

## **Prayers for Sunday June 16 AND Wednesday June 19, 2024**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

Lord Jesus, we all struggle with demons at times in our lives. Regrets in broken relationships, fractured families, and hopelessness. In those times help us to remember you are ONLY a prayer away.

**Leader- God in Your Mercy**

**Congregation: Hear our Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we take comfort in knowing you hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, hungry, and sick. Today we pray for: Becky, Beverly, Brayden, Darla, Dave, Denise, Jackie, James O., Jerome, Jerry, Jerry, Kristy, Larry, Lee, Nancy, Nathan, Pat, Rachel, Tracy, Scott, Will and all those we hold in our hearts. We ask for your comforting arm for the family and friends of David Erdman.

**Leader- God in Your Mercy**

**Congregation: Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus for those who are oppressed by their lifestyles, their opinions, their skin color, or their ethnic background: help us remember YOU created all of us. We may be different to each other but to You we are ALL your children.

**Leader- God in Your Mercy**

**Congregation: Hear our Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we ask you to protect all those who are not with us today. May they be safe wherever they are, and may they remember we hold them in prayer asking your protection.

**Leader- God in Your Mercy**

**Congregation: Hear our Prayer**

Lord, we ask you to lead a pastor to choose to serve St John's as our shepherd. We look forward to sharing our journey of faith and service with them.

**Leader- God in Your Mercy**

**Congregation: Hear our Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we are thankful for fathers and all those who have mentored others as fathers. May they realize their strength when we are scared, their comfort when we are sick, their urging when we are hesitant, and sometimes their eye rolling when we goof up are what makes us love them so much. For some of us it is memories of those moments. Bless those fathers who deserve your love and our love.

**Leader- God in Your Mercy**

**Congregation: Hear our Prayer**

**With everlasting thanks and joy for your love and forgiveness we ask you to be with us till we meet again. This week help us to take every opportunity to be thankful for the blessings of each day. Help us to pay attention to how best we can be a gift to others. May we approach each day with SOUL – serving others, uplifting lives! We ask all in the name of Your Dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

## June 16, 2024 – A Cheerful Giver

*Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.*

*Proverbs 28:27*

**My husband Jack was a soft touch when it came to charities. Every month in the mail, he received free greeting cards, calendars, pens, notepads, address labels, small fleece blankets, and dream catchers from all the charities he sent checks to.**

**I've learned there are many ways to be a cheerful giver. One friend donates her time to sit at the reception desk at church so the secretary can go to lunch. Another looks for people who need furniture or clothing, then scours the neighborhood website for people willing to part with such items. Then she brings her own truck, picks up the goods, and delivers them to those in need. Another friend kept a watchful eye on her friend's house while he recuperated from surgery in another state. One man cooks a big dinner for anyone in the community of any age or income every Tuesday at our church. For a nominal fee, we get to meet new people in addition to enjoying a terrific lunch, especially his chocolate chip-cookie cake.**

**These people have taught me that it doesn't matter whether you give your time, talent, or treasure. To be happy, you have something to give. And the thing about giving is that it's contagious. Whether I'm driving an elderly friend to a doctor's appointment or agreeing to serve on a non-profit committee, I find joy in giving my time. Giving keeps the world spinning on its axis.**

**A story by: Patricia Lorenz**