

40 Days of Prayers and Blessings

Set 3

Day 15 – Shut Ins and Ministry to Shut Ins

Lord, bless Pilgrim’s elderly and all who care for them

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come. Psalm 71:18

Prayer

Dear Lord, we pray that Pilgrim Lutheran Church is hospitable to all of your people—particularly the elderly. Help us see the beauty and benefit of being in a relationship and sharing life with our elderly members who have much to teach us. Holy Spirit, move us toward action and help us to love them in both word and deed and to take the time to offer care and assistance. Bless all those who are ministering to Pilgrim’s shut ins. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Day 16 – Church and School Administrative Assistants

Lord, bless their faithful service to you

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School are so blessed to have administrative assistants who play vital roles at Pilgrim: Bonnie and Sandy. They both have been given spiritual gifts and abilities they use every day in a myriad of ways at Pilgrim. Their caring attitudes and common sense are two of their greatest assets, and they perform their work with a high degree of personal integrity. Their lives are a testimony of their faith.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

A Blessing for Our Administrative Assistants

May the Father’s blessings be upon you as you go into the world today. Carry his banner. Reflect his love; embody his spirit. Show the tenderness that he has shown you. Give the grace you have been given.

Day 17 – Ushers/Greeters/Guest Welcome

Lord, bless their efforts as they serve you

Ushers, Greeters and the Guest Welcome program at Pilgrim are a key part of the face of Pilgrim. They give a visitor their first impression of what Pilgrim is like. Their roles are very important and the care shown to visitors and members alike each Sunday is part of their ministry. We are blessed to have a group of people who show the love of God each week by their service.

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

A Blessing for God’s Ambassadors

Radiate the peace of God wherever you go. Speak as Jesus spoke, touch as he touched, love with the love of people who look forward to heaven. May you restore God’s love in the lives of those you meet today.

Day 18 – Altar Guild

Lord, bless their service to Pilgrim, and most of all to you.

Pilgrim’s Altar Guild plays an important role as they prepare the sanctuary for worship each Sunday including the altar, banners, baptism and communion preparation. We are very thankful for their service to the Lord.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:10

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who accepted the ministry of faithful women during your earthly life; we pray you to accept and bless the work that Pilgrim’s Altar Guild undertakes in the care of our sanctuary. Grant them a spirit of reverence for your house and worship, your Word and Sacraments, and preserve in purity and holiness their souls and bodies as living temples of your presence. Amen.

Day 19 – School Teams and Coaches Lord, help them to play and compete together to glorify you

The sports program at Pilgrim Lutheran School is about much more than just winning games. In addition to building teamwork, the coaches encourage the athletes to consider their efforts, attitudes and actions, whether they win or lose, in light of God's will. A recent letter sent to Principal Cambrice says it all:

I'm Eric Kaesermann, the principal at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Arlington. Our Girls basketball team played your girls at MLC last weekend in a very competitive game. I wanted to personally reach out to you and compliment your team for showing excellent sportsmanship and Christian character. Your ladies left a wonderful impression on our whole school community that day. Of all the games we played your team was very gracious and humble in victory. My team appreciated all the kind words from your fans as well. Blessings on the remainder of the school year. In His Service, Eric Kaesermann

Prayer

Dear Lord, my prayer for Pilgrim's athletes and coaches is that they will compete for you alone. I cry out and lift my voice so that in every victory and every loss they will glorify you and stand for the cross. May their love for the game be evidence of their love for you. When they put on their uniform, lace up their shoes and walk out of the locker room, I pray they will declare their loyalty to Jesus Christ alone. Amen

Day 20 – Pilgrim Food Shelf Lord, move Pilgrim members to generously feed the hungry

...to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood. Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. Isaiah 58:7-9

Prayer

Almighty God, it is difficult to see children suffer, especially from hunger. We ask you to give them daily bread today (Matthew 6:11) and end their persistent hunger. Open the hearts of Pilgrim members to provide the food families need to grow and thrive. Pour out your grace on hungry families, especially parents struggling to feed their children despite dwindling resources. Thank you most of all, Lord, for being our Bread of Life — the One who satisfies our soul's deepest desire with the joy of salvation. Open people's eyes to recognize you as the only Bread of Life for their spiritual hunger. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Day 21 – Holy Communion Lord, thank you for this wondrous gift.

As we learn in Luther's Catechism, the blessings we receive in Holy Communion include forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. These blessings are ours through Jesus' body and blood given for each of us. We are urged to partake of communion often as it strengthens our faith, and when we take communion together at Pilgrim we encourage each other in our Christian faith and lives.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:26-29

A Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus, I bow before you in humility and ask you to examine my heart today. I know that I am your beloved child because you have chosen me at a great price. The price you paid covered me for all time, and my desire is to live for you. Each time I take communion, Lord, I want to recommit my life, my heart, my thoughts, my everything to you. Fill me today with your powerful Spirit. As I leave this place, help me to hold this fresh remembrance and the story that never grows old close to my heart. Help me to share its message faithfully as you give opportunity. In your precious name, Amen