

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 25, 2010**

**Readings for July 25, 2010**

**Disciples: Ordinary People Moved by God's Extraordinary Love  
Sermon Series WEEK 3: Prayer**

**LUKE 11:1-13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' <sup>2</sup>He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

**Faith Questions:**

1. This week is WEEK 3 of our summer sermon series, "Disciples: Ordinary People Moved by God's Extraordinary Love." What part do you think prayer plays in the life of a disciple of Jesus? What part does prayer play in your life?
2. What do you think about the idea of persistence in prayer that Jesus mentions in this passage? Have you ever had your prayers answered? Have you ever prayed for something and felt like your prayers were NOT answered? How might you explain this?
3. A mentor in my life once told me that "God answers every prayer with a YES. If we think God isn't answering our prayers, then maybe we are asking for the wrong

things.” What do you think about this idea? When has an “unanswered prayer” in your life actually turned into a blessing?

4. Is the Lord’s Prayer a public or a private prayer? What difference might that make? How is praying out loud in assembly different than praying alone? Which is more meaningful to you? Why?
5. What are your prayers for yourself and your family today? Take some time now and lift them up to God. What are your worries and thanksgivings? Who is weighing on your heart and what are you rejoicing about? What prayers do you have for your community, for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, and the world?

**Let us pray:**

Oh Lord, hear my prayer! Teach me to pray, help me to pray, remind me to always bring my joys and concerns to you. Give me a longing to be in relationship with you, the same way you long to be in relationship with me. Especially today, I pray for....

*For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)*  
Amen.

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Devotion prepared by staff at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Rebecca Kolowé, Diaconal Minister.

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