

November 17, 2024 – weekly thought

Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so, drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. Proverbs 17:14

I tried to offer a listening ear as my sister told me details of her friend hurting her feelings. Finally, I interrupted. “Is this doing you or anyone else any good?”

“No,” she answered, then started in again. “I don’t think I did anything wrong; I don’t know why she thinks I did.”

“What does God think?” I asked.

“I think He’s very happy with what I did.”

“Good, then leave it at that.”

“You’re right. I should,” she said, then picked right up where she’d left off.

“Let it drop. You’re only hurting yourself.” I knew my advice was easier said than done.

This exchange caused me to think about my daughter Rachel and her young dog, Piper. When Piper picks something up that’s not good for her, Rachel says, “Leave it.” Piper drops the item momentarily, then picks it up again and gnaws on it some more. Another “leave it” and Piper drops it, then quickly retrieves it, shaking it between her teeth. After several rounds of this, Piper finally lets it go. Piper’s reluctance to drop something that isn’t good for her is like what my sister and I have been guilty of.

Not long after my conversation with my sister, frustration swirled in my mind as I rehashed something someone close to me had done weeks before. *Why can’t they understand how much that hurt me? Should I tell them?* Suddenly, I heard my sister’s voice and saw Piper’s image.

Leave it. Let it go, I heard God say to my heart.

This time I obeyed.

Lord, when I hear You in my heart, telling me to “drop the matter,” help me to obey. It feels so much better when I do.

A reflection by: Kim Taylor Henry

Prayers for November 17_20, 2024

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Gracious Father, thank you for this wonderful world you created for us. Our needs are provided for; there is nothing we are lacking. Help us to be responsible caretakers, mindful of future generations.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation– Receive our Prayer.

Protecting Father, please blanket all the deer hunters with your armor of safety as they enjoy the companionship of friends and family. May they also appreciate the marvelous gifts the woods and Mother Nature offer.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation -Receive our Prayer.

Healing God, turn our hearts towards all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. May the healing touch be given where possible. May comfort and strength be given to those who must live with their affliction. Today we especially pray for: Brayden, Caleb, Cindy, Darla, Darrell, Denise, Diane, Doug, Jerry S., Karlie, Kristy, Larry, Lee, Lori, Nancy, Nathan, Nick, Oliver, Pat, Rachel, Sandy, Tracy, Scott, Will and all those we hold in our hearts.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation- Receive our Prayer.

Dear Father, you know relationships can be complicated. We ask for your help in mending the broken ones, understanding the differences of opinion with others, working for the common good and remembering we are to be a steward of your creation and a servant to others.

Leader -Merciful God

Congregation– Receive our Prayer.

Loving Eternal Father, as we enter the holiday seasons that will be filled with laughter and joy, we ask you to comfort those who will be experiencing their first holiday season without a loved one. May they be comforted in knowing their loved one is with You in their forever home.

Leader: Merciful God

Congregation: Receive our Prayer.

Loving Father, we thank you for each other. We thank you for bringing us together, for inspiring the friendships and community that have been created here at St John's. We pray for your continued blessings as we witness our faith not only to each other but to our community at large. May we welcome new friends and encourage those who are estranged from family or are experiencing difficult separations.

Leader: Merciful God

Congregation: Received 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.