



Holy Cross
Herald
November 2023

Aiming
our lives toward
Christ!

Proclaiming
Christ crucified!

Reclaiming
lost lives for Christ!

“Teach Us to Pray” by Elder Steve Northcott and Pastor Eric

Maybe you’ve prayed this prayer before:

“So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, self-ish, or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Thank you. In Jesus name. Amen.”

Jesus’ disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. Jesus gave them what we commonly call the Lord’s Prayer. See Matthew 6:9-13. There are 7 petitions (besides the introduction and conclusion) within the Lord’s Prayer, listed below and further explained in Luther’s Small Catechism:

1. Hallowed be Thy Name
2. Thy Kingdom come
3. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
4. Give us this day our daily bread
5. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

6. Lead us not into temptation
7. Deliver us from evil

Martin Luther provides for a morning and evening prayer structure that includes an invocation and signing of the Triune Name, the Lord's Prayer, reciting the Creed and an general prayer for the time of day.

The Scriptures also admonish us to pray with thanksgiving, presenting our requests to God and interceding for others as well. (See Luke 18:1-8, James 4:2-3, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Timothy 2:1)

There are other modern structures that can help you pray. Consider the acronym A.C.T.S. When you pray, proceed through the letters A-C-T-S as described below.

A stands for Adoration. Start your prayer by praising God for who He is, his attributes or his works. Some of the well-known attributes and descriptions of God: all-powerful, all-knowing, present everywhere, loving, creator, mighty, just, merciful, gracious, patient, good and faithful. Read the Psalms for ideas. Read Exodus 15, Isaiah 12, Revelation 4:8-11; 5:11-14 and 7:10-12.

C stands for Contrition. Next repent of your sins. These can be personal sins, corporate sins, even unknown sins. It is advisable to admit our spiritual poverty to God and to one another, seeking the forgiveness that God readily gives us in Christ.

T stands for Thanksgiving. Thank God for His many blessings given to us – past present and future. God gives us life, health, daily bread, employment, possessions, family, friends, freedom, etc. God gives us Christ's righteousness and removes our sins. God adopts us into His family through Baptism. Jesus is preparing a place for each of us in Heaven. Each person has much to be thankful for.

S stands for Supplication. This is the part of the prayer where we ask God to supply something. This is not a wish list for Santa Claus. We pray that God would grant us specific requests according to His will. God knows what we really need in every situation. Therefore, ask your petitions boldly, and pray that God answers you according to His will. Remember that "the prayer of a righteous man availeth much" James 5:16 KJV

Another acronym is P.R.A.Y. **P** is for praise, **R** is for repent, **A** is for asking God's help for others, and **Y** is for your own needs and yielding to God's will.

Someone once said that God's answers to prayer are either: Yes, No, or Wait.

Many times, waiting upon the Lord is what we need to do, to trust Him. In the meantime, we try our best to do the good works that God has set-up in advance for us to do. If you are not sure what these works are, ask God to show you what he wants you to do. Then pay attention and be ready to follow.

A TIME FOR THANKS

So, let me ask you, what are you thankful for? We gather every year at this time to reflect on the blessings of God over the past year. But in many families, Thanksgiving is less about real gratitude and more about stuffing your face, watching football, and hanging out with the family. Some actually dread Thanksgiving, because of their life situation.

Now, I'm all in favor of the food and the football. But this year, let's make Thanksgiving about giving and about thanks. This year, more than any, might force us to dig deeper. For many, it will mark a year filled with unemployment issues, medical issues or maybe the loss of a loved one.

For many, this was a year marked by pain. So how do we summon gratitude? Well, if you're a Christian, your basis is not your circumstances, but something greater. Paul tells the people of Thessalonica (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**) that they should "give thanks in everything." Why? Because this was the "will of God in Christ Jesus."

In other words, followers of Christ believe that every piece of hardship is a grace gift from the Lord, sent for their growth, and to further intimacy with our almighty God. We don't believe we're here on this earth all alone. We believe God is firmly in charge.

Though life may get hard.... and it does.... it all falls under God's will. And so we give thanks.

As Americans, we really have cause for gratitude. I have to periodically remind myself of this. We so easily get caught up in the easy lust for more stuff. Bigger house, nicer car, better clothes, newest gadgets. But then as I drive around and see folks in real need, I feel humble.

