

Way to go!!!

We finished with over 830 thank you cards. This started with us thinking about the middle school teachers only and then grew to include all of the Plattsmouth school district teachers and staff. And because of your generosity we included all of Conestoga teaches and staff. Then Marci at Scooters said lets include others that serve the community. Our little thinking grew 27 times more than we thought to an amazing number – that is God at work – thank you Lord.

I will continue these written sermonettes each week but know on Sunday there is a more robust message (I'm sorry, I can only write so much). So far we have had plenty of space in church. We are still sitting 6ft apart in worship services at 8:30 and 10am. We are still asking that people to come and go wearing masks. Still asking that if you are sick, please, stay home. Please leave a message at church (402-296-2662) if you have any questions.

Here is our PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Sermon: the Lord's Prayer

We learned last week that in saying "Father" we can be confident of who we are talking to– God the creator who loves us, hears us, answers us and knows how to give good gifts to us. Wow!! God also draws us into his Holiness - a new life – a holy life with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Kingdom of God. Let's look at more about the Kingdom and God and how we live in the kingdom.

Luke 11:1-4 (NIV)

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say:

*"Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.*

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

*4 Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.*

When we ask for the coming of the kingdom, we are again asking for the gifts that God is pleased to give us (12:32). Think about that - that God is pleased to give us. Jesus has been teaching on the Kingdom of God and he uses a picture of yeast in bread to remind us that things are

happening that we can't see but at some point it will turn out great (13:18-21). In the meantime Jesus wants his followers to proclaim the Kingdom of God is here (4:43; 9:11; 10:9, 11). This is so important – to know – to know that God is at work in what is going on around us; and to tell others. The gift cards are a great example!!! The Kingdom is both a gift and a place we want to live more fully in; our prayer is that in its coming we are more and more able to live as citizens (children of God) in this kingdom where grace, mercy and love abound. Remember our song – ‘with every act of Love we bring the kingdom come’

Next – Our needs.

In this prayer, we are invited to turn to God in the small ‘daily bread’ (relative to the coming of the kingdom! Luke 4:4) but urgent matters of our lives and, like the ravens and lilies, learn to trust in the Father’s mercies new every morning because the Father knows already what we need (12:22-24, 29-31). The prayer recognizes that we do need the essentials of life day by day, but only enough, not dangerous excess. In this prayer we are to trust in God that we will neither fret nor hoard, but beyond that is a desire to be so fully present in the small day-to-day things of life that we will be able to sense Jesus’ presence even in the breaking of our bread (22:19; 24:30-35). Once again – to know God is at work around us.

Forgiveness appears as a key theme throughout Luke (e.g., 1:77; 3:3; 7:36-50; 24:47). “Release,” another translation of the word for “forgiveness,” appears twice in Jesus’ mission statement (4:18) in release for the captives and the oppressed. Forgiveness is release from spiritual oppression --- for the forgiver as much as the forgiven. Both God’s forgiveness of us and ours of our neighbors figure in this petition, not because God will not forgive unless we forgive first but because we are called to model our love on God’s (6:34-36; 17:26). In forgiving others, we free ourselves to experience God’s forgiving love more fully, which makes it possible for us to love still more (7:47). With every act of love we bring the kingdom come – more and more.

Finally, we request deliverance from temptation (NRSV: “time of trial”) that can cripple or destroy the soul (Luke 8:13). I see this happening so much around us in the world. People need the good news – the Gospel. Immediately after the Gospel of Luke opens with a burst of Spirit-filled joy and shortly before it closes in the same way, we find references to the sort of temptation in question here. Jesus is tempted by the devil (4:2) even before his ministry begins; then when Satan has found his moment (4:13; 22:3), Jesus twice interrupts his own prayers for deliverance to tell the disciples to pray that they may not come into temptation (22:39-46). But the Spirit who fills with joy also leads Jesus through the wilderness (4:1) and teaches Jesus’ followers when they don’t face their trials alone but with the Spirit (12:12), so this final petition leads us again to the gift of the Spirit (11:13). The fire that will inspire and guide Jesus’ disciples also clothes us in power (24:49). Paul reminds us that we did not receive a spirit of timidity but a **Spirit of Power, Love and Self Control** (2 Timothy 1:7). Holy Spirit and Fire!!!

This prayer reminds us of the intimacy, reverence, and longing to see/know God is at work in the world around us. It, Reminds us of our dependence on God and desire to live rightly as children

of God in forgiveness and holiness. This is a prayer against our natural self and for us to be more and more like Christ. Luther reminded us last week to pray incessantly – Paul says the same thing and of course Jesus said that in Luke 11:5-10 just after telling the disciple to pray in this way. Prayer is very important in our lives. I have literally seen a person come back to life (awareness) in front of their family as we were praying the Lord’s Prayer – Way cool – by the way, we found out their heart was fully healed too!! Thank you Lord.

Thinking time: The prayer Jesus teaches in Luke 11:2-4 follows the pattern of the commandment to love God with heart, soul, strength, and mind and our neighbors as ourselves (Luke 10:27). Only after the prayer is grounded in God’s person and reign do we move to requests that reflect our personal needs, our relationships with our neighbors, and the struggles of our own souls.

Let us Pray: Gracious Father – thank you that we can call you Father – that you called us your children and you draw us to yourself. Thank you for the gift of your Son and the Holy Spirit to teach and to guide. We saw the change in Job as he began to talk to you - help us to learn what you want us to learn – to understand prayer better – to trust in you – you are the God of all comfort – you comfort us in all of our troubles so that we can comfort others in all their troubles. Help us to be aware of the suffering of others, help us pray for them. Help us to love you for who you are - Father. Give us ears to hear and a heart willing to follow your will in our lives. Help us be the children you want us to be. Help us to love you and love others. We lift up the healthcare workers – keep them safe. We lift those who have the virus – heal them. We lift up the researchers – may you give them wisdom to find a cure and vaccine quickly. We lift up our leaders – grant them wisdom to deal with this for the good of all they serve. Help us be conscious of care for ourselves so that we can care safely for others around us. Help those who are at a higher risk to be safe but to reach out to our larger family so that we can serve them. We thank you Lord for all that you have done and are doing. Praise and blessing to you – in Jesus name we pray and all God’s children said.... Amen.

BLESSING: Sending message from St. Teresa of Avila

"Christ has no body now, but ours. No hands, no feet on earth, but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Ours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Ours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world." † AMEN.

It was your hands that blessed over 830 people in writing those cards. Simple things make a big difference in people’s lives – we have had many send their thanks for your thanks☺ Please be in prayer for those in need around us. You are a Blessing.

Verse of the Month

⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (1 Corinthians 1:7)

Songs for this Sunday is “With every act of Love” by Jason Gray