



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church
11015 County Road 15, Plymouth, MN 55441

Pastor Joel Baker
Telephones: 763-544-7248 & 763-544-9170

From the Pastor's Office

As we conclude another year we can venture to say we are 1 more year closer to Jesus' return!
Are you watching and waiting for Him?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.** While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day.** We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. **For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.**

As God's people we do not have a fear of Jesus' return, we just expect it and expect Him to claim us as His own-no matter the time of day or season, we just expect Him to come for us. In the meantime we equip ourselves against the fear-induced darts of the enemy by putting into our hearts faith and love along with having the hope of our salvation. This world brings temporary joy at best but the world to come brings everlasting joy at the least.

Fight the good fight, run the distance for the prize that awaits you! Make this new year one of living more in tune with God's Word and His desires and less about you yourself. Learn how to serve and love others even more deeply than before. And keep looking for Him and expecting His return with great joy and peaceful satisfaction.

Shalom2u! God's Peace

Pastor Joel

Pastor Baker's email: shalom2u2@usfamily.net
Church email: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org
If you would like to receive this by email please send a message to secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org
Prayer Chain: 612-554-6823 or pep59@aol.com

January at PLC

Celebrate Our Congregation

January Birthdays:

JANUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 <small>New Year's day</small>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <small>Martin Luther King Day</small>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Kevin	Wempen	1/4
Avery	O'Neill	1/11
Amy	Caviness	1/11
Audrey	Krutzig	1/12
Martha	Koski	1/13
Bette	Hietala	1/20
Joan	O'Brien	1/20
Reuben	Aho	1/21
Lloyd	Walters	1/23
Kevin	Wempen	1/4

Sundays:

- 10, 17, 24, 31 9:15am Sunday School & Bible study
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 10:30am Worship Service
 also via YouTube & FB live
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship
 17 10:30am Worship service with
 Communion
 24 11:40am Abbreviated Communion

Tuesdays:

- 12 5:45pm Mission Committee Meeting
 6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesdays:

- 6, 13, 20, 27 9:30am Men's & Ladies Bible Study
 @ the church
 6:30pm Read Thru the Bible study
 @ the church

Saturdays:

- 16 9:30am Ladies Bible study @ church
 23 1:00pm Annual Meeting

Save The Date

The Annual

Meeting of the
 Plymouth Lutheran
 Church is set for

**Saturday, January
 23rd at 1:00pm in the
 Sanctuary**



. All members are urged to attend.

The Difference

"I got up early one morning
 And rushed right into the day;
 I had so much to accomplish
 That I didn't have time to pray.
 Problems just tumbled about me,
 And heavier came each task;
 'Why doesn't God help me?' I wondered.
 He answered, 'You didn't ask.'
 I wanted to see joy and beauty
 But the day toiled on gray and bleak
 I wondered why God didn't show me
 He said, 'But you didn't seek',
 I tried to come into God's presence;
 I used all my keys in the lock.
 God gently and lovingly chided,
 'My child, you didn't knock.'
 I woke up early this morning,
 And paused before entering the day;
 I had so much to accomplish
 That I had to take time to pray."

-Author Unknown

What endures to eternal life?

In John 4:34, Jesus says to his disciples: “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”

After Jesus fed more than 5,000 people miraculously, he says:

Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. (John 6:26-27)

Pray we understand the things in our life that perishes and focus on what endures to eternal life. If we ask Jesus for this bread of life, he will give it to us!

Refugee Journey

As we have gotten to know the refugees who we teach, we are moved by what they have endured. In their refugee journey, some have been imprisoned for illegal immigration, some have been sold as a slave and some have been abandoned in the Sahara Desert. As a result, many need healing from chronic medical problems and from trauma. ***Praise the LORD, Jesus heals both.***



English Classes at the Refugee Centers

David has used the story of the Good Samaritan this past month. With his students, they have had conversations about who is their neighbor and how does God want us to treat our neighbors. Carmen enjoyed a time of tea with the ladies and has started the story of Ruth most recently. Some of these refugees have been resettled and are now in Italy. ***May God help them in another transition by providing believers to help them in their new home.***



English Class at the FEU

David began teaching this week a group of men at the SIM university outreach center two evenings a week. Pray for their understanding of the Life of Abraham from Genesis chapters 12-25. *Pray we love both Nigeriens and refugees as God loves them.*

Home Discipleship Ministry

This school year, we have welcomed two sisters into our home. Dona and Tabita come from Maradi, a city in the east of Niger. Their father is a widower who pastors a church. The girls have started the school year and are settling into life in Niamey. *Pray for us as we care for them and encourage them in their studies.*



Thank you for your prayers and financial support. We are so grateful for your care for us the gospel work in Niger. Pray for us from Colossians 1:9-11, that we would

- bear much fruit in the work,
- grow in the knowledge of God,
- be strengthened with his glorious might so that we have great endurance and patience,
- and that we would give joyful thanks to the Father for our eternal inheritance.

