

A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

Sermon Series on the Book of Matthew 6
Week 1
August 30, 2020



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- **Prelude** “They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love; I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord; I Know Who Holds the Future; Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus; Now I Belong to Jesus” **Roxanne Groff**

- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**

- **Welcome** **Pr Mel**

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Children of the Heavenly Father” **LBW 474**



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra ään Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär-nan ej på him-la - fäs - tet, få-geln ej i kän-da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Guiding God,

C: You have shown us how to live a good life, yet we think we can do better on our own. We do not honor you or our neighbors, instead choosing to follow our selfish desires. We long to be free and yet hold others' wrongs against them. Release us from this endless cycle of guilt and poor choices. Restore us to yourself again, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: We are God's beloved children and we have been forgiven! Now live in the joy which this grace provides, and share the good news with others.

C: Amen.

*** GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Faithful God, You have provided everything that we truly need to thrive in this life. Teach us to recognize those things, and to work so that others might also have their needs provided, for the sake of Jesus,

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:9-15

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from Matthew, Chapter 6.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁹"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ** (*Spoken*)

• **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God Our Father and from the one who is our
Daily Bread, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

Today we're picking up Matthew's version of the Lord's prayer and we'll be looking at the petition, "Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew's version is a bit longer and is part of Jesus' sermon on the Mount. Jesus gives quite a bit more instructions regarding this prayer in Matthew's Gospel. Before giving the Lord's Prayer, Jesus tells his followers not to be like the Gentiles who love to heap up empty words and phrases. He also tells us God already knows what we need, even before we ask. Doesn't it seem odd that God command us to pray and to ask for the stuff God already knows we need? I mean, why doesn't God just give it to us since he already knows we need it? What if there's a need we have, but forget to ask for it? Does that mean God won't give it? I'm not the only or the first to think about these things. Martin Luther asked many of these same questions. In his commentary on the Sermon on the Mount, Luther concluded Jesus was letting us

know we don't need to go into great detail or use many words to describe to God what you need or what you want.

Since Jesus says we should pray for it, let's stop and think about our daily bread... In the small Catechism, Luther wrote Daily bread includes, "everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." I like the fact that Luther included faithful rulers and good government as part of our daily bread. In these times of pandemic and racial unrest we need faithful rulers and good government more than ever. We need leaders from local, state and federal government to lead with wisdom and courage. We need peacemakers, not rabble rousers. I also like the fact that Luther left the list open ended. As societies change the need for daily bread can change as well. In 1865 our society needed to right the wrong of slavery and so we fought the civil war to emancipate the slaves. Our society needed to right the wrongs of overt racial discrimination and so God raised up a great leader by the name of Martin Luther King Jr. This week marks the 57th anniversary of Dr King's great I've Got A Dream speech. Because of civil rights leaders like Dr King the Civil Rights Act

in 1965 was passed. Since that time, we've made many steps to improve race relations, but subtle embedded racial attitudes remain buried, sometimes not too far below the surface. That tension is boiling over in violence in some of our cities. What will our society's response be this time? Only time will tell, but I believe when we pray for our daily bread, God will provide what this current generation needs and will raise leaders who are really faith filled and God will provide good government that looks out for the welfare of it's people, not just politicians who enrich their campaign coffers... Before I get accused of being overly political, please know that I'm not talking about any politician in particular, I'm only making a, probably unfair, generalization of politicians in general...

Let's move away from politics and politicians and take a look at the actual translation, of the Greek word translated as daily. The word is *ἐπιούσιον* and it's only used twice in the Bible. Both times it's used in the Lord's Prayer. Other than in Matthew's and Luke's versions of the Lord's prayer *ἐπιούσιον* it isn't found anywhere else in all of the Bible or any other ancient Greek writings. That makes its meaning vague and unclear because scholars have no other context to help decipher the meaning of the word. Another translation says give us today, what we will need tomorrow. I sort of like that translation. When thought of in

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this way we're asking God for a little security. We're asking God for, and therefore putting our faith in God for our future. Coming on the heels of asking for God's Kingdom to come and God's will to be done on earth, asking for tomorrow's bread today is a way of looking ahead to a time when Jesus returns, and heaven comes down to earth.

Daily bread is obviously much more than wishing for Jesus' second coming... It's also about a lot more than mere bread... It includes all the necessities of life. God certainly provides all the basics of life each and every day without anyone asking. God provides the correct mixture of gasses in the atmosphere to supply our need for oxygen. God provides the earth with fertile soil, rain, sunshine, gravity, and everything else we need to have life and have it in abundance! Luther goes on to explain that the reason God commands us to pray for the needs we have, our daily bread, is not in order to have us make our prayers an instruction to God as to what He ought to give us, but in order to have us acknowledge and confess that God is already bestowing many blessings upon us and that He can and will give us even more. By our praying of the Lord's prayer we're instructing ourselves more than we are God. When we ask God for our daily bread we're essentially acknowledging that by ourselves we can't produce, purchase, or store up a single slice of wonder bread, let alone all the complex

things God produces and provides free of charge each and every day. Luther wrote, “A prayer that acknowledges God in this way is a prayer that pleases God.” When we ask for our daily needs, we’re giving God the glory for every good gift in all of creation. We’re also acknowledging where all our daily bread comes from. A Christian understands everything they have, even their very lives come from God. To those who say, “I earned what I have by working hard,” a truly Christian response might say, “Oh, really? Who gave you the muscle and or brain power to do that?” A Christian wouldn’t hesitate to reply, “God gave me the talent and ability to do that...” The simple act of asking for our daily bread teaches us to recognize who we are and who God is, and to learn what we need and where we can look to have those needs fulfilled.

