

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the First Sunday after Trinity

June 14th through June 20th, 2020

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the selection from the catechism and memory verse for the week.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism – The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Large Catechism: When Christ talks about forgiveness or the keys in Matthew 18:18, therefore, He puts the two side by side, loosing and binding, to make this clear. It is impossible to loose a sin which a person refuses to acknowledge as a sin that needs to be forgiven; such a sin should be bound to the abyss of hell. On the other hand, those sins that are confessed should be loosed and elevated to heaven. This provision in the Office of the Keys also applies to the relation of every Christian with his neighbor. He should be ready to forgive everyone that injures him. And yet, if someone refuses to acknowledge the sin and to stop it, but persists in it, you cannot forgive him—not on your account but on his, because he refuses to accept the forgiveness. But as soon as he owns up to being guilty and requests forgiveness, everything must be granted, and the absolution must follow right away. In other words, if he refuses to confess, his conscience must be burdened as heavily as possible, without any sign of grace; for he stubbornly insists upon being the devil's own. On the other hand, if he confesses his sin and begs your pardon but you refuse to forgive him, you have loaded the sin upon yourself, and it will condemn you as well. – Martin Luther

Memory Verse

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 16:19)

Daily Reading

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Sunday, June 14: | Proverbs 14:1–27 | John 15:1–11 | Psalm 110 |
| Monday, June 15: | Proverbs 15:1–29 | John 15:12–27 | Psalm 62 |
| Tuesday, June 16: | Proverbs 16:1–24 | John 16:1–16 | Psalm 13 |
| Wednesday, June 17: | Proverbs 17:1–28 | John 16:17–33 | Psalm 96 |
| Thursday, June 18: | Proverbs 20:5–25 | John 17:1–26 | Psalm 116 |
| Friday, June 19: | Proverbs 22:1–21 | John 18:1–14 | Psalm 85 |
| Saturday, June 20: | Proverbs 22:22—23:12 | John 18:15–40 | Psalm 61 |

O, Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Our Synod:** Matthew (Synod President), Timothy (District President), Aaron (Circuit Visitor). **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Those in Need of Healing:** Sandy Wehking, Kate Schilling, Randy Zimmermann, Jonathan Siddell, Rodney Tate, All affected and sick on account of the Coronavirus. **Homebound Members:** Mary Boeker, Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** 16th Leighton Albers, 20th Anna Childress, Hannah Hoffman. **Anniversaries:** 15th Jeff & Lori Schatz, 20th Jim & June Evilsizer, Nick & Brandi Gehrs. **For Government Officials:** Donald Trump (President), JB Pritzker (Governor), and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. **For Those Who Serve:** Armed Forces, First Responders, Medical Field. **For the World:** That God would deliver us from pestilence, sedition, rebellion, and economic strife.

Look upon them with eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer (From the Small Catechism)