

June 2010

Prayer Calendar of St. Paul, Lake Mills

Tues. June 1 God's faithfulness has never depended on the faithfulness of his children. He is faithful even when we aren't. When we lack courage, he doesn't. He has made a history out of using people in spite of people... When the disciples didn't pray, Jesus prayed. When the disciples didn't see God, Jesus sought God. When the disciples were weak, Jesus was strong. When the disciples had no faith, Jesus had faith. God is faithful even when his children are not. That's what makes God, God. **Max Lucado**

2 Cor. 12:10 for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. **2 Tim. 2:13** if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. **1 Cor. 10:13** God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

**LORD, I have been unfaithful, I have been unworthy, I have been unlovable but you have loved me at all times and forgiven me through it all. Keep me close through your Holy Spirit who works through the Word and the sacraments. Thank you for always being faithful to me even when I falter in my faith and in my walk with you. Thank you for your loving forgiveness, which washed me clean in the blood of my Savior, Jesus. May I hone, serve and obey you throughout my life. Amen in Jesus.

Wed. June 2 Manhood and Christ-likeness are synonymous. from **Manhood 101 (Honor Books) Edwin Louis Cole**

Psalms 25:8-10 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

**LORD, how we need Godly examples of manhood today; men who are faithful to their families and faithful to you in all things. Although there is no one who has kept your law perfectly, give us the will to do keep your commandments and the help to be Godly mentors to our young ones. When we fail, help us to confess our sins, repent of them and to live upright lives of grateful thanksgiving for the grace & mercy shown us at the cross. Help us to show mercy to others. Hear us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thurs. June 3 The more you build your life on truth, the better will be your way and the greater will be your life. **E. Cole**

Psalms 145:18-19 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. **John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 8:31-32** If you hold to my teaching...you will know the truth, & the truth will set you free

**Thank you, Holy Spirit, for opening our eyes to the Truth...of our lost condition, our need for a Savior and to our LORD, Jesus, the Christ, who provides the Truth and the way to eternal Life. Help us to live in truth with one another as well as testifying to these spiritual Truths. May we be men and women of honesty and integrity so that others may come to us with the assurance we will not deceive them. As we work and interact with others who do not know you, provide opportunities for us to witness to the Truth. Give us courage to speak Truth. May we speak with the conviction of those who are redeemed. Amen

Fri. June 4 Honesty is a direct reflection of your inner character. Your actions are a reflection on your faith. Reflecting the truth in your actions is a part of being a good witness. Learning how to be more honest will also help you keep a clear conscious. Character plays a big role in where you go in your life. Honesty is considered a characteristic employers & college interviewers look for in candidates. When you are faithful & honest, it shows. **Kelli Mahoney**

Luke 16:10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." **1 Tim. 1:18-19** I give you this instruction... so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.

Proverbs 12:5 "The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful."

**Dear LORD God, we know many who have recently or soon are graduating from high school or college. These men and women will be looking for jobs if they don't already have one lined up. We ask you to give them conviction and character, integrity and honesty in the work place. Forgive those who have led them by poor example of slothfulness or "just get by" attitudes in the work place. May all of us strive to do our best and be our best in glory and honor to the One who gave Himself, so we could have eternal life with him some day in Heaven. While we remain here on earth, let us be faithful witnesses who live in grateful thanksgiving and humility of spirit. Bless our efforts in Jesus' holy name and for His sake. Amen.

Sat. June 5 I hope your dreams take you... to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known. Anonymous

Eccl. 11:6 Sow your seed in the morning, & at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well. **Pro 16:3** Commit to the Lord whatever you do, & your plans will succeed. **Col. 3:23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

** Dear Father, as the financial situation in our country has dashed many hopes & dreams, help us to dwell on things above, but to live fruitful lives here on earth. May we be a Blessing to others around us & live with the hope of a better life in heaven regardless of the situation we find ourselves here on earth. As we await your coming with anticipation, may we never be found idle, wasting our time, talents or treasures, but learn good stewardship of all these gifts, regardless of how meager they may be. Help us to remember that all we have is from your gracious hand of Blessing & that any opportunity we have in life is only by your mercy and kindness. Give hope to the hopeless and allow all of us to set goals and dreams within your holy will. Keep us grounded in your Holy Word as we live with one foot planted on this earth, but our hearts in Heaven through Christ. Amen.

Sun. June 6 A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success. Robert Orben

1 Cor. 12:8-9 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

Psalms 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

** Be with our Graduates today and every day, LORD. As they set out on their summer, send your holy angels to protect them. Help them to live as your Children, wanting to please you, their Heavenly Father. Regardless of their home lives here on earth, may they understand they have a future in heaven through Jesus. As you have Blessed each one with unique Gifts from your Holy Spirit, help them to develop skills with the knowledge they have gained in their formal education and life experience. Help each to know you as the Potter who has made each of his works of art just perfectly for the purpose for which they were made. Give self confidence to those who have struggled with academics and keep others who have been academically gifted from feeling arrogant. May we all know our gifts and abilities are not our own, but on loan. May we praise you with all we are. Amen.

