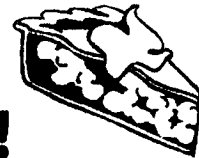


# The Aardsma Weekly

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Writer: Rachel Aardsma



## THANKSGIVING!!

Thanksgiving. The mention of that holiday brings many thoughts to mind. The first most automatic thought is "Oh no! We've got to do up turkeys!" The second is "Yum! All that great food!" And any other thoughts from "It's the beginning of winter!" to "Great! All that cooking and cleaning to do!" come after that.

And this year was no different. As Caleb began counting down the days until Thanksgiving, everything associated with Thanksgiving kicked into play.

We did up turkeys every afternoon for a week. We made all that great food. And we cleaned the house from top to bottom! And so, with the fridges stuffed to the brim with food, the house sparkling, and no more turkeys gobbling in the back yard, we fell into bed the night before Thanksgiving.

Of course, one of the greatest things about Thanksgiving is that you get to sleep in. For those of us who get up at 6:00 in the morning, this holiday is a refreshing break!

So, I awoke at 7:00, feeling refreshed, and got up to see what was going on around the house. Actually, the only being awake besides myself was the cat, who was sitting on my dresser, amid my now tangled cross-stitch thread.

The house began to awake at 7:30. Caleb got up. Rebekah and Matthew left to take care of a neighbor's animals. Mom got up soon after and began preparations to get the turkey in the oven.

When Mom had the turkey in, she went back to bed to finish her sleep in, and Caleb and I settled into comfortable chairs in the living room. I got out my cross-stitch and an encyclopedia so I could read the history of Thanksgiving to Caleb.

Rebekah and Matthew got back from doing the chores and joined us in the living room. Matthew could not find anything for breakfast, and pulled out a cooking magazine. Soon pictures of banana cream pie and luxurious cakes were floating around the room, as Caleb and Timmy joined Matthew in pleading that Beka 'make something'.

Matthew gave up on breakfast and went to do some extra school in his room. Beka joined me in the living room and worked cross-stitch as well. Timmy went outside to do some chores for Matthew.

We all sat around the house until Mom and Dad got up. At about 9:00 we began preparations for the feast. Beka and I set the table, using a Thanksgiving tablecloth and

Mom's prized Fiesta Ware. The table was soon sparkling, and all those small but important preparations were soon out of the way. We all helped tidy up the house and kitchens and then we had the morning off until our guests, David and his fiancé Kathryn, arrived. They had called earlier in the week saying they wanted to join us for Thanksgiving, and we were more than happy that they could come.

David and Kathryn arrived at 11:00. We all sat in the living room and David showed us his huge 21-point antlers from a large buck he had recently hit on his way home from work. The antlers were amazing and everyone had fun fingering them.

At 12:00, we sat down at a table groaning under the weight of a beautiful feast, and for 45 minutes we enjoyed the spread. Jell-O salad, homemade stuffing, and a venison roast from Matthew's deer, a big turkey, and sweet potatoes with marshmallows... the list went on and on.

When we had all eaten our fill, we collapsed onto various couches and chairs for a post-Thanksgiving-feast nap, which did not last long. We all walked to a park instead.

When we came home David and Kathryn had to leave, so we dished up pumpkin pie and ice cream for them and ate in a hurry. Beka's pumpkin pie was superb, and whipped-cream on top for a special treat made even Caleb, who does not like pumpkin pie that much, try a piece.

After David and Kathryn left we dozed around the house, except Matthew, who diligently went back to school. Then we watched a Larry-boy movie.

When the movie was over, we raced into the kitchen. (If you can believe it, all five of us kids were hungry by 6:00 that night!) Matthew made himself a miniature Thanksgiving supper, while the rest of us ate cold stuffing, cranberry sauce, and leftover grape-juice.

Then it was back into Mom and Dad's bedroom to watch *A Christmas Wish*. We joked about being a season ahead.

It was late when the movie was over, and it did not take us long to find our way to our beds. We all fell asleep feeling full, happy, and satisfied.

## **The Weekly Bible Verse**

Psalm 107:21-22: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

# **David: A Man After God's Own Heart**

By Rachel Aardsma

**Part 11.**

The Israelite soldiers poured into the camp in confusion and fright. David stood still in the middle of the crowd.

"What shall be done for the man who kills this Goliath?" David asked to a soldier near him.

"King Saul says he will make the man who kills Goliath rich, free him and his family, and even give him one of his own daughters!" the man replied, before disappearing among the crowd.

Suddenly David heard a familiar voice. Turning around, he spotted Eliab moving towards him, with a frown on his face.

"What in the world are you doing here?" Eliab demanded angrily. "Why have you left your sheep, boy? Father doesn't know you are here, does he? You have run away and come to see the battle. And now here you are pestering all these men like a busybody child! This has nothing to do with you! Get out of here and go home!"

"Actually, Eliab, Father sent me with food for you." David turned away from his angry brother and asked a few other soldiers questions about Goliath and the rewards for conquering him. And then David knew what he had to do.

"Men of Israel!" He shouted. "I will fight Goliath." Half a dozen men cheered, a few scoffed, others stared in astonishment. Eliab was beside himself with rage.

And then two of King Saul's personal slaves came hurrying to take David to the king.

"He wants to see you about Goliath!" They whispered as they hustled David into the king's private tent. David's heart was beating fast. King Saul meant he would finally see Jonathan again.

After an affectionate greeting from King Saul, David repeated his decision.

"But David, you can't!" King Saul pleaded. "He's a giant, a trained warrior! You're just a shepherd!"

"My Lord and King, I used to keep sheep for my father, and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down so I could rescue the lamb. If it turned on me, I would kill it. I have killed both bears and lions, and this giant is like one of them. The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine."



## **A Word About The Weather**



The weather this week has been both cold and warm. The weather cannot seem to decide whether it is fall or winter. We had our first snow a week ago, and it keeps getting colder. We have taken advantage of the warm weather while it lasted and gotten many tasks completed on the homestead.



## **Bits and Pieces**



This week has been a busy one. We installed two drainpipes in the back of the house and cut up a bunch of branches into firewood. We also had a lot of Thanksgiving turkeys to do up.

Matthew helped the local vet he works for deliver a calf this week. Matthew was excited, as it was his first real on-the-spot vet work. We were all excited for him as well, and we heard the whole gruesome story when he returned late that afternoon, hungry, tired, and exhilarated.



## **A Word of Wisdom**



After trying fruitlessly to think up 'A Word of Wisdom', I asked Timothy and Caleb to help me find something I could use. The ideas and laughs immediately started to flow. Among their suggestions were: "Never eat sandwiches on a sunny morning." "Don't drink lemon juice, it's kinda sour." "Never play Skip-bo. Someone always loses." and "Never do nothing unless you are not doing anything." So I guess my 'Word of Wisdom' for this week is: Never ask your little brothers to come up with 'A Word of Wisdom'.