

Cross Winds

The Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie Ministries
February 2016 Volume 12, Issue 2



FIRST WORD:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

1 Corinthians 12: 1, 7-11

OK - so the Vikings lost. But Blair Walsh and a classroom of first graders won. As a assignment to teach about empathy, Northpoint Elementary teacher Judie Offerdahl challenged her class to write letters of support to the Minnesota Vikings kicker after he missed a field goal which could have won the playoff game with Seattle. This miss caused us Minnesotans at least a day of the blues, adding to our usual seasonal affective disorders. But, a teacher took advantage of an opportunity to teach kids to care for others by reaching out to a person who had lots of hoots and jeers from our fickle fans. Walsh responded by visiting the classroom, talking with the kids about persistence and hope, and leaving with a very special stuffed animal given by a youngster in the class.

What others saw as a disappointment, one teacher saw as a gift. What we Minnesota Vikings Fans see as a sign of the depths of winter ahead - the final Vikings loss of the season - she saw as an opportunity.

We wintry Christians know how to hide out from the bitter winds of life, expecting them to persist long into the spring. Only then do we expect a return of warmth. Might it be that the very winds that blow into our lives are the beginnings of the healing breath of the Spirit.

How do we respond to the disappointments in our lives? We might just hide out, waiting for the cold season to pass, for the troubles to finally fade away, like Elijah in the cave. Or we could look for the hand of the Spirit in our lives. We could see who has the gifts we need to be helped, and discern our own gifts to use for others. Banding together creates warmth, and builds hope.

During Lent we continue our learning about the gifts that the Spirit has placed among us in Winds of the Prairie. We continue to be challenged to become closer as a community that relies on faith, hope and love. Plan to join the opportunities this Lenten season to become closer to your God and source of all hope. Take the chance to brave the cold winds and come together in the Spirit.

Pastor Stephen

Vicar's Update

Vicar Update February 2016

Here we are in a brand new, bitter cold new year! I hope most of us made it through the holidays unscathed, yet not unmoved, by the Holy Spirit. Let's ask ourselves- what is the Spirit asking us to commit ourselves to in this blessed new year? A lot of times we make resolutions to take better care of ourselves, to which perhaps some Christians will shake their heads, preferring the idea of discipleship as one of self-sacrifice and denial, a la Mark 8:34-37. But if we look closely at this passage, we might see something bigger than a self/other dichotomy.

Starting with verse 35: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

Who doesn't love a rhetorical question from the most high? When we look at our life through the capitalist lens, the conventional lens of western culture, we will see human beings at autonomous individuals, rulers of their own livelihood and destiny. But I think Jesus is asking his disciples here to look at their lives using the lens of God's Kingdom. This is to say, he asks us to see each of our lives as precious in how we each enrich the whole of life's totality in God's Kingdom. The problems arise as soon as we divide our life from the livelihood of others and see life, at its core, as the survival of the fittest, justifying anything we do which puts us, our family, or our nation ahead, regardless of the cost to our neighbor and creation's precious balance of ecosystems.

Here comes Jesus' critique again: what is the profit you get, when you gain the whole world (in wealth or power) but lose your life (the privilege in God's kingdom to enrichen the lives of our neighbor or the earth as a habitable environment!)? Luther likes to hammer home in his catechism the importance of describing the benefits of faith in terms of our relationship with God, especially in terms of how our lives are enriched by God's gifts through the sacraments: New life through freedom from the bondage of sin and eternal life in Christ. But when we act in this world as if we are in total control of our fate, we forget the grace and mercy without which this life would be cold and cruel. Really we are demonstrating our unfaithful response to God's promises when we try to "take care of ourselves" by dividing the importance of our life from that of others.

