

# Setting Thanksgiving history straight

Thanksgiving is celebrated each fall and often serves as the entry point to the holiday season.

Tradition plays a large role in Thanksgiving celebrations, as families incorporate many customs into their celebrations that some believe were once tied to the earliest Thanksgiving meals.

But the truth about those customs is a lot murkier than celebrants may realize. According to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the “First Thanksgiving” features a romanticized depiction of a friendly harvest celebration between “Pilgrims” and “Indians.”

This altered account of what took place in the seventeenth century served as a foundational story that’s been reinforced through the years. However, American Indians attest that the story is more complex than the prevailing narrative suggests.

Here’s a look at some of the inaccuracies that have been revealed regarding the “First Thanksgiving.”

MYTH: The First Thanksgiving was the first time that settlers and Native nations interacted.

TRUTH: The Wampanoag and neighboring nations had been interacting with European explorers, traders and others for nearly 100 years prior to the English settlers’ arrival at the Wampanoag village of Patuxet in 1620.

MYTH: The American Indians’ decision to assist the English settlers was based on friendship.

TRUTH: In reality, the Wampanoags’ decision to help the English was more about forming political alliances than making friends. The Wampanoag were hoping to fend off attacks from rivals.

MYTH: The First Thanksgiving was repeated each year.

TRUTH: This initial meeting of peoples did not spark an annual tradition. There is no record of Pilgrims inviting the Wampanoag people to the harvest meal. The Wampanoag men likely came because they heard gunfire from a hunt and investigated. And the feast wasn’t repeated. Historians note the relationship between the Wampanoag and Pilgrims ultimately deteriorated, culminating in King Philip’s War.

MYTH: The 1621 gathering was the first American Thanksgiving.

FACT: Thanksgivings actually were religious events that took place before the 1621 gathering. History News Network says that Texans claim the first Thanksgiving in America actually occurred in a community near El Paso in 1598. Spanish explorer Juan de Onate was said to have held a Thanksgiving festival after leading hundreds of settlers on a 350-mile excursion across the Mexican desert.

MYTH: Turkey was on the menu for the harvest meal shared.

FACT: The meal likely consisted of venison, wild fowl and other locally available foods, like cranberries.

MYTH: Pilgrims dressed in black with buckles and black steeple hats.

FACT: Historian James W. Baker explains that these Pilgrim depictions were formed in the nineteenth century when black and buckles helped create an emblem of quaintness.

In fact, the early Pilgrims did not dress in such garb, and wore colorful clothing throughout much of the week, reserving black for Sunday services. Inaccuracies abound regarding the first Thanksgiving.

Prevailing accounts present a romanticized view of relations between Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people that has persisted through the years. Shedding light on myths can spur new discussions about this beloved holiday.

# Mastering Black Friday shopping

Black Friday is one of the busiest and most profitable shopping days of the entire year.

According to Demand-Sage and National Public Radio, American consumers spent a record \$10.8 billion on online Black Friday shopping in 2024.

Around \$61 billion in total sales (both online and in-person) were made over the Black Friday and Cyber Monday weekend. Consumers can land great deals on the day after Thanksgiving, which means individuals who hone their Black Friday shopping skills can reap considerable rewards.

The following tips can help shoppers master Black Friday.

- Set a budget. Even though Black Friday may feature some hard-to-beat deals, it’s wise to determine how much you can afford to spend before you begin shopping. Shopping beyond your means, even if the prices are low, can exact a financial toll.
- Make a list of recipients. Make a list of the people for whom you will be shopping and some ideas of what to give each individual. This will enable you to look out for particular deals on these items.
- Compare prices ahead of time. It’s important to know how much items cost across different retailers before Black Friday arrives to understand their true value. This will enable you to determine if a Black Friday sale really is a bargain or if it’s possible to get a better price at a different time. Smartphone apps like BuyVia, Shopkick and Shopular let you scan barcodes to compare prices and more.
- Shop online early. NPR says there has been a shift from traditional in-store shopping to online platforms for Black Friday. Many deals now begin on Thanksgiving or even earlier and fall under the Black Friday promotion. Start shopping at home to avoid large crowds and secure limited time deals. In recent years, many retailers have offered more of the same promotions online as they do in stores.
- Be wary of sneaky sales tactics. Some stores will offer “doorbuster” exclusions that highlight slashed prices and utilize marketing tactics like countdown timers to encourage shoppers to purchase items without doing their research. This is when knowing the true value of items can help you spot a deal or inflated prices that were then marked down.
- Limit your stores. If you choose to shop in person on Black Friday, start early in the day and don’t run yourself ragged. If you’re tired, you may not make the best decisions and could end up spending more than your budget allows.

