



**Week Two; March 30-April 5
Prayers for Families**

“Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, ‘For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?’ This also is vanity and an unhappy business. Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him – a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

God has designed us to be social beings. Consider the gifts of marriage, children, congregation, community, and nation. Each of these are your family, some natural, some extended, but family none the less. We need the cooperation, help, warmth, and defense of others and especially those who share the common treasure of faith. It is for this reason that we lift up families this week.

Luther says, “A certain wise father, when he was about to die, commands his sons to be present. He gives them a bundle of sticks to break. Although they could not break them all at the same time, they did break them individually. This this way he taught his sons that their riches would be secure if they were in concord with one another and mutually assisted one another. For through concord small things grow, but through discord they are scattered and brought to naught.”

Prayer suggestions – You can use these or lift up your own. We encourage you to pray these prayers each day. In addition, we urge you to add the names of those printed at the bottom of the page. These are individuals connected in some way to the ministries of Berea and Agape Hill. If you would like someone added to the list, make sure they approve having their name included and email the information to Pastor Jeff.

Monday - Marriage: "Heavenly Father our Creator from the beginning you made male and female and longed for men and women to find love together in marriage, that marriage might mirror the union of Christ with his church." (From: A Wedding Prayer by Dale Cooper.) We praise you and thank you for this precious and magnificent gift. Gracious Father guide and

protect husbands and wives through the joys as well as the challenges of marriage. Keep them faithful to their covenant vows. "So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate. Matthew 19:6. We pray this in the name of the Church's Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.***

LSB:649:1

Tuesday - Parents: O Father in heaven, we pray your countless blessings upon all who have been given the difficult but amazing responsibility of being a parent. Bless all parents with a measure of Your patience and mercy as they train their children in the ways of righteousness. Be with single parents and adoptive parents as they raise their children to Your glory and honor. "Let the little children come unto me, and do not hinder them, for Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Luke 18:16 We pray this in the name of our Savior Jesus, Amen.

***Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fear, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.***

LSB:649:2

Wednesday - Children: Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches us, Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right, "Honor your father and mother"- which is the first commandment with a promise- "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3. Lord we pray that our children may be curious and learn as they prepare to serve you as they grow into adulthood. May children grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men as it says Jesus did in Luke 2:58. We pray this in the powerful name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

***We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows, the sympathizing tear.***

LSB:649:3

Thursday – Extended Family (grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends: Dear Lord we are thankful for those in our life that you have provided that give us gifts of love, joy, time together, play, patience, encouragement and a listening ear. May we in turn support and love them. Protect and guard their faith. In the precious name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus. Amen.

***When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.***

LSB:649:4

Friday – Unborn Child, Miscarriage, Those unable to conceive: Holy Father be with all women with child, those who have suffered miscarriage and with those unable to conceive. Bring the peace only you can provide to those who grieve this indescribable loss. Embrace them with the unconditional love found in your grace. Use the members of Your Church, this family of faith to surround those hurting, sharing in their burdens. Give to them the peace and comfort that only you can give. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign, through all eternity.***

LSB:649:5

Saturday – Family of God: Gracious Heavenly Father, when asked what is the greatest of all commandments, Your Son, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27 May the unconditional love that would lead You to sacrifice Your Son for our sake bestow in our hearts the desire to love one another and pray for one another. May we live in the baptismal promise that we have been made one with You through the blood our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

***Holy Spirit, ever working through the Church's ministry;
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving, setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding, age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending, You we worship and extol.***

LSB:650:3

Lord's Prayer: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Some wise advice for this time of quarantine...

Keep taking care of yourselves and your families:

Give praise and thanksgiving to God!

Get 7-8 hours of sleep each night.

Eat nutritious food. Drink lots of fluid especially water.

Move, exercise even waking through the house several times throughout the day helps.

Continue to wash your hands well and frequently and keep social distance.

Keep in contact with family and friends; call, text, Face-time whatever works for your family. Distance does not stop love.

Trust in your Lord Jesus.

Keep praying!

Joanie Kolton, Family Connections Director

PRAYER REQUESTS as of the date of the printing: *Welcome! It is not by accident that our Lord has led us here to this moment. We pray with you for His guidance and encouragement as we strive to be His disciples and share the message of salvation with others. Amen.*

Cancer: *Carol Spatzek, breast, Judy Branson, breast, Tom Brueckner, prostate, Julia Grau, granddaughter of Chet & Marge Grau, eye, Eli Kessler, great nephew of the Heckerts, leukemia, Kathy Schmid, aunt of Robin Mueller, liver, Randy Clinard, former Berea member, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Gordy Fabry, cousin of Pastor Jeff, Sharon Beay, step-sister of Ray Leidy, eye melanoma, Ron Schroeder, former member, Stem-cell transplant T-Cell lymphoma, Diane, friend of Shannon Biedenbender (former member), lung,*

Hospice: *Carol Timme, The Kathy House, West Bend, Linda, Dearest friend of Sally Goelz (Agape Hill), brain tumor/cancer, Les Tews Luther Manor,*

Hospitalized: *Harold Schmid, Uncle of Robin Mueller, Grafton, pancreatitis*

Rehabilitation: *Lorraine Biang, Luther Manor, fall, George DeJarlais, Terry's husband, heart surgery, home*

Ongoing needs: *Maxine Dudley, severe back pains, Lane Branson, multiple health challenges, Lavonne Biedenbender, multiple health concerns, Steve Biedenbender, lung disease, Henry Klaves, epilepsy, Irm Tewes, Luther Manor Monday attendee, severe and continuous pain, Mady, daughter of Megan Wylie's friend, torn ACL, Shirley McMahon, Aunt of Robin Mueller, fall*

Homebound: *Rev. Richard Borchers, Lutheran Home, Dorothy Britton Brookdale Assisted Living, Rose Eisner Home, Elinor Heitman Harwood Place,*

Birthdays: *4/1 Nancy Tischer, 4/5 Angela Klaves*

Anniversaries: *none*