In Christ's Love,

David and Carmen

David and Carmen Gunderson
dagunderson@teachbeyond.org
WhatsApp +227 97 05 35 69



Denisa Shares

From their November 2020 Newsletter



I have been reading Psalms for the last 50 days. I don't know why but every time when I decide to **read through Psalms**, I go through quite a difficult time in my life. The second wave of quarantine hit me a bit harder than the first one. I didn't expect it. I honestly thought that it is over. And as I was talking to people, I felt like most of my friends felt the same.

In the midst of these challenging times, God's Word and specifically Psalms spoke to me at a different level. And I suddenly saw what it means that **God's Word is alive**. Psalms spoke to me like never before because I was in a situation like never before. Isn't it beautiful? And in ten years, I will again in a different life situation, and Psalms will speak to me again anew. Because living God is talking. Always.

As I was reading Psalm 50, it said in verse 23: *"The one who offers **thanksgiving as his sacrifice** glorifies me;*

*to one who orders his way rightly
I will show the salvation of God!"*

Psalm 50:23

Thanksgiving as a sacrifice? Do these two even go together? Thanksgiving should come out of happiness and beautiful things happening. And sacrifice? It is connected with loss, pain, giving up something.

But as I was reading, I felt like it is difficult for me to be thankful in the midst of these circumstances. I don't feel happy or see beautiful things around me. However, God wants me to give thanks, even though I don't feel like it. At that moment thanksgiving as a sacrifice began to have meaning.

*"Offer to God a **sacrifice of thanksgiving**,*

*and perform your vows to the Most High,
and call upon me in the day of trouble;*

I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

Psalm 50:14-15



In September, we started a new year in our School of leaders. Till the last moment, we weren't sure how it will look like and if we will be able to meet in person. Thankfully, we all were able to meet in Zilina (the picture above) - with masks and strict restrictions. **But together in person.** It was really great for launching the new year. We got to know each other and experienced community.

tried to create an online meeting full of fun, sharing but also teaching.

October meeting was however different. We had to meet online because of the lockdown in Slovakia. We

The challenge that is ahead of us is the December meeting, we are hoping for the personal meeting, **but we are planning for both.** And this is the most difficult about this year with all of our ministry - we have to plan several options not knowing what will actually happen by the time of the actual event.

New Small Group -- Fisherwomen

I have been praying for quite a long time for the girls who started small groups recently and would need encouragement and teaching in the area of discipleship.

And God graciously answered and gave me these **4 girls that I can disciple** - Patrícia, Lenka, Vanesa and Martina (from left to right). We are going through material from Dann Spader called Live like Jesus.

This week we welcomed a guest - **Maruška** and she was **teaching us about Deborah.** We were thinking about her character and courage and we were learning to become godly women of God-honoring reputation with the courage to speak up when God calls us.



From Our Home



There have been many peaceful and also exciting moments during this fall:

- We enjoyed the beautiful nature close to our home.
- I finished another course at TCM (I am studying Practical Theology). The course was called Transforming leadership.
- We try to exercise regularly and go for walks.
- In Slovakia, we had testing for the whole

population. My mom, who is a nurse, volunteered and spent two weekends testing people. Our whole family tested negative, so we are thankful for the results.

A Guide for Effective Intercession

Every Sunday morning, our congregation intercedes: for our missionaries; for our military; for grieving families; for the sick for healing. The list covers one page of our bulletin.

If you are prompted to pray for a people group, perhaps a group that exists out of your comfort zone, the 2021 Praying for Muslims: A guide for effective intercession is yours to pick up in the narthex. It is free. The page below is just a sample of one reading. Each prayer day is Friday. Each page includes the theme, a short reading, a prayer and ends with a Bible verse.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020

THIS WEEK WE PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS DIVINE PURPOSE IN US TO INTERCEDE FOR MUSLIMS

God has kept us by his power for yet another new year so that we can fulfill our divine purpose of interceding for Muslims. Yes, he has placed his mantle of protection over us for a purpose. It is our prayer that we will fulfill that noble plan and honor his design for our life.

PRAYER
God our Father, Fountain of all life, light, faith, and grace, in your presence there is peace, hope and joy. I approach your throne with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Help me know, desire and do your will. Help me surrender all to you that you may accomplish every good purpose in me. May I continue to be a part of your divine plan as I pray for Muslims that they will come to freedom and life in Christ. May I never become weary in serving you in this mission of prayer.

