



SPOKANE COUNTY
CHAPLAINCY
SERVICES



SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CHAPLAINS TO SERVE YOU

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THANKFULNESS

I would like to take a moment to share how thankful I am to serve within the Spokane County Sheriff's Office Chaplaincy. I regularly touch base with Chaplains and Law Enforcement Officers throughout the region and always find that this Department is the very best. I am so thankful for the Deputies & Personnel I get to work with every single day. Each of you sacrifice and give so much of your hard work and time for the betterment of our community. Thank you for everything you do!

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday - What are you thankful for? Psalm 107:1 says "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!" There are all kinds of reminders that this is the season of thankfulness— Facebook statuses and Twitter tweets—

challenging each of us to share something we are thankful for. But do we carry that thankfulness in our hearts? Do we live in such a way that expresses our gratitude for the blessings in our lives? I know its hard for me. Stress within our Country, stress at work or at home, and even with our health can easily take our focus away from all that we do have. Ephesians 2:8 reminds me "For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" God gave His one and only Son to die on a cross for me! Furthermore, James 1:17 says: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like the shifting shadows." In a constantly changing world, with many "shifting shadows" what a

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RALPH WALDO EMERSON

comfort to know that our Heavenly Father is forever the same. As I change my thoughts to focus on, even just those two blessings alone, I am unable to be anything but thankful. It is hard to keep my focus there at times, but I always try and bring it back. Like Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote above: 'For each new morning with it's light. For rest and shelter of the night. For health and food. For love and friends. For everything thy goodness sends.' This month and this Thanksgiving I wish the very best to each of you, and hope you have more blessings than you can count.

~Chaplain Mark Smith