Let's not sit around the table complaining about politics, complaining about our job, whining about how life is unfair. Let's instead reset our gratitude meters and offer genuine, heartfelt thanks to God for the **salvation** in Christ and for the daily care that He generously provides for our friends and family. Oh, and for wives that allow us to stuff our faces and watch football.

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!
Deacon Larry

HOLY CROSS WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML) / MISSION GRANT UPDATE

At our LWML Michigan District convention in June 2022 we voted and approved 14 mission grants for the biennium 2022-2024. We have funded six of the approved mission grants as of this month. All of you have made this possible with your donations to your 'mite' box. May the Lord continue to bless you as you continue to bless others.

LWML COLLECTION MITE BOX

Our LWML large wooden collection mite box has been moved. You will see it near the mailboxes and by the Holy Cross Women's Ministry board near the back entrance. Please continue to deposit your individual mite boxes there. Thank you.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CONCERT

Holy Cross Women's Ministry is inviting the congregation to an Advent Christian Concert here at Holy Cross on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 5:30pm. We will be entertained by the "Wild Olives" band from St. Augustine Lutheran Church with an Afterglow following the concert. There will be a sign-up sheet with an opportunity for you to bring your favorite appetizer or dessert. Watch for more information in the Bulletin.

FOG (FAMILY OF GOD)

There will be **no** sign up board for the November 5th Lunch Bag Project. Thanks to Dawn Bean for bringing the chips and Gail Caldarea for the cookies. The balance of the items will be handled by the Church. Also, the socks that were contributed in October will be delivered with these lunch bags.

We have assembled 500 lunch bags this year! Thanks to everyone who contributed in various ways - whether it was giving us sandwich bags, monetary gifts, or helping assemble the lunch bags - it was all appreciated by the folks at Family of God and myself! God's Blessings to all of you for your giving heart.

NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

For the month of August, the Food Pantry served 52 families, 172 people, gave 9 Bibles and 6 packages of diapers.

For the month of September, the Food Pantry served 35 families, 133 people, and gave 37 units. We gave 8 Bibles and 2 packages of diapers.

The year-to-date totals through the month of September are 321 families, 1133 people served, 325 units, 52 Bibles and 40 packages of diapers.

We do not need any food contributions. We can use toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap and shampoo.

Plans are underway to give out 40 turkey food baskets for Thanksgiving. If your family or you know of a family that can use a basket of food for Thanksgiving, please call Joanne Vollbrecht. Names can be given anonymously. The baskets will each contain a turkey, a box of Stove Top dressing, 5 pounds of potatoes, bread or rolls, canned corn, canned green beans, cranberries, fresh apples, fresh oranges and a prebaked pie.

Help will be needed on Friday night, November 17th, at 7:00pm to pack the baskets. It takes less than one hour to complete the packing. Adults and children can also participate, so please just come that evening if you are able.

The baskets of food will be distributed on Saturday morning, November 18th at 10:00am. Helpers will be needed to load baskets, turkeys and pies into cars for our clients. We will also need some assistance indoors to greet our guests and take the invitations which will be sent to them. This is very easy to do. Please call June Moore with questions. If you wish you may deliver the food basket yourself. We are asking for a few drivers to make some deliveries. Perhaps you are able to help set up and take down a few tables and chairs in the conference room. If you can help in this area please let David Difatta know in advance of Friday night November 17th. Help is appreciated wherever you can to make this successful. Thank you from New Hope Food Pantry.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ALL SAINTS' / ALL SOULS SERVICE

On Wednesday, November 1 at 7:00pm we will have a very unique service in remembrance of all the saints that have gone before us. The service will be Compline with some special touches! Join us to find out what they are.

ALL SAINTS' WEEKEND

Join us on November 4 at 5:30pm and November 5 at 10:00am, as we celebrate All Saints' Day and remember all who were called home this past year. Our services will include a special *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed*.



Here at Holy Cross we have a tradition of a Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Join us at 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 22, to thank God for his great goodness. See you there!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. The first Wednesday in Advent is November 29 and continuing the next 2 weeks. Worship is at 7:00pm.