Shopping smart on Black Friday comes down to employing some savvy financial strategies.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 <a href="http://www.riverlife.us">www.riverlife.us</a> Sunday: 10 a.m. worship	<b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</b> 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m.	<b>LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m.	<b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 515 Fourth St. Devils Lake 662-7558 Monday -Friday at 12:00pm Tuesday at 10:00am at Odd Fellows Wednesday at 10:00am at Eventide Friday at 9:30am at St. Joseph School Saturday at 8:30am & 5:00pm Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am	<b>ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Maddock, N.D. 438-2668 Wednesday: 7 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass at 5 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.
<b>ASSUMPTION OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Starkweather, N.D. 292-4301 Sunday: Mass: Rotating 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. with St. Mary's, Munich Call 682-5178 (Munich).	<b>DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.	<b>MORNING STAR PARISH</b> 701-262-4714 <a href="http://www.morningstarparish.com">www.morningstarparish.com</a> Worship services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. rotating: American, Pekin, Warwick, Sigdal and Sheyenne Lutheran	<b>ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.	<b>SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m.
<b>BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> Tokio, N.D. (2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake) 294-2283 <a href="http://www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org">www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org</a> Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after	<b>DAKOTA OYATE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 294-2361 Tokio, N.D. 11 a.m. worship	<b>NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP</b> North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service	<b>ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 601 6th St. NE Devils Lake, ND 662-4911 9:30 a.m. Worship (September - May) Summer: 8:30 a.m. at Retreat Center 11 a.m. at St. Olaf (June - August)	<b>TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday
<b>BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH</b> 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 <a href="http://www.bethelfree.com">www.bethelfree.com</a> Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	<b>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT</b> Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue Devils Lake 11 a.m. Morning prayer 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Eucharist- 4th Sunday	<b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 612 14th Ave. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 662-5112 Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Wednesday: 6 p.m. Service	<b>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 7th St. & 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.	<b>WEBSTER CHAPEL</b> Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.
<b>CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship	<b>PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC)</b> 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m.	<b>ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer	<b>WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.
<b>CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)</b> 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m.	<b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.	<b>ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Esmond, N.D. 249-8360 Tuesday-Saturday: Weekday Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass.	<b>ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN</b> Hampden, North Dakota Pastor Craig Wentzel May through August Worship Sundays 9 a.m.	If you would like to make changes or corrections to this ad, please contact Louise at <a href="mailto:loleson@cmpapers.com">loleson@cmpapers.com</a>
	<b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Lakota Missouri Synod Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	<b>ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.		
	<b>HIGH PLAINS MINISTRY</b> Nekoma, Lawton, Concordia, and Our Redeemer's			
	<b>LAKOTA LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> LAKOTA, ND 247-2777 Sundays: 10 a.m.			

This week's listing brought to you by the following local businesses:

**-Devils Lake Journal & the Country Peddler**  
516 4th St.,662-2127

**-Jerome W wholesale**  
1115 2nd Ave. NE, 662-5366

**-Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 756**  
314 3rd Ave NE,662-4117

**-Glibertson Funeral Home**  
Hwy2West

**- Altru Health System**  
1001 7th St NE,662-2158

**-Eventide Senior Living Communittes**

**-Leevers Foods**  
323 5th St. NE,662-4945

**-First United Bank**  
323 5th St NE,662-4024