

Prayers for September 1 and Sept 4, 2024

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God of Peace, help us to remember the peace Your Son Jesus taught his disciples comes from extending our selves to others. Extending the hand that is needed to help. It's opening a door for a person on crutches, reaching the grocery on the shelf that is out of reach, offering a greeting and acknowledging a person, small gestures that bring an inner peace.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation– Receive our Prayer.

God of Love, help us to REFUSE to stand around and watch the weary and lost cry out for help. Help us to REFUSE to turn our backs and act like all is well. Help us to be the difference!

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation -Receive our Prayer.

Healer of our every ill give us peace beyond our fear and hope beyond our sorrow. Give us strength to offer support and a spirit of compassion to all who are suffering in any way.

Today we especially pray for: Brayden, Brianna, Darla, Denise, Jackie, James O., Jerry S., Jerry Z., Kristy, Larry, Lee, Lori, Nancy, Nathan, Oliver, Pat, Rachel, Tracy, Scott, Will and all those we hold in our hearts. As you welcome home your servant Dennis Mielke comfort his family and friends who will miss him.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation- Receive our Prayer.

God of us All, as we begin a new school year, we ask for your protective care for our teachers and students. May our children find joy and excitement in learning. Bless the teachers and staff who work to provide them a safe and fun adventure in their journey of knowledge and understanding.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation– Receive our Prayer.

God of Inspiration, patience is difficult for many of us. We need to understand patience comes from wisdom and wisdom comes from hearing the perspective of others. Give us the patience to listen to those who have different opinions from our own and help both of us to respect those differences.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation- Receive our Prayer.

Dear Father, we thank You for continually picking us up, mending our broken hearts, cleansing our thoughts, sealing out our sins with forgiveness and grace and bringing us to a renewed spirit with a slate that has been wiped clean.

Merciful God – Receive 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

September 1, 2024 -Acronyms

But in the church, I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. I Corinthians 14:19 (NIV)

I like acronyms. When I lived in Wisconsin in the 1980's and '90s, I formed a women's group called **SWILL**. It stood for *Southeastern Wisconsin Interesting Ladies League*. A woman in that group formed her own group called **FOSSILS**, which stood for *Friends Over Seventy Seasoned in Life Society*.

One of my pilot friends told me about **GUMPS**, something every pilot with a commercial license knows to check before landing. GUMPS stands for G= Gasoline; U= undercarriage or landing gear; M=mixture of gas and air; P=propeller RPMs (make sure the prop is at maximum pitch); S=seat belts on.

Acronyms help me remember things. One day, I decided I needed an acronym for readjusting my sometimes do-I-have-to-go attitude before I leave for church on Sunday mornings. It's usually a warm, wonderful sunny day and the thought of sitting inside has me dragging my feet. So, I came up with the acronym **PAGES**, which stands for *P=prayerful thoughts; A=attitude; G=giving spirit; E=envelope contribution; S=servitude*. As I walk out the door determined to pray with a good attitude and a giving spirit, ready to serve where needed, I know that all my PAGES are in order and somehow church becomes a sacred experience. Hey, maybe **SACRED** stands for *Sincere and Creatively Respect Each Day*.

Lord, thank You for the ways to keep my mind and body in tune with my heart and soul when it comes to worshipping You. AMEN

Reflection by: Patricia Lorenz