So when we make resolutions to take care of ourselves, they aren't necessarily selfish and sinful when we realize that taking care of ourselves is the best way to be who God has made us to be in the world. This helps us to discover the best way to serve one another. Or we can reverse the lens to see how we ultimately benefit from serving the other, as my old roommate once put it: when I indulge you, I indulge myself. To appeal to the die-hard capitalists out there: when we invest our love and value in each other, and in the totality of life as we know it on this tiny planet that we share, not clinging or hoarding in fear of scarcity, nor exploiting others from unfair positions of power, then Jesus tells us, the dividends are going to come back, "the seed will bear fruit- thirty, sixty, a hundred-fold." As we listen for the Holy Spirit in 2016, we have this opportunity to take care of ourselves through taking care of one another. If that's not a beautiful picture of heaven on earth, I'd love for you to show me something better.

Peace, and Warmth to all of you this February,
Vicar Ryan



EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS DAY

Saturday, February 20, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m

Bethel Lutheran, Willmar, MN

*All are welcome! Congregation Members, Council Officers,
Christian Educators, Worship & Youth Leaders, Pastors...*

Everyone!

Winds of the Prairie Ministry is registered for 20 places so let's load the bus and go.

Registration by contacting Winds office (507-694-1238 or windsministry@gmail.com) by February 13 at 5:00 p.m. or until we are full. Bus leaves from Arco at 7 am. For more information regarding workshops and speakers check online at www.swmnelca.org

Bethany News



We had an AMAZING Christmas Program on December 20th!! The kids told the Candy Cane Story and even got a surprise visit from Santa!



B.S.S (Bethany Sunday School on Wednesday) is starting back up after our long 3 week holiday break! B.S.S will be every Wednesday from 6:00pm-6:45pm. For more updates regarding singing dates and any changes to the schedule please check the Bethany Sunday School Facebook page!!! All are welcome!
Morgan Hoffman.

BETHANY LUTHERAN WORSHIP AIDS:

Ushers:

Sunday's - Wayne Possail family

Lenten services - Marie & Ardis Henriksen

Altar Guild - Marie Henriksen

Lectors:

7 Ardis Henriksen

10 Beth Daniels

14 Dar Schreurs

17 Glen Sorensen

21 Gayle Rasmussen

28 Katilynn Jorgensen

Assisting Ministers:

7 Allen Lundberg

10 (Ash Wednesday) Glen Sorensen

21 Ilene Sorensen

Dates to Remember:

Feb. 10 - First Lenten Services

Feb 11 - 1:30 p.m. WELLCA

Feb 16 - 7:30 p.m. Bethany Council





Grace Notes:

GRACE WORSHIP AIDS:

Ushers for Feb:

Milo Downs, Don Evers, Martin Ritter,
Wayne Fehrman

Acolytes for Feb:

Feb 7 Adam Czech & Brayden Kopinski,
(Lent Ash Wed)

Feb 10 Emma Czech,

Feb 14 Adrianna Johnson, (Lent Wed)

Feb 17 Zach Miller,

Feb 21 Jaylen Miller, (Lent Wed)

Feb 24 Tristen Simonsen,

Feb 28 Jayla Prosch

Altar Guild for Feb:

Nancy Johnson & Coralee Rochel

Deacon for Feb:

Karen Lichtsinn

February Grace Council Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 6:30 pm at church

Equipping Congregations Gathering at Wilmar

Saturday February 20, leave at 7am from Arco
with the WOTP Bus

February WOTP Board Meeting

Tuesday February 9, 7:00 pm at BE in Ivanhoe

SLIDING SUCCESS!!!

Unlike last year, when a lack of snow turned our Day on the Mountain from a sledding event into a bean-bag tournament, we had a great day on the hill. OK the temperatures were a reminder that we live in the land of the wind chill factor, but nobody froze anything, no scrapes or cuts (Probably because every in of skin was covered) and no broken anything! Thanks to all who made the event possible, and special praise goes out to the One who made hills and trees and snow and others to play with us.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS:

If for some reason you were unable to attend the annual meeting, please check at the church for your annual report and the unofficial minutes of the meeting.

St Paul's news:

ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED FROM JANUARY 17th TO FEBRUARY 7th

Yes, it was cold on the morning that we planned our annual meeting. So, we postponed it until February 7th. The annual reports are available at the church. Please pick yours up so that you can be prepared to discuss on the 7th.

