Giving Thanks For All The Saints

Colossians 1:1-14; Philippians 1:3-6

Scientist & mathematician, Sir Isaac Newton once _____ noted that his discoveries were only possible because of those that preceded him. "*If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants*."

Today is All Saints Day for many Christians around the world. It's a day we acknowledge all the "saints", but especially the many "giants" that came before us, whose _____ we are now blessed to stand on.

FYI - A saint is someone _____, but not for the reasons you may heard. A saint is someone the Father has _____, redeemed, _____, and qualified in and through his Son, Jesus Christ. (Col 1:12-14) "Sainthood" is not for special miracle workers. "Saint" literally means "_____." The only holy people on the planet are those made holy through faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Why should we take time to give thanks for them? Because they are our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, fellow members of the _____ of Christ. They have done some _____ things in the name of Jesus, and frankly, we wouldn't be here without them!

Numerous saints had a hand in making sure you _____ of Jesus and were baptized.
Countless more saints nurtured your faith and helped it _____.
Pastors and lay people helped form congregations that _____ you.

We give thanks for them by:

Remembering how God used them and the _____ they had on us and others.
Sharing their _____ with each other and beyond.
Considering how we might be _____ for others to stand on.

I am a Christian today because of countless people that led me to _____ and others who had the right words or actions at the right time, to encourage me and keep me on track. The same is _____ for you.

Everyone hearing this sermon should thank God for all who started _____ Lutheran Church 75/100 years ago and keeps _____ Arms going to this day. People like Pastors A. H. Klamt, B. F. Kurzweg, and several others. Countless laypeople that led the business of the congregation. Even _____ bureaucrats!

Who are the saints God placed in your life over the years?

How has God blessed you through them?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to give thanks for them? Who can you tell about their faithfulness?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to be a giant with shoulders for others to stand on, at home, at work, or in this congregation?

What are you going to DO in response to not only what Christ has done, but what others have done to make sure you KNOW what he has done?