



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 7 **July 27, 2025**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

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." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." 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; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' 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.' 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. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 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!"

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily by Bishop Susan Johnson

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus. I'm pleased to be with you in this way today and to bring you greetings from your siblings in Christ from coast to coast to coast that make up this part of the family of God that we call the ELCIC.

Can we talk – about prayer? I can count on one hand the number of times anyone has asked me about my prayer life. I think it's something we need to talk about more, so that we can encourage and challenge each other to a richer and deeper discipline of prayer. And praying is

something that we are all called to do – Luther wrote “*As a shoemaker makes a shoe, or a tailor makes a coat, so ought a Christian to pray. Prayer is the daily business of a Christian.*”

Prayer is the daily business of a Christian!

When I was in seminary, one of the hardest things for me to learn was how to pray out loud. Not reading prayers out loud, but actually making up prayers on the spot, in front of others. What made it hard was that I couldn’t stop thinking that there was a big red pen out there, circling all my grammatical mistakes and making editorial comments about my content. My fear of “doing it wrong” made my praying very stiff and uncomfortable.

The truth is that sometimes I find that same big red pen coming into my mind when I’m praying alone as well. I’ve talked with other people and have learned that I’m not the only one who had struggled with my prayer life. Sometimes the fear of getting it wrong, sometimes concern about not knowing what to do, or say, hampers us in our prayer life and keeps us from being as connected with God as we, or God, would like. With prayer, as with anything in life, there are some people for whom it comes naturally and easily and others who struggle their whole life long.

Jesus’ disciples struggled with how to pray as well. In Luke’s gospel we heard how the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and he responded by giving them a prayer outline that we now refer to as the Lord’s prayer. So, if you are struggling with your praying, remember – you are in good company!

My regular prayer time is when I am walking or driving. It’s a way that I can carve out some alone time for me and God. Obviously, I don’t close my eyes when I pray! I know some people pray one way their whole lives and find it a rich and nurturing experience. But I am always trying new ways to pray.

Last week when I was out walking, I prayed out loud. I tried to visualise Jesus walking with me and turned my prayer into conversation. I was amazed at how much it changed my prayer. I still prayed for the same things, and in a similar order (see my list below!) but the words just flowed! For the first time in a long time, I forgot about the big red pen and just talked to God. I got a couple of funny looks from people I met on the way, but I didn’t let it stop me. Best of all, I remembered to be quiet and listen, not just talk!

If the words don’t flow for you when you pray, don’t worry about it. Martin Luther said “*the fewer the words, the better the prayer. The more the words, the worse the prayer. Few words and much meaning is Christian. Many words and little meaning is pagan.*”

Whether it comes easily or whether you struggle, I want to encourage you, and I want to invite you to encourage others, to pray. Every day. Don’t give up. If it’s hard, ask for help. Try something new!

I set up a prayer chair in my house with a bible and devotional material on hand. Here are some other ideas.

Pray at a specific time of the day – while you exercise, do dishes, or shower!

Pray with music, either playing in the background or try praying while you sing hymns.

Pray with a prayer partner, or prayer group.

Pray with movement – exercise, walking a labyrinth, or dancing

Pray with scripture – read a passage and repeat it several times – let your prayer come out of the word

Pray with someone else's words. Use Luther's prayers, the prayers in our worship book, or find a new favourite prayer author.

Pray online. Google prayers. Skype and pray. Pray on Facebook or twitter

Pray through writing. Journal. Write poetry as a prayer

Pray with the news. Listen to what is happening and offer up your concerns as prayers.

Or just pray the Lord's prayer. Everyday. Your own prayers will grow out of it.

Today, when you share the peace why not ask someone, how's your prayer life.
Remember, *Prayer is the daily business of a Christian!*

God bless you in your praying!

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

(Copyright Administered by Augsburg Fortress SAS104065)

STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....

Danny Schultz, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Pastor Bruce and Charlotte are on vacation – returning August 7th. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Pastor Jim Goos at 613-401-8750.

Crisis in the Holy Land...the ELCIC National Office and Eastern Synod are launching an appeal to support the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to assist in supporting this vital work that embodies faith, resilience and hope of a just peace. More information can be found on the “Our World” bulletin board or at <https://elcic.ca/holy-land/>. Donations can be made through your offering envelope or virtual number by noting ELCJHL Appeal on it. Thank you for supporting our friends.

Ministerial Acts

Marriage

Sarah Thompson and Adam Breen – July 18, 2025.

Funeral

Shirley Wilcox, July 21, 2025. Age 89 years.



*“For anyone who knocks,
the door will be opened”*