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### *"This year, I'm thankful for ..."*

You know the game. Every Thanksgiving, we gather around the table and try to think of something we're grateful for. It's tradition! And it's a *fun* tradition ... during those years when the game comes easily. Maybe you got that new promotion you wanted. Maybe a new baby was born into the family. Maybe your favorite team won the championship.

Other years, the game is harder. Maybe someone you love had health problems. Maybe you *didn't* get that promotion. Maybe your car broke down once too often, or your basement flooded just after you put in the new carpet.

But I have a surefire way to make "This year, I'm thankful for ..." easy *every* year. Just look around the table. Look at all the faces of all the people who have come to enjoy the day with you. Look at them and remember:

- Every holiday card, birthday card, and get-well card they've ever written
- Every picture, every crayon-smudged doodle they ever asked you to hang up
- Every "See you later, alligator," every "in a while, crocodile"
- Every basketball game in the driveway, every hand of hearts ever dealt
- Every trip ever taken, even if they were just to your backyard
- Every kiss, every warm hug
- Every pat on the back, every hand on your shoulder
- Every silent moment shared, every word unspoken that you understood anyway
- Every "I love you" ever whispered
- Every "I love you, too," whispered back

Scientists say that mankind needs only food, water, oxygen, and shelter to survive. But sometimes as we continue on this long, strange trek of ours, all we really *want* is a little company to share the ride with. So this Thanksgiving, as you prepare to play the game, just look around the table. All the best things, all the richest things are already there.

And as for the "This year, I'm thankful for" game, well – You've already won.

On behalf of all of us here at Petra Financial Solutions, I wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving.



*These are the views of James Steen & Jason Pearson. No independent analysis has been performed and the material should not be construed as investment advice. Investment decisions should not be based on this material since the information contained here is a singular update, and prudent investment decisions require the analysis of a much broader collection of facts and context. All information is believed to be from reliable sources; however, we make no representation as to its completeness or accuracy.*

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### UP AND DOWN -

Congress has raised the top individual marginal tax rate 7 times since 1950, most recently in 2013 when they raised the top rate from 35% to 39.6%. Congress has lowered the top individual marginal tax rate 13 times since 1950, most recently in 2018 when they dropped the top rate from 39.6% to 37% (source: IRS).

### CRUDE INTO FUEL -

The USA has 135 operable oil refineries in 2018, 123 fewer than the 258 refineries that America had in operation in 1983 or 35 years ago (source: Energy Information Administration).

### NO JET FUEL REQUIRED -

An increase in battery life could allow the production within the next 12 years of a 50-100 seat commercial aircraft with a flying range of at least 1,000 miles (source: Zunum Aero).