News 24 November 2026 | English article

Churches Give Thousands of Thanksgiving Meals Today

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"A church beloved by its community."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Churches across the United States are giving away thousands of Thanksgiving meals to families in need this week, as rising food costs put a traditional holiday dinner out of reach for many. Members of the NFL's Baltimore Ravens helped distribute meals for around 300 families at Ark Church in East Baltimore, a Texas church gave away 730 turkeys and 150 hens to 975 households, and a Georgia megachurch handed out meals to 2,000 families.

At one Texas giveaway, the food was not the only thing people took home: 46 people decided to follow Jesus Christ. That last number is the one worth stopping for. Turkeys can be counted, and coats can be counted, but a decision to follow Jesus is the kind of thing that does not show up on a spreadsheet.

It happened at Church Unlimited, a multisite church based in Corpus Christi, Texas, where around 600 people attended a worship service on site during the giveaway, and 46 of them gave their lives to Christ. The church had set out to feed people for Thanksgiving. It ended up feeding them something more.

The need is real. A report from Tulane University released last week found that the wholesale price of turkey is up 8 per cent, while fresh cranberries and several vegetables are up more than 10 per cent.

The churches stepping in this week are not doing it for publicity. They are doing it because the gap between what food costs and what families can pay has become too wide to ignore. In Baltimore, the help came with helmets.

Four members of the Baltimore Ravens helped distribute Thanksgiving meals at Ark Church in East Baltimore on Friday 13 November, serving around 300 families. Safety Keondre Jackson, wide receiver Gage Larvadain, cornerback Keyon Martin and wide receiver LaJohntay Wester joined other volunteers at the church to hand out holiday meals to those in need.

The players stayed to talk with the families, not just to hand over boxes. Heather Darney, vice president of community relations for the Ravens, said team members first helped with the Ark Church distribution last year, calling the congregation "a church beloved by its community."

The turnout this year matched last year's, with 300 families coming to the church on Friday to take part. For a neighbourhood that does not often see professional athletes up close, the sight of Ravens players handing out turkeys on a cold November morning meant more than the food itself. It meant somebody noticed.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-1133.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(Spanish) La Gran Sabana ya tiene parroquia y párroco pemón
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-1135.html

(Portuguese) 25 motos levam fé a Aparecida por jovem curado
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-1136.html

(Hindi) Aaja: Kaardinala Puulaa Ne Sanvidhaana Divasa Se Pahale Surakshaa Maangii
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/hi/news-1137.html