Praise. November 30, 7 p.m. Tamarind Avenue Adventist Church, 417 S. Tamarind Ave., Compton, Calif. Info: (310) 327-0210 or lanislea@yahoo.com.

**Sleeping Bag Outreach**: Youth of the Central Spanish Church (1366 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif.) will meet November 30, at 10:00 a.m. at the church and gather the 75 sleeping bags they have collected and proceed to San Julian Park, 526 San Julian St. to conduct a Thanksgiving service and distribute the sleeping bags to the homeless in the Skid Row area. Info: (562) 977-7070

**SOUTHERN UNION**

**Visitors Day Sabbath with a special Thanksgiving dinner**: November 23 at 11 a.m., New England Church, 330 Morgan Road, Trenton, Ga. Info: (706) 657-6267

**Thanksgiving Meal**: at Athens Church Fellowship Hall, 235 Delay St, Athens, Tenn, November 23 following the 11 a.m. worship service. Info: (423) 744-7611

**Traditional meal for the Murray County Senior Center**, prepared by the Chatsworth, Ga. Church. Info: (706) 517-5124

**Special Thanksgiving Banquet for the Homeless** who are connected with the Berean Mission in Rossville offered by the Lookout Mountain and Rossville, Ga. Churches, November 24, at 1 p.m. Info: (706) 861-0180
CAD for Hope Food and Clothing Drive for Samaritan Center and Fundraising for Philippine Relief - Students at Collegedale Academy just finished their annual food drive, CAD for Hope. In two days the student body collected 13,000 pounds of food to stock the shelves at the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, Tenn.

Students also initiated a warm clothing drive, and are collecting clothes to be distributed to the homeless in downtown Chattanooga sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Also, another student has initiated a fundraising drive to donate money to ADRA's efforts in the Philippines. She is selling rice at lunch on a donation basis. All proceeds will go to ADRA. Info: (423) 396-2124

The Celebration of Thanks service scheduled for November 23 at the Collegedale, Tenn. Church provides each of us with the opportunity to experience what the psalmist celebrates in Psalm 95: “Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” This service gives you a chance to participate in several ways. During each service, including the "Connect" service, the congregation will be invited to bring non-perishable food items to the front. These items will be given to the Samaritan Center to stock their shelves so people in need may be helped throughout the year. The offering for the day will be for Campaign for Community, which helps the Samaritan Center provide help for today and hope for tomorrow to our community. In addition, thank you cards will be available in the atrium for us to pick up a card, jot a note of thanks to someone, write their address on the outside of the card, return it to the church office, which will mail it.

Community Thanksgiving Service: Hosting this service is rotated among Collegedale area churches, with participants from a variety of congregations. This year’s service will be held Tuesday, November 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ooltewah United Methodist Church. Come fellowship with our community church families. Info: (423) 396-2134

Community Thanksgiving Service, Calhoun, Ga. Church, Monday, November 25, 7:00 p.m. Info: (706) 629-5470

Thanksgiving Program for Parents will be presented by the Savannah Adventist Christian School in Savannah, Ga., Tuesday, November 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Info: www.sacssda.org; (912) 748-5977

Things the Atlanta, Ga. North Church and School are doing for Thanksgiving:
· The Community Services Ministry is doing Coat Drive for the homeless.
· The Teen Class is collecting thick blankets and sleeping bags for the homeless.
· Family Life Ministries is providing Thanksgiving meals for Friends of Refugees Providing Education and Empowerment. These donations will help 100 struggling refugee families.
· Both the Church and School are participating in the community event called Light Up Dunwoody here we will provide refreshments, arts and crafts and empowerment tracks for the community.

SOUTHWESTERN UNION
“Festival of Praise” November 23, 9:30 a.m. at Tahlequah, Okla. Church, with guest speaker, Karen Senecal, treasurer of Oklahoma Conference. This marks the 26th year that
the Tahlequah Church has participated in this program. We offer thanks to God by bringing groceries, tithes and offerings to church on this Sabbath. It is our way of participating in the ancient harvest festival described in the Old Testament. We use the groceries brought to church for helping the hungry in our community.

**Woodward, Okla.** Church is **collecting food baskets to be distributed**, November 24.

**Community Thanksgiving Celebration:** Hosted by Shattuck, Okla. Church, November 24, 7:00 p.m. at the old school house. Pastor Pat Gregg will be speaker, along with different church groups providing the music including a performance by the Community Bell Choir.

**Vespers Program** given by the Enid, Okla. Church youth class, November 23, to be followed by their church's **Fourth Annual Chili Cook-Off**. The social evening will also include a game night.

**125 Thanksgiving Dinners for the Needy** are being provided November 28 by the Enid, Okla., Church. 50 blankets and several bags of coats have been gathered also, and will be given out by ARK (Acts of Random Kindness), a local group they work closely with to help the needy of their community.
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