The topics for the 3 Wednesday's are as follows:
November 29—Noah, December 6—St. Nicholas Day, December 13—will be a service of prayer and healing.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUED AND BIBLE STUDIES

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, December 23, 5:30pm Lessons & Carols Christmas Service
Sunday, December 24, 10:00am 4th Sunday in Advent Worship Service

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Come hear about your greatest Christmas Present ever. Join us on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Worship Services at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Then come back on Christmas Day at 9:00am to receive the rest of the present. Holy Communion will be offered at all of these services.



MEN'S EVENT

Men join Pastor Eric in the church *Man Cave* on Saturday, November 11 at 11:30am. There will be food, fellowship, games, prayer and watching the Michigan/Penn State game. Come join your band of brothers.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Saturday, November 11 for our new Women's Bible Study. We will be using the book called "Promised Rest" for our study. Bible Study at 9:30am (new time). If you plan on attending, please let us know. There will be a signup sheet on the Women's Holy Cross Ministry board.

SENIOR BIBLE STUDY

A Bible study for senior members is available each week on Wednesday at Holy Cross. We meet in the fellowship hall from 11:00am to 12:00noon. Our topic is "The Fruit of the Spirit". The facilitators are Pastor Eric, Deacon Tony and Elder Steve.



MUSIC NOTES

Blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving!

The Fall/Winter season for Handbell Choir is in full swing. We welcome back: Sharon and Suzanne Adler, John Batsikouras, Connie Haugan, and Phyllis Ulmer. We are happy to welcome new members: Laurel and Lily Clemons and Ashley Streufert. A note of thanks to Linda Conger for ringing with us for so long, you are missed. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to ring his praises and help enhance worship service.

Choir News —

This year we are excited to have around 13 members in the Holy Cross Choir (if you'd like to join us, just show up on Thursday nights at 7:30-8:45, we'd love to have you!). We're welcoming back John B., Mark C., Bonnie E., Marie M., Connie H., Judy M., Joan V., Sharon A., Joann F., and Margaret Y. We are excited to welcome new members John and Ashley S., and Laura K. to the choir.

If you love to sing (or ring) praises to Our Lord and would like to join us, we meet on Thursdays for rehearsal. Handbells meet at 6:30-7:15 and choir at 7:30-8:45. You do not need to be able to read music, most of our group does not. If you want to join us just for the season, that's fine also.

We are always willing to include any instrumentalists. Want to sing a solo? Let us know. For more information, talk to any of our choir or handbell members or feel to contact either of us.

Marie Metcalfe and Michael Katopodes



Sunday School News

Happy November! Sunday School is in full swing and we would love it if your family joined us!

Sunday School/Youth Bible Study
Weekly @ 9:00am

Craft Sunday
November 19th

Gifts For All God's Children Toy Drive

We will once again be collecting toys for Gifts for All God's Children. The toy drive will begin 11/12 and run to 12/10. Please bring all UNWRAPPED toys and place them in the box outside the Sunday School Office.

Their greatest needs this year are...Legos, games for 8 year olds and up, craft kits, basketballs and footballs (full size).

The Sunday School Team wishes you all a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

IN MEMORY OF JERRY KELLY

For the General Fund

Steve & Becky Northcott
Jan Cook

IN MEMORY OF EVELYN CANTWELL

For the General Fund

Ron & Joanne Vollbrecht

IN MEMORY OF KATHLEEN EISINGER

For the General Fund

Pastor & Teryl Eisinger

Memorial Gifts



Don't forget our shut-ins at

Thanksgiving



Lotte Weber
Donna Marshall
Shirley Pontious
Harry Roberts
Linda Troppman
Peggy Majeske
Shirley Tallman
Donna Kaip
Jane Bennett

Barb Rohde
Siegfried Tyburski
Dolly Ferries
Barbara Unger
Shirley Handy
Barb Ugo
Jim Cantwell
Paul Meyerand
Vern & Ruth Parker

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
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CHURCH OFFICE

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586-751-2550

Email: office@holycrosswarren.com

NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

586-751-2517

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Saturday - 5:30 pm

Sunday - 10:00 am

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Saturday - 4:30 pm

**Sunday - 9:00 am for all Adult, Youth
& Sunday School for Children**