This phrase about our daily bread also reminds me that as God’s people we’re in this life together. *We* pray for *our* daily bread. It’s kind of funny and I never really gave it a thought before, but even when I’m alone, saying the Lord’s prayer all by myself, I use plural nouns and verbs. Now that I think about it, wouldn’t it seem strange and maybe a little bit selfish to pray give *me* this day *my* daily bread? That just doesn’t sound like something Jesus would teach. Jesus wants us to think and act like an us. If we pray in the singular, where’s the concern for our neighbor, for the poor... In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus is reminding us that

the greatest of all the commandments is to love God with all our heart, strength, and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Even in our most alone and private moments of prayer, Jesus teaches *us* to pray for *our* bread and therefore we're automatically including care for our neighbors as well as ourselves.

Some say Jesus gave his life giving us the gift of His Church. In His death and resurrection, Jesus formed those who have faith in him into this thing we call the Church, which is the living Body of Christ in the world. One of the lessons I've learned from repeating this prayer over and over since my childhood is that in asking for our daily bread Jesus is reinforcing the bonds that hold us together as His Church. Jesus uses this prayer as a way of changing me into we, and I into us. Every time we pray in the plural we're reinforcing the bonds that hold us together as disciples and followers of Jesus. I guess that means having a healthy, thriving community of faithful followers of Jesus is also part of our daily bread...

The reality is we could go on and on about everything that is included in our daily bread. May we continue to unpack the true meaning of our daily bread. May we never be ashamed to ask for tomorrow's bread, the bread of life, that gives salvation and eternal life. May we always pray in the plural, remembering we're not in this life alone, but we're tethered to each other in this community of faith

through God's Word, through the Holy Sacraments, and in the way we pray asking God to give *us our* daily bread. Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

• BLESSING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Pr Mel

P: As we prepare for the beginning of a new school year, we ask Our Father in Heaven to bless all teachers and students, all parents and grandparents, all people who are associated with our education system in any way.

P: A reading from First Corinthians: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

P: Let us pray... O God, we ask your blessing upon for all who are beginning a new school year. We lift up both students and teachers in their academic endeavors. Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, and all who support in any way the institutions of Education. Bless all who use their gifts in administration, meal preparation, transportation, custodial care, as well as those who are directly involved in the learning process, teachers and their students. Make all of us role models and

* Please stand if able

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mentors for those people in our lives who look up to us so that by the way we live and by our actions we may demonstrate our love for you. In all we do, may we know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

• **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS AND OTHER SCHOOL AND LEARNING TOOLS**

P: At this time we offer a special blessing upon the backpacks, laptop computers, or tablets or other tools used for education... In addition to the backpacks our children will use this year, we have before us these backpacks filled with school supplies that are to be sent through Lutheran World Relief to refugees and disadvantages children around the world so they may learn and be blessed with a better life. We ask God to ensure these gifts are given to those who truly need them and used to learn and to flourish.

P: A reading from Mark 10:13–16

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

P: Let us pray for our children and the backpacks they will carry this school year we pray for the tablets and laptop computers used for distance learning. We pray for the internet, may it be fast and glitch free... Dear God, as we begin another year in school, we ask your blessing on these backpacks and all the other tools used for learning both at school in person and at home via distance learning. We especially ask your blessing on these children who will use them. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large; respect for teachers and students, that they may form healthy relationships; love for nature, that they may become caretakers of your creation; happiness when learning is easy and persistence when it is hard; faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.

P: We ask that you protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school. Keep them safe from the Covid 19 virus and all other diseases. As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts you have given each one of them. Help them to use their gifts

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to serve you by serving their neighbors. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

P: We continue our Worship Service with the Prayers of Intercession.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need...

A brief silence.

L: Give us discernment to know the things we need and those which we merely desire. Teach us to use all the resources at our disposal for good and healthy purposes, for the enrichment of life and the thriving of all your people.

Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those effected by hurricane Laura. Give them your strength, your comfort, and your peace. We lift up the efforts of relief workers around the globe responding to disasters both natural and human-made. Give them courage, wisdom, and endurance to meet the most urgent needs of people in distress. Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: May our harvests be plentiful and may they be shared fairly. Bless the work of all those striving to minimize waste and distribute provisions to where they are most needed. As our farmers move into the time of harvest, keep them safe and alert for potential accidents. Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: The human soul can suffer when food, love, safety, and meaning are lacking. Heal those who have found themselves at any time wanting for the basic needs of life. Raise our awareness about deficiencies in our society and institutions. We raise up those with particular needs today, especially... Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You not only provide our earthly home with all that we need, but you have also prepared a heavenly home for us once this life is finished. Give us hope of eternal life with you and all the saints. Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord many of our cities are suffering from unrest and violence. Calm the anger that seems to dominate our present times. Help all races to come together in love and forgiveness for the wrongs of the past. Heal our nation, O Lord.

Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You have heard the cries of your children and the prayers of your people without us saying a word. We trust in your faithfulness to answer us, for the sake of Jesus our Lord,

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

• OFFERING

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P: When we realize how much we have been blessed, we desire that all your children might benefit. May the offering of these gifts out of our abundance be a way to help rebalance the resources of this world, which have been given freely but are not shared equally. Fill our hearts with longing for your justice, through your Holy Spirit,

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the "tie that Binds us together", let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: 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.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

* Please stand if able

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C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN “What A Friend We Have In Jesus” LBW 439**



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

Postlude

“Thank You, Jesus”

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Lector	N/A
Acolyte	N/A
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Greeters	Dean Thompson
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
FaceBook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Limit your alcohol intake

MIND: Talk with someone from a different generation

SPIRIT: Ask what you can do to help at church



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 6th
Matthew 6:9-13

This Week @ Trinity – August 30 thru September 6, 2020

Sun, August 30

10:30 am Worship Service
7:30 pm Confirmation Class on ZOOM

Wed, September 2

6:30 pm WELCA Meeting

Fri, September 4

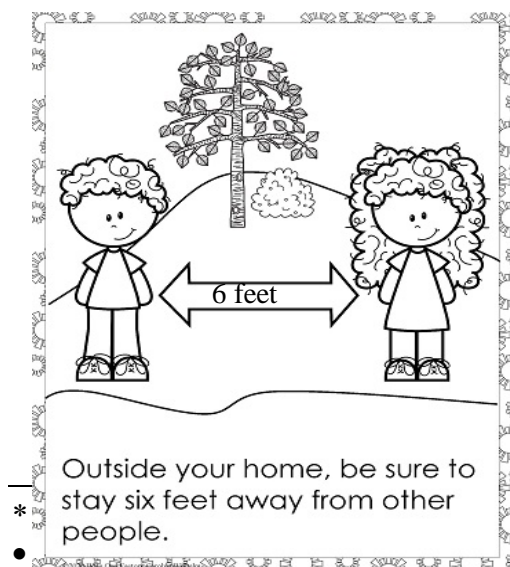
9:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting/LWR Kit Assembly Day
3:30 pm FISH Pantry @ 400 Markwith, Greenville OH

Sun, September 6

10:30 am Worship Service
7:30 pm Confirmation Class on ZOOM

Wed, September 9

7:00 pm ZOOM Bible/Book Club – Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers
(See your email or our Facebook events page for the link to the Zoom Meeting with the Meeting ID and Passcode)



THE GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree inside still has crosses with ideas for items to donate. Open the cross and take the paper with you or take the cross and return it when you drop off your donations. The basket under the tree also has items inside most of the crosses.

The baskets in the corner behind the tree are marked for either WERNLE or WELCA donations. Put your bags in the baskets to help keep the area as neat as possible. We will try to remove your donations ASAP.

THANK YOU!



Starting Wednesday, September 9th I'll be hosting a Bible/Book club Zoom Meeting every Wednesday at 7:00 pm (except September 16th due to Trinity Council Meeting) at 7:00 pm. The first book we'll be reading and discussing will be Lutheran

Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith by Martin Marty. It's available on Amazon in paperback or Kindle format. Please order the version you prefer and read through chapter 1 before our first Zoom Meeting. We'll spend about 5 or 6 weeks on this Book and then decide where we want to go from there. I'll be sending out email and text invitations with a link if you want to join.

Pr. Mel

We're making School Kits for Lutheran World Relief!

If you don't feel like doing the shopping, Linda Baker says she loves to shop (and Tony affirms how much she loves it 😊). Linda has offered and will be happy to accept any donations. She will purchase what is most needed to make the maximum number of school kits with what donations she receives. If you're like Linda and love to shop, here's the list that goes into a kit:

- 1 - Sturdy drawstring backpack style cloth bag— approximately 14" X 17", w/shoulder straps (handmade)
- 1 - Ruler—30 cm on one side (May have inches on the other side.)
- 1 - Box of Crayons (16 or 24)
- 5 - Unsharpened Pencils w/Eraser
- 1 - Pencil Sharpener
- 1 - 2 1/2" Eraser
- 1 - Pair Blunt Scissors
- 5 - Blue or Black Ball point Pens (No GEL pens)
- 4 - 70 Sheet College or Wide ruled Notebooks



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