Mon. June 7 You don't get very far in life without having to be brave an awful lot. Because we all have our frightening moments and difficult trials and we don't have much of a choice but to get through 'em, and it takes a lot of bravery to do that. The most important thing about bravery is this — It's not about not being scared — it's about being scared and doing it anyway — that's bravery. Ysabella Brave

2 Cor. 1:7-10 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered... We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

LORD God, Creator and Protector, Redeemer and Friend, our hearts go out to those in the battles of Iraq and Afghanistan. We pray for protection for all our troops and help for the families which daily await word that their loved ones are safe for one more day. LORD, give each man and woman in our military bravery to take on their jobs without fear, but with the confidence that you are with them. As families and loved ones need to continue their lives regardless of the condition of their soldier away in battle, give them all they need to continue their lives to your glory. We also pray for all the fire fighters and police officers who daily put themselves in harms' way for our protection and safety. Let all know you, believe in Jesus' Saving work on the cross, and trust you for daily needs met. Hear us in the name and for the sake of Jesus, who went to battle to save us. Amen.

Sat. June 12 Friendship, not romance holds a marriage together. from **Manhood 101** (Honor Books) Edwin Louis Cole

John 15:15. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **Eph. 5:33** each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. **Eph. 5:21** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

** LORD, as you have called yourself the Heavenly Bridegroom and have referred to your church as the bride, awaiting your return, may we base our marriages on that loving relationship, where you call us friends who have been made aware of all the Father's business. The "business" of saving us through your perfect life and innocent death is what brings us into the marriage relationship, where you laid down your life in perfect submission to the Father's will. Thank you for loving us so very much. Help all couples to love one another in that type of sacrificial commitment, not seeking their own will, but in loving relationship consider how you gave of yourself. Help husbands to love and honor their wives and wives to respect and love their husbands. Forgive us for the many times we have failed to be friends to one another, but have been selfish. Thank you in Jesus, Amen.

Sun June 13 When I reach the place where I have implicit confidence in God's ability to manage not only the affairs of the world but also mine, as I entrust them to Him, I will have found the place of rest. **W. Phillip Keller**

Heb 4:9-12 *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* **John 14:1** *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.*

**Forgive me, Heavenly Father, for often not believing your Word; for times I have been anxious, troubled & worried. These are times of weak faith, when I don't trust you know what is right for me or for those I love. Help me, through the power of your Holy Spirit, to believe your promises. Those words from Scripture truly do judge my thoughts and attitudes. I cannot escape my own weaknesses when I see myself questioning you. Help me to have that "Sabbath-rest" here on earth, as I live with all confidence and peace in you until the time you give me perfect peace and rest in my Home above through Jesus. Amen.

Mon June 14 The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force. He is not Popeye's spinach or the surfer's wave. He is God within you to help you. In fact John calls him the Helper. Envision a father helping his son learn to ride a bicycle, and you will have a partial picture of the Holy Spirit. The father stays at the son's side. He pushes the bike and steadies it if the boy starts to tumble. The Spirit does that for us; he stays our step and strengthens our stride. Unlike the father, however, he never leaves. He is with us to the end of the age. **Max Lucado**

John 16:7-11 (selected) *I will send him (the Holy Spirit) to you... he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.* **Romans 8:10** *if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.* **John 4:24** *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth*

**Thank you, Holy Spirit, for creating faith within me through the Word and Sacraments. Thank you for the comfort you give and the ability to understand the Truth. Thank you for the wonderful, horrible stab of sorrow I feel over my sin. Thank you for the comfort and peace you give me in knowing Jesus took away my condemnation and made me righteous before God. Help me, now to worship you, the Father and the Son in spirit and in truth. May I understand what that means and trust you to make me alive as Christ lives within me. Help me to say "yes" to you & "no" to sin. Thank you for hearing me in Christ's love. Amen

Tues June 15 Why did He choose you? Why did He choose me? Honestly. What do you have that He needs?

