

Prayfaithfully

.....Daily Devotions

June 4-10, 2017

**By The Northern Great Lakes Synod
Synodical Women's Board Members**

Sunday, June 4, 2017

By: Barbara Rice, SWO Secretary

Call, Calling, Called

Romans 11:29 - *"for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."* (NIV)

We have been hearing all forms of the word 'call' lately. Last fall, a retreat for women used the theme of being called for its programming; recently a dear friend answered 'the call' and became an ordained pastor; recently, our synod 'called' a new bishop. We call people on the phone, we call our children in from play, we call our pets to come away from something mischievous or dangerous. How often have we said, "I am at your beck and call"? One could go on and on.

If you think about it, all of these instances and more are extensions of God calling us to do his work. The phone call is one way we can share God's love by helping someone feel connected, needed, less lonely, remembered. God calls us 'in from play' and asks us to feed his people, to remember the poor, to take care of the world's natural gifts that God has given us, to provide shelter and disaster relief for others, to pray and share love and compassion for those we know and those we have yet to meet. We answer the call in everything we do, from daily chores, our work, our friendships, our volunteer activities, the care of our families. But do we always remember God when we go about these daily things? That is the big, overall CALL. In all we do, remember that we do these things because God's call to love and care has made them possible.

Let us pray: *Thank you, Lord, for giving us the ability to answer Your Call in all we do and say. As we Call others in your name, may our love for You be in the forefront of our day, and when You call us to Your service, may we hear Your voice and feel your hand leading us on a path that is pleasing to You. Amen.*



Monday, June 5, 2016

By: Sue Hill, SWO Board Member

Your Labor is Not in Vain

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Is this not a great verse to contemplate at the start of a day that looks grim? If we remember that all of the "tuff jobs" that we have to do today are a lot easier because He has given us the strength to share our love and respect for all that He has created. This makes our work become one of positively improving what He has given us, even when we don't want to get started with the new day given to us!

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, thank you for the world around us. We pray that we can continue to see You in everyone we meet today and that our words and actions reflect what You continue to teach us. Amen*



Tuesday, June 6, 2017

By: Kris Carlson, SWO Treasurer

Be at Peace

Job 22:21a - *"Agree with God, and be at peace;"*

When thinking about a devotion and Bible verses that are favorites of mine; this verse was not necessarily one I would have thought of. Somehow, I found these seven words extracted from what was happening in Job's life; and they just kept speaking to me.

Our Christ Lutheran Parish in Ironwood, which includes my life-long home congregation, Salem, along with Zion, St. Paul and St. John's are losing our ministers. The Spirit has called Pastor Mary Beth and Pastor Kurt Kovanen to new ministries. I'm so very sad that they are leaving; and I know it is just selfishness on my part. We know that God is in charge; and we know He has plans for all of us, even though we don't know as yet what they are. *"Agree with God, and be at peace"*

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of ministry and the gift of peace. Thank you for all the blessings you bestow on us. Amen.*



Wednesday, June 7, 2017

By: Pam Chouinard, SWO Vice President

Psalm 51:10 (NRSV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and put a new and right spirit within me.

Spring Is In the Air

As soon as I hear the birds chirping out my window and see buds on the trees and my daffodils begin to bloom, I have the urge to clean every inch of my home. After a long, dark winter, I want my windows open and the warm spring air blowing through my curtains. Spring brings new life and with that a new burst of energy. This truly is a time to revive our homes, our gardens and ourselves. With windows open I begin my yearly chore of cleaning out closets, out with the old, and cleaning every niche and corner. Maybe this is also the best time to do the same with our spiritual lives. Out with our old selves and bring in a new revived fresher self. Enjoy what God has given us: our friends, family and a beautiful outdoors. Take time for a walk, listen to the birds, breath in the freshness of spring and remind yourself of how blessed we are to be living in such a wonderful part of this great world.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us springtime! The fresh smells of warm air, grass under our feet, life all around us budding and blooming. Thank you for the reminder of how precious life is and how very lucky we are to enjoy what you have created.*



Thursday, June 8, 2017

By: Melzee Jacobson, SWO President

Be Jesus to All

Romans 12:16 - *“Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.”*

Each of us are created in the image of God, yet we all come from different life experiences. We cannot know what has occurred in another’s life just as they cannot know what has happened to us that brings us to the stage in life when we meet. I learned years ago from a Catholic Priest with whom I share a Prison Ministry experience....he said, “You just have to love someone for who they are when they are with you.” I carry that wisdom with me each and every day. Living in such a way to be honest about who you are When you meet me, you meet me and I say...this is who I am, warts and all. Be kind to all.....Smile and say hello in passing, you may be the only Jesus in that person’s life that they will see today. Each of us is no better or wiser than anyone else, we are unique human beings (saint/sinner at the same time). Jesus gave us the commandment to “Love one another”. He did not say to leave out the homeless, the addict, someone you have had a disagreement with, those that have physical or mental limitations, those that have broken the law, those that make bad choices that not only hurt themselves but others around them, politicians, wealthy, the poor, etcetera, we are not to judge, we are to love. Jesus says “feed my children” and that not only means with food, but with the Word of God. Live in

harmony with your brothers and sisters and discover how blest you will be because we always receive more than we give in any situation when it is done to the Glory of God.

Let us pray: *Lord, Help me to see Jesus in everyone that I meet, whether it be a lifetime friend or an on the street acquaintance. Help me to listen when you call and say "They are my sheep, smile and say hello". May all see Jesus in me and may I see Jesus in everyone that I come in contact with. Lord you know the circumstances of each one of us, please help my feet and hands to find the path you on which you are leading me. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen.*



Friday, June 9, 2017

By: Janet Penhale, SWO Board Member

Only a Prayer Away

Matthew 28:20 - *"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

As we live our life in this busy community, it is so easy to make up excuses. When we need help, I like to remember "I am with you always", only a prayer away. God is there to guide us if we relax and let Him.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, you are always there to pick me up when things go wrong. When I rely on myself or others, things don't always work out. Help me to remember you are there to guide me today and always.*

By: Joanne Pierce, SWO Board Member

Jesus

Hebrews 13:8 - *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever."*

It is a comfortable feeling knowing God is walking with us in our journey of daily activities. When the stresses of everyday life lead to frustrations and discontent He is near and soothes our tension. So, we need only to keep Him in our lives and in our hearts He will fill us with confidence and patience.

Let us pray: *Dear Jesus. Keep us safe and give us comfort that you are there forever. In God's Love we pray. Amen*



Saturday, June 10, 2017

By: Virginia Heczko, SWO Board Member

He Watches Me

Matthew 6:26 – “*Lord, Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*”

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me,
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

This song was written in 1905 by lyricist Civilla D. Martin and composer Charles H. Gabriel as a Gospel hymn. The theme of the song is inspired by the words of David in Psalms and Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew in the Bible. Civilla Martin wrote the lyrics after contracting a deep friendship for a couple in New York. The woman was bedridden for nigh of twenty years and her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheelchair. One day when visiting them on their bright hopefulness and asked them the secret. Their reply was simple, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."

Let us pray: *Lord, each time that I see a sparrow may I remember that you also watch over me as I walk in this faith journey. May I constantly be reminded that I have nothing to fear as you are with me and that you will protect me. May I see the lesson in each moment of my life that you provide for me to bring glory to you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth.....Amen.*