Thanks go out to all those who worked on the report, and who did the work throughout the year to make sure we had something to report!

Winter Weather Planning

You now have three ways of finding out if your church is canceled or if meetings are postponed:

On the Web: www.marshallradio.net

Via email: If you are on the newsletter mailing list, check your mailbox for a notification.

On the Radio: the stations of Christensen Broadcasting and of Marshall Radio will have updates on weather related announcements.

When in doubt, don't venture out. Call another church member.

Bethany Elim Notes:

ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 7th

Please pick up your annual report at the church before the meeting during the church services on the 7th.

We will not have communion on the 7th due to the annual meeting, but instead will have communion on the 14th. What a great way to celebrate St Valentine's Day - with the greatest love feast ever!

Planning Ahead - Watch for dates for our Annual Vacation Bible School

WORSHIP AIDS FOR FEBRUARY

February 7

Ushers - Mary and Dale Dwire
Acolyte - Molly Krog
Lector - Val Whipple

February 10- Ash Wednesday

Ushers - Elmer and Twilia Koopman
Acolyte - Kim Bloch
Lector - Karen Richmond

February 14

Ushers - The Anna and Loren Epple Family
Acolyte - Madison Lawrence
Lector - Anna Epple
Eucharistic Minister - Mary Pedersen

February 21

Ushers - The Nancy and Kelly Krog families
Acolyte - Molly Krog
Lector - Jennifer Krog
Eucharistic Minister - Margo Willert

February 28

Ushers - The Kristy and Brandon Gifford family
Acolyte - Kira Gifford
Lector - Cody Gifford

Altar Guild for February -

Mike and Margo Willert

SAVE THE DATE

Bethany-Elim Beef Dinner
Sunday, March 13, 2016
Serving 11:00 – 1:00

Peace Lutheran Notes:

New Board members for 2016 were elected at the annual meeting on January 10th:

Eric Petersen - first 3 year term
Ivan Kulhman - first 3 year term (filled the remainder of a two year term in 2015)

Our other council members are:

Laurie Madsen - Secretary (2nd year of 1st term)
Leon Mortland - President/treasurer (2nd year 1st term)
Bobbie Lensing - 2nd year of 1st term

Erik Petersen is now serving as our representative to the Danebod board.

We bring our Lenten Suppers after our Lenten services on February 17th. Circles and youth are in charge of the meal:

St Matthew Circle - Feb 17th
St Mark - Feb 24th
St John - March 2nd
Sunday School - March 9th
Winds Youth - March 16th

Winds Extreme Youth News

Exciting News for our high school youth: The Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is hosting a Senior High Youth Gathering in Mankato, MN, on March 4-5, 2016!

We had a lot of fun loading about 15 youth up on the bus to the Junior High Youth Gathering in November up in Willmar, MN, and now we're excited to offer an opportunity to our high school youth to deepen their relationships with one another and with the greater community of faith.

Some of our adult members unfamiliar with these gatherings might be eyeing this announcement suspiciously, wondering "How do these so called "youth" occupy themselves at such an event? I would hope with quiet, pious devotion, isolated in their cells/hotel rooms. Stick to the three C's: confession, contrition, and self-critique... as well as fasting and memorization of Luther's catechism! What else would any "youth" need for an enjoyable and responsible evening of spiritual rigor?" – Just kidding...

In fact, the SW MN synod does offer a variety of both exciting and self-reflective activities: From worship with live music led by AGAPE (Dave Scherer), to small groups for discussion, to a number of "nightlife" activities like dancing and games, and don't forget the taco bar. Morgan Hoffman, our Youth Coordinator, will be leading the organization of the trip on our side. The cost per child is \$95, which includes the hotel room, the programming, a t-shirt, Friday dinner, and Saturday lunch! Regular registration goes to February 1st, and late registration goes to February 15th, with a \$10 penalty per attendee. Details are at www.swmnelca.org/youth_events. Don't forget to ask for financial support if you need it.

