

Prayers for September 29 and October 2, 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 our Savior in a world full of people who too often could not care less – help each of us to be someone who **CARES MORE**.

Leader -God of Grace

Congregation– Receive our Prayer.

God our Savior, thank you for loving us even when we grumble! Help us to see our lives are more than baskets of gripes! Give us eyes to see your hand at work in the world around us and open our hearts to allow your love to so fill us, that what we offer the world is not our perpetual grumblings but the very joy of heaven.

Leader -God of Grace

Congregation -Receive our Prayer.

God our Savior, you are needed by all who are dealing with physical and mental affliction. Some days the pain may be overwhelming and the sad news too difficult to hear. When those days are upon us, hold us closer, love us more, and help us remember hope lies in You to have the strength to endure. Today we especially pray for: Brayden, Caleb, Darla, Denise, Jackie, James O., Jerry S., 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 servants, Dorothy Arndt and LeRoy Uecker comfort their families and friends who will miss them.

Leader -God of Grace

Congregation- Receive our Prayer.

God our Savior, what a wonderful world you have given us. How lucky we are to see the beautiful colors of the trees and watch the birds and squirrels prepare for the winter season. They understand their routine and trust in you every day to care for them. May your human creations follow their lead, and trust more, fear less and understand you guide us with love always.

Leader -God of Grace

Congregation– Receive our Prayer.

God our Savior, bless all our members who are unable to travel to worship with us. We are thankful for their continued role in this community of faith. Thanks to all who participate in maintaining the ministries of St John's to continue to serve our community. The musicians, speakers, teachers, custodians, office workers, volunteers, readers, committee members, council members and all who have committed to St John's role in our faith community.

Leader -God of Grace

Congregation- 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 29, 2024 -THANK YOU – PART IV

I'm thankful for. . .

SAVIOR-forgiving sin. You have ...

TRIUMPH over death! A ...

UNIVERSE reclaimed! A . . .

VICTORY- that no one can take!

God's solution to any challenge is simply this: a grateful spirit. No mist is so thick that the sunlight of appreciation cannot burn it away. Case in point? Jack Ryan.

Pastors aren't supposed to have favorites, I know. But Jack has always been one of mine. You'd more quickly find a moose on the moon than Jack with a complaint. He's a seventy-year-old, silver haired saint, quick to smile and encourage. Always seated near the front of the sanctuary, lifting his hands to worship from the first song to the final verse.

I went to see him at his home last week. He'd been absent for some time. Heart disease had sucked the strength out of his body. Sleep was scarce. Energy even more so, I sat in the chair next to his, reached across, and took his hands.

"Jack," I asked, "I hear you aren't doing well?"

"Oh Max," he corrected with a weak smile. "Never better."

"They say you can't sleep."

"No, I can't. But I can pray."

His eyes danced as he tilted his head, "I just talk to Jesus, Max. I tell him I love him. I tell him how good he is. I tell him, 'thanks.' These are good times for me. I'm just talking to Jesus."

Poor circulation took Jack's color. Disease sapped his vigor. His hands trembled. Skin draped like cloth from his bones. Yet you'd have thought he was a kid on Christmas Eve. In a sense he was. Early the next morning he went home to Jesus. Who is the real victor in life? Is it not the person who dies with a thankful and hope-filled spirit? How do we die with gratitude? We live with it. We thank GOD for the. . .

WALKS- with friends.

X-RAYS, xylophones, and extra grace God gives when we run out of words that start with x.

I read about a lawyer who won a case for his client. The two men celebrated with a nice dinner. At the end of the meal, the client handed the lawyer a fine wallet made of Moroccan leather. "Please accept this as my token of appreciation." The lawyer resisted. "No, I can't settle for a wallet. My fee is \$500.00." The client looked at the lawyer and shrugged. "Whatever you say." He opened the wallet and extracted two \$500.00 bills. He reinserted one and handed the lawyer the wallet. Don't be too quick in your assessment of God's gifts to you. Thank him. Moment by moment. Day by day. Thank God for. .

YELLOWBELLIED flycatchers and

ZEBRAS

THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING!

These past 4 weeks are Max Lucado's alphabet of gratitude!

HOW About starting your own list?