Make your face shine upon me (Numbers 6:24-26; Psalm 67:1). Fill me with the Holy Spirit and power. Let your Word be the food I eat and the air I breathe. Sanctify

me through and through. Keep my whole being—spirit, soul and body—blameless at the coming of my Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

May I fear no one except God and seek nothing other than your glory. You are my Rock, my Shield, my Stronghold, my Banner, my Healer, my Shepherd. Arm me with strength and train me for battle (Psalm 18:3; 34). Only you, my God, the God of

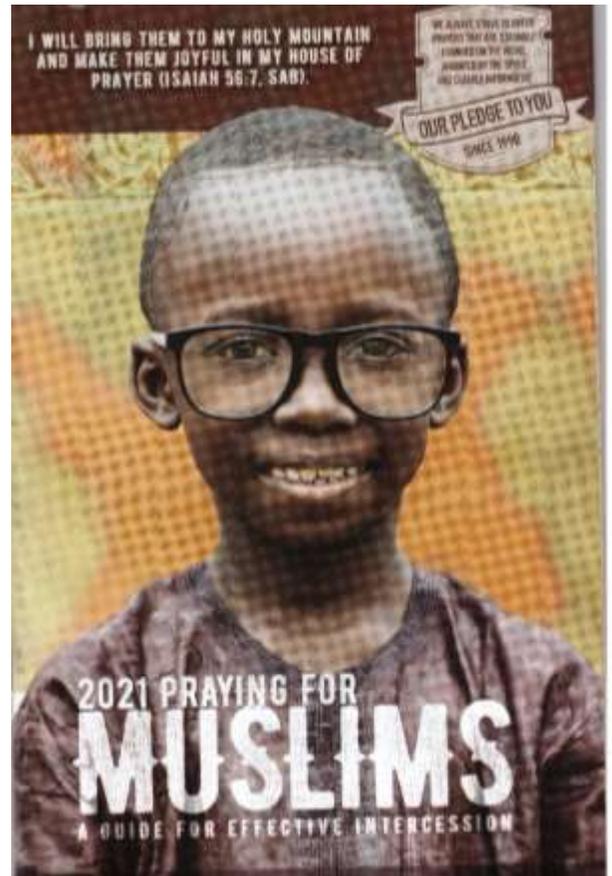


peace, can "soon crush Satan under [my] feet" (Romans 16:20).

Glory and honor and praise to you, King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

PROMISE
I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you... plans to give you hope and a future.... you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you (Jeremiah 29:11-12, NIV).

52 PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS / A GUIDE FOR EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION



May I continue to be a part of your divine play as I pray for....that they will come to freedom and life in Christ Jesus.

As we remember Dorothy Anderson

Mother of Terri Bloomquist

A lifelong poet



Dorothy
Andersen

Come Meet My Friend

If I only had one time
To tell you anything
It would be a blessed privilege
To introduce you to my KING!

He was chosen by his Father
Before the world began
God sent His Son named Jesus
To be born on earth like man.

He grew, and he was tempted
In all things, as we are
But he never was a sinner,
Still, He takes us as we are.

He died, His blood was spilled
For the sins of all the world,
He rose again to God's right hand
And intercedes with love unfurled!

With tenderness He loves you
He will meet your every need
So come, and meet my Jesus...
A lovely friend indeed!

Walk Among the Free

When into heaven's portals
The great and small shall come
Many will be gathered
Before the Three-in-One.

Chorus:
For Jesus died to save us
His blood at Calvary
Is the only means to get there
To walk among the free.

This glorious reunion
Is not so far away
The question is
"What have you done
With Jesus Christ today?"

Chorus:
For Jesus died to save us
His blood at Calvary
Is the only means to get there
To walk among the free.

And if you do not know Him
Please, come to Him and say,
"Lord Jesus, come into my heart
And cleanse my sins away."

If you know and trust Him
Just let Him take your hand
He will lead you gently
Into the Promised Land!

Chorus:
For Jesus died to save us
His blood at Calvary
Is the only means to get there
To walk among the free.

The Problem Solver: The All-Knowing One

**2009 is ending
2010's in view
The LORD our GOD is watching
With help and peace for you.**

Be merciful, O Father, the time is near at hand
For the closing of this age comes on like sifting
sand

**O send a great revival (No matter time or place)
Then we shall witness plainly Your Spirit's saving
grace!**

How oft we wonder and seek to know
God's full anointing. Here below

**And as it happens, we stand in awe
So fully blest... God's word will grow.**

In hearts and minds as seekers yield
It is mighty fertile field!

EXPECTATION

Back into my childhood
In the war years
God did listen
To the joy within my heart
As the snow about me glistened.

T'was like a wonderland
Large flakes came
Feathering down
Renewing in me Hope
That God was still around.

For I did not know my Saviour
This Jesus sent below
One star-lit night
In Bethlehem
So many years ago.

Now the promise of His coming
Once more renewal brings
As heaven and Earth adore Him
And alleluias ring!

Little did we know
So many years ago
That God has the solutions
For things we need to know.

We celebrate the birth
Of Jesus Christ the King
For He alone is worthy
He knows everything

So, come to Him
Acknowledge Him
And He will freely give
Solutions to our problems
As by His word we live!

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything but in in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:5



**Dorothy &
Herbert
Andersen**

Blessings

Christmas always meant a lot
When I was just a little Dot

We'd gather as a family
For fun and food, frivolity!

Exciting were the dolls & toys,
Games and clothes,
For girls and boys.

Best of all, we learned to sing
Songs of Jesus,
Saviour,
King!