Contact Morgan if you're interested!
(507) 530-3730
Hoffman.morgan08@yahoo.com

LENTEN SPAGHETTI SUPPERS

As a fund-raiser for youth activities, the WXY youth will again be hosting spaghetti suppers at the Lenten services:

- February 17th - Grace (serve at 6:00)
- February 24th - Bethany Elim (serve at 6:30)
- March 9th - Bethany (serve at 6:30)
- March 16th - Peace (serve at 6:00)



Lenten Baby Shower

Baskets will be available beginning Ash Wednesday February 10 at each congregation. Place your gifts in the baskets and our TFA students will collect them after Easter and deliver to the 4 County Human Services Agencies. It is best if we avoid food and pharmaceuticals

since they have expiration dates. Diapers, clothes, toiletries, layettes and shoes are some of the things. These gifts help our young families with their new members. Thanks for your support and have fun shopping.

TFA during Lent

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Beginning on February 10 with Ash Wednesday the TFA students will attend the midweek Lenten services. They will be writing journals about their understanding of the Lord's Prayer. All members are invited to participate and join in reflection. Parents and mentors are especially invited to work alongside their student.

Join this study and reflection on the gift of the Lord's Prayer which gives us hope and insight into the blessings of each day.



PEACE FROM THE YOUTH

February Preaching Schedule		2016	Grace 8:30	Peace 10:30	Bethany 8:30	St Paul 8:30	Bethany-Elim 10:30	Color
Sunday, February 07, 2016	Holy Communion	Anderson	Anderson	Pusch		ST PAUL ANNUAL MEETING Rasmusson	BE ANNUAL MEETING- Rasmusson/Pusch	White
Transfiguration: Mark 8:28- 9:8; Psalm 27:1-4								
Wednesday February 10, 2016	ASH WEDNESDAY							
Lenten Service Times		Grace-7 pm	Peace-5pm	Bethany 6pm	Hope 7pm	Bethany-Elim 7:30pm		
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion		Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Anderson	Pusch		
Sunday, February 14, 2016	Lent 1- Service of the Word	Pusch	Pusch-	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson		Purple
Jesus and the Rich Man; Mark 10:17-31: Psalm 19:7-10								
Wednesday February 17, 2016		Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Rasmusson		
Sunday, February 21, 2016	Second Lent/Holy Communion	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Anderson	Anderson		Purple
Bartimaeus Healed -Mark 10:32-53; Psalm 34:11-14								
Wednesday, February 24, 2016	Lenten Worship	Pusch	Pusch	Anderson	Rasmusson	Anderson		
Sunday, February 28, 2016	Third Lent/Service of the Word/Bold Women Sunday	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Pusch		
The Syro-Phoenician Women: Mark 7:24-30; Psalm 86:8-13								
March		2016	Grace 8:30	Peace 10:30	Bethany 8:30	St Paul 8:30	Bethany-Elim 10:30	
Wednesday, March 02, 2016	Lenten Worship	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Anderson	Pusch		
Sunday, March 06, 2016	Service of the Word/4th Lent	Pusch	Pusch-	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson		Purple
The Great Commandment: Mark 12:28-44; Psalm 89:1-4								
Wednesday, March 9, 2016	Lenten Worship	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Rasmusson		
Sunday, March 13, 2016	Holy Communion/5th Lent	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Anderson	Anderson(Saturday 13 at 5:30)		Purple
The End of the Age: Mark 13:1-8; 24-37; Psalm 102:12-17								
Wednesday, March 16, 2016	Lenten Worship	Pusch	Pusch	Anderson	Rasmusson	Anderson		
Sunday, March 20, 2016	Palm Sunday	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Pusch		Purple
Triumphal Entry & Cleansing Temple: Mark 11:1-11 Woman anoints Jesus at Bethany: Mark 14:3-9; Psalm 118:24-29								

