

Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

June 9 & 10, 2018

A Pattern for Prayer

Recently, Faith's Board of Elders asked me to share about some upcoming goals. As I thought about areas of life and ministry in which I am wanting and needing to grow, the desire to grow in *prayerfulness* quickly rose to the top. I want to take more time for prayer, be more intentional about prayer, and keep track of the things I am taking to the Lord in prayer. Can you relate? When life seems like a flurry of activity, the activities which feed our *souls* and our relationship with Christ can so easily get forgotten or pushed aside. Lesser things end up taking the place of the things that truly matter.

Another reason why we sometimes struggle to pray is that Satan will stop at nothing to put roadblocks between us and the Lord. Much like us, Martin Luther also struggled with this: *"When I would speak and pray to God by myself, a hundred thousand hindrances at once intervene before I get at it. Then the devil can throw all sorts of reasons for delay into my path; he can block and hinder me on all sides; as a result, I go my way and never think of it again."* (*What Luther Says*, #3456).

Jesus' disciples, too, needed help: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). So Jesus gave them what we call "The Lord's Prayer." Both Matthew (6:5-15) and Luke (11:1-13) record Jesus teaching His followers to pray The Lord's Prayer, along with additional instruction on how and when to speak to the Lord. Matthew records Jesus saying, "Pray then like this ..." (6:9). And Luke records, "When you pray, say ..." (11:2). Both Matthew and Luke capture something important about The Lord's Prayer. Jesus' prayer inspires us to pray about the sort of things that are on our Lord's heart. At the same time, Jesus gives us specific words that we can use to speak to God.

On the reverse side of today's page, I've put together a little outline for daily prayer based on the seven petitions of The Lord's Prayer. I'm going to use this outline for my daily prayers. I share this with you hoping that you might find it helpful as well. Let me know if you use it. Let me know what changes you would make. I will also post it to our church website for you to download and reproduce.

Along with The Lord's Prayer, there are many other wonderful prayer resources. Martin Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers are a favorite. What prayer resources do you use? Let me know! I hope that we can grow together in our prayerfulness.

Finally, a reminder that we can and should pray for our loved ones, church, nation, plans for the day, joys and worries, and so much more no matter what day or time it is! *God is ready to graciously hear all our prayers!*

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Kory Janneke

Praying to Our Father in Heaven

As we pray in Jesus' name and as He has taught us, we are praying to the God who reigns over *all things* from heaven. We can speak to Him about anything! St. Paul teaches Christians to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). As an aid to daily prayer, here are some prayer prompts based on the seven petitions of The Lord's Prayer:

Sunday – Hallowed Be Thy Name

- Thanksgiving for God's gift of Baptism
- For the Preaching, Teaching, & Advance of the Gospel
- For God's help to honor Him in your thoughts, words, and actions
- Other:

Monday – Thy Kingdom Come

- For Faith Lutheran Church and all its leaders and members
- For all church workers, missionaries, and seminarians
- For our Lutheran Schools, along with our Circuit, District, & Synod
- Other:

Tuesday – Thy Will Be Done

- For the discernment to pursue what is important in the Lord's eyes
- For God's guidance with personal goals, dreams, and needs
- For restoration of those who are wounded or hurting in any way
- Other:

Wednesday – Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

- Thanksgiving for family, church, government, and all God's gifts
- For neighbors needing basic necessities and those who provide for them
- For a generous heart
- Other:

Thursday – Forgive Us Our Sins as We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us

- For God's forgiveness (consider reflecting on the 10 Commandments)
- For God's help with loving and forgiving those who have hurt us
- For specific neighbors, coworkers, and classmates
- Other:

Friday – Lead Us Not Into Temptation

- For those in spiritual, emotional, or relational distress
- For those who do not know Christ or who have drifted from Him
- For God's help to overcome specific temptations in your life
- Other:

Saturday – Deliver Us From Evil

- For persecuted Christians
- For the chronically ill, the dying, and for those who mourn
- For our Lord's return ("Come, Lord Jesus!")
- Other: