



*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31 NIV).*

*It's time to get really excited!* And when I am excited, I get goosebumps. I so love our REFORMATION SUNDAY and ALL SAINTS DAY, this time of the year, dear friends!! I love being a baptized child of God, and a confirmed Lutheran now for 59 years! So, when I shook Pastor Adam's hand after yesterday's **Reformation Sunday**, with a full orchestra of strings, percussion, brass, and organ, I said "The service today was *absolutely Goosebumpily!*" He chuckled and said, "Well, that's an interesting new word!" This time of the year drives me into deep thoughts and recollections, of being a newlywed, and having just graduated college, going through Adult Confirmation in Salem, and giving birth, months later, to my first child. That's *goosebumpily* to me...because it has been the unending blessing to my entire life ever since: to discover Grace, the Sacraments, and the opportunities through prayer power we practice in our daily life: prayers and supplications to the Lord. It was humbling to honor Martin Luther, who in 1517 rocked the Protestant world with his writings on "the wall," teaching salvation, eternal life, and the free gift of God's GRACE, through our faith in Jesus Christ!

I am drinking my hot, black coffee this freezing pre-dawn from my *Hug Mug*, engraved with Isaiah 40:31, a gift given me when I chaired the 2010 Oregon District Convention at Eagle Crest, where the high desert eagles do soar! I had it embroidered on my winter wool jacket, and people in line at the stores often tap me on the shoulder, "I really like your jacket, lady." Great way to witness, eh? It gives me goosebumps. 😊

We find ourselves busy decorating our homes for my favorite season, Fall, stepping into November, when in 1863, (in the middle of the American Civil War,) Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of the month be a national holiday: Thanksgiving." How? When?..... The Bible mentions giving thanks 98 times! And you can find a form of the word 'thankfulness' at least 73 times in the New Testament alone. Shouldn't we ALWAYS and in ALL WAYS be giving thanks? We are, 160 years later, giving thanks for the gifts given by and from our Loving Lord. We hear Paul giving thanks to his people in Ephesus, reminding us of **ceaseless prayer**: *I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,* (Ephesians 1:16). Because of their faithfulness he rejoiced. And we also should *pray for each other* - to renew their strength, that they not be weary, to be able to walk and not faint. I personally do believe that through prayer chains or "heart tugs of someone on your mind," being name-specific, knowing that it shall bring untold folk to renew, soar, walk, be healed, lifted up, and run again. We hear Paul again to the people of Colosse, (whom he had yet to meet): *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,* (Colossians 1:3-4).

Would that we in witness would liken that abundance at Thanksgiving time to spread to our daily opportunities to witness His Goodness and share with those we love, and those who have yet to come to the knowledge of God, the Love and Grace unending. The next time you have a request from a friend addressing a personal need, OR want to simply send greetings to a friend, tuck in Paul's wonderful two simple sentences: Phil. 1:3-6 NIV: I thank my God *every time* I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I *always* pray **with joy** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Being *confident of this*, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.

What a privilege then, to carry everything to God in prayer, and be lifted up on eagle's wings!

**Yours in Christ,** Patti Reck, HUG Author, November 2023