February 2016 	Bethany Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Bethany- Elim Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Peace Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	St. Paul Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am
Monday, February 1	9:00am Bible Study at Grace 5:00pm Bethany-Elim Council				
Tuesday February 2	5:00pm Internship Committee Meeting				
Wednesday, February 3	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 10:00am Worship at Divine Providence 1:30pm GLCW 5:30pm TFA in Minneota 6:00pm Family Bible Study at Bethany 6:15pm TFA at Bethany 6:15pm P3 at Bethany				
Thursday, February 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">February 4 to 6- Pastor Steve at Region 3 Hunger Workshop</div> 9:00am First Call Theological Education for Pastor Steve				
Friday, February 5	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany				
Saturday, February 6	1:00 to 3pm New Member Welcome at Bethany (Reserve your place by calling Winds Office 507-694-1238)				
Monday, February 8	9:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Tuesday, February 9	7:00pm Winds Board Meeting at Bethany-Elim				
Wednesday, February 10 	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 5:00pm Peace Lenten Service 5:30pm TFA in Minneota, 7:00pm Lenten Services at Hope 6:00pm Bethany Lenten Service 7:00 Grace Lenten Service 7:30 Bethany-Elim Lenten Service				
Thursday, February 11	10:30am Devotions and Communion at Sunrise Manor in Tyler 1:30pm Bethany WELCA				
Friday, February 12	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany				
Saturday, February 13	6 pm Chocolate Affair at the Minneota Legion (Tickets at HyVee, Music Street, Brad's Market or Gislason's Hardware/Arched Door)				

February 2016	Bethany Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Bethany- Elim Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Peace Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	St. Paul Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am
Sunday, February 14	11:00am to 1:00 p.m. - Forever Jen Valentine's Day Dinner at Bethany- fundraiser for Relay to Life				
Monday, February 15	9:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Tuesday, February 16	9:00am Prairie Conference Meeting for Pastors 7:30pm Bethany Council				
Wednesday, February 17	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 10:00 Divine Providence Chapel Service 5:00pm Peace Lenten Service 5:30pm TFA in Minneota, 7:00pm Lenten Services at Hope 6:00pm Bethany Lenten Service 7:00 Grace Lenten Service 7:30 Bethany-Elim Lenten Service				
Thursday, February 18	2:30pm Worship at Minneota Manor 6:30pm Grace Council				
Friday, February 19	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany				
Saturday, February 20	EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS DAY: Willmar Mn (See Article in this newsletter) 7:00am Bus leaves from Arco.				
Monday, February 22	9:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Wednesday, February 23	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 5:00pm Peace Lenten Service 5:30pm TFA in Minneota, 7:00pm Lenten Services at Hope 6:00pm Bethany Lenten Service 7:00 Grace Lenten Service 7:30 Bethany-Elim Lenten Service				
Friday, February 27	7:00am Bible Study at Arco				
Sunday , February 28	BOLD WOMEN SUNDAY- A Celebration of Women in the Church especially our WELCA (Women of the ELCA)				
Monday, February 29	9:00am Bible Study at Grace An extra day: Catch up or take a break. Do something different, turn the world upside down.				



Prayers:

Precious Father, we praise you for the opportunities we have to come before you in prayer. Help us, dear Lord, to recognize the dramatic impact a daily prayer life with you can have on our lives. Amen.

We invite all to the practice of daily prayer. You are encouraged to deepen your connection to God's Spirit by claiming persons to carry in your heart throughout your day, even as you carry a portion of God's word that you have read every morning. If you do not know a name on this prayer list, you are invited to especially pray for that person, holding their name before God in your heart. It will cause you to deepen your relationship not only to God, but also to that person within Christ's Body, the church.

May your prayers bind us closer to God and to God's people.

Prayer Lists:

Bethany: Please pray for Ricky Conn (brother in law to Brenda Possail) Jonathan Henriksen (nephew to Marie and Ardis) Ila Rasmussen, Mable Dressen, Les Blegen, Eloise Hauschild, Norma Renken, Connie Clausen (mother of Brenda Possail). All of those with silent health issues. All our civilian volunteers & Military personnel who are seeking to do God's work in God's world.

Bethany-Elim: Pray for Kendra Leibfried (Niece of Michelle Bloch), Clara Amundson, Sara, Kinsley Asmus, Michael Hunter, Bob Clausen, Esther Wayland, Anna Zafft (granddaughter of Harvey & Muriel Koopman), Ray Johnson, Bruce Kelm (brother of Gretchen Suhr); Gabriel Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Mike Kropp (son-in-law of Ken Swanson); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan and Kate); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen), Ralph Holland. Pray for those with silent health issues. Pray for the safety of all military men & women who are defending this nation, and the families and

loved ones they leave behind to serve our country.

St. Paul: Please keep Jeff Kompelin & Clara DeRoode in your prayers. Pray for the safety of Adam DeRoode, Corey Gregor, Scott Johnson and all military men and women defending this nation, and the families and loved ones they leave behind to serve our country.

Peace: Brian & Bobbie Lensing and twins Sawyer & Samuel, Bonita Fuhrmann, Carolyn Holck, Rosmary Hartson, Edwin Ewald, Edna Haraldsen, Cliff Kittelson, Lois Studemann, Byron Stelton, Philip Lingen (Armed Forces)

Grace: the Busselman family, the family of Reinhold Henningsen (Walt Henningsen brother) Garnet Petersen, Kevin Venekamp (son of Berniece Johannsen), Carl Burk, Marg Selken (sister to Dorothy Henningsen), Jodi Reese (daughter of Joyce Nielsen & sister to Kim Hefti), Allan Johnson, Marian Bennett, Naomi Enke, Annette Fehrman and Earl & Joan Klitzke, all those with health issues that are silent, and all our civilian volunteers & Military personnel who are seeking to do God's work in God's world.

" A note regarding the prayer list ~ In order for us to add a person to the prayer list in the future, we need the family of the individual or the individual themselves to call the pastoral staff or office to inform us of this. This is to avoid any miscommunication.

"None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience. It is a great matter when in extreme need to take hold on prayer. I know, whenever I have prayed earnestly, that I have been amply heard, and have obtained more than I prayed for. God indeed sometimes delayed, but at last He came." — Martin Luther

LUTHER ON PRAYER:

from Luther's Small Catechism

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Introduction Our Father in heaven.

What is this? or What does this mean? With these words God wants to attract us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.

The First Petition Hallowed be your name.

What is this? or What does this mean? It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

How does this come about? Whenever the word of God is taught clearly and purely and we, as God's children, also live holy lives according to it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven! However, whoever teaches and lives otherwise than the word of God teaches, dishonors the name of God among us. Preserve us from this, heavenly Father!

The Second Petition Your kingdom come.

What is this? or What does this mean? In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

How does this come about? Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's holy word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

The Third Petition Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

What is this? or What does this mean? In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

How does this come about? Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will—as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh—that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's gracious and good will.

The Fourth Petition Give us today our daily bread.

What is this? or What does this mean? In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in

this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

What then does "daily bread" mean? Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Fifth Petition Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What is this? or What does this mean? We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we daily sin much and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us.

The Sixth Petition Save us from the time of trial.

What is this? or What does this mean? It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

The Seventh Petition And deliver us from evil.

What is this? or What does this mean? We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil—affecting body or soul, property or reputation—and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

Conclusion [For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.] Amen.

What is this? or What does this mean? That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to and heard by our Father in heaven, for he himself commanded us to pray like this and has promised to hear us. "Amen, amen" means "Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this."

Winds of the Prairie Ministry Contact Information

Phone Numbers

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Pastor Julie Anderson 507-215-2388 (Cell) pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net

Vicar Ryan Pusch 262-707-3038 (Cell) internwotp@gmail.com

WOTP Office: 507-694-1238

Bethany Lutheran 507-487-5530 Bethany-Elim Lutheran 507-694-1353

Grace Lutheran 507-368-4243 Peace Lutheran 507-658-3329

St. Paul's Lutheran 507-872-6605

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WOTPM website: windsoftheprairie.org

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