...Intellect? Do we honestly think that we have – or ever will have – a thought he hasn't had? Willpower? ...Money? .. We were chosen for the same reason the five o'clock workers were. We are the five o'clock workers. **Max Lucado**

Matthew 20:14-15 *I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' Eph. 2:8* *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--* **John 15:16** *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

**Dearest Heavenly Father, like a child waiting to be chosen by his classmates to be on a team. Or a worker in the field desperately needing to be called in for a job to do, or a caddy wanting to be chosen by the pro golfer, we were helpless to choose you. There is nothing we could do to make us "worthy" to be chosen. Yet in grace and love you reached down in our lost condition and showed us kindness. We have nothing to offer in return. Yet you have graciously given us talents, skills and hearts of love through your Spirit's work within. Keep us faithful. Help us not reject. Accept our love & praise. Amen in Jesus

Wed. June 16 It is never worthwhile to make rents (holes) in a garment for the sake of mending them, nor to create doubts in order to show how cleverly we can quiet them. **Charles H Spurgeon**

James 1:6 *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.* **Matthew 18:6** *But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.* **Gen 3:1** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"* **John 20:27** *Then he said to Thomas... "Stop doubting and believe."*

**LORD God, Satan's tactics haven't changed much. His first ploy was to get Adam and Eve to doubt you and your plan for them. We run the same risk when we start to doubt your words and promises. When we are in pain or having trouble, we sometimes question your love. Forgive us, Father. Help us to STOP such foolishness. May we be strong in trust and faith. May we believe and teach our children these simple words, "God said it. I believe it. That's all there is to it." Forgive those who have created doubt in our youth's minds through "hollow philosophies" of this world. Help all to know truth. Amen in Jesus.

June 17 "A young man who wishes to remain a sound Atheist cannot be too careful of his reading. There are traps everywhere--'Bibles laid open, millions of surprises,'(as Herbert says,) 'fine nets and stratagems.' God is, if I may say it, very unscrupulous." C.S.Lewis

Isaiah 55:10-11 *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

**Holy Spirit, thank you for your quiet yet persistent working in the hearts of all through the written word. You have stated you want all men to be saved through the knowledge of the Truth. Knowing we can't keep your commands, allow your holy law to strike terror in hearts so that the need for a Savior is completely felt and understood, then help all to find the sweet comfort of your wonderful Gospel message through reading or hearing your Holy Word. Thank you for bringing many of us to faith from childhood on, with parents who were not perfect, but understood their lost condition and how you rescued them so they could pass on the good news. May we never shirk our first duty as parents in bringing joy to the hearts of our sinful sons and daughters by telling them of the love of Jesus. Open their hearts to hear and believe. Thank you, in Jesus holy name. Amen

Fri. June 18 All that we call human history--money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery--[is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy. C.S. Lewis

Ps 37:16-18,23,24 *Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, & their inheritance will endure forever. If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. **Prov 28:6** Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse. **Phil 4:9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

**LORD God, help us to find our delight in you alone. Whenever we try to fill our lives with things of this earth or of our fleshly desires, we end up feeling void & short changed. We are only complete when your Spirit convicts us and comforts us with the "Peace that passes all understanding." Father, even though we know money shouldn't be at the forefront of our minds, the reality is, we need it to survive in this world. There are many who are out of work, or behind in payments due to the poor economic situations. Many have lost jobs or taken pay cuts while price continue to rise. Families are struggling with debts, church giving has gone down, placing many programs and even positions in jeopardy. Help us, Father, as individuals, as churches and as a nation. Forgive us for the times we have squandered what you have given us. Forgive our nation and its leaders for the ill-use of tax dollars and the illegal activities of many who have taken advantage of others. Heal our land and help your people who call out to you. Show us what to do in these perilous times. May we show love to you and one another as we seek your will. Guide us all to carry out the plans you have for us with faith and confidence in you. Amen.

Sat. June 19 Marriage is not a love affair. A love affair is a totally different thing. A marriage is a commitment to that which you are. That person is literally your other half. And you & the other are one. A love affair isn't that. That is a relationship of pleasure, & when it gets to be unpleasurable, it's off. But a marriage is a life commitment, & a life commitment means the prime concern of your life. If marriage is not the prime concern, you are not married. Joe Campbell

Eph. 5:25-27 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless **Col. 3:18** Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

**Jesus, you have given a perfect picture of the bridegroom caring for his bride, the Church. Although you are to be number one in our lives, help all married couples to live in commitment, submissive love to one another within your holy will. May we truly seek the good of the other showing our children & the world what Godly relationship should be Forgive our failures. Amen

Sun Jun 20 When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years. Mark Twain

1 Chron. 29:19 *And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided." **Exodus 20:12** "Honor your father and your mother,*

**Heavenly Father, on this Father's Day, we ask your Blessing on all men who have raised or are raising children. Keep them close to you, dear God, for the rigors and challenges of being a father today are many. Teach them from your Holy Word how to lead; when to be tough and when to be tender. May they follow the Holy Spirit and be examples of Godliness, integrity, courage and strength to their children. Remind them to daily hold their dear ones up to you in prayer as David prayed for Solomon to stay faithful to you and to use his life in glory to your name. May children show love and respect to their fathers and be grateful for their fathers give and sacrifice for their well-being. Thank you for our fathers and the grace you have given them to be fathers. Now, LORD, may they know your GRACE and love, that they may give it to their families. Amen in Jesus.

Mon June 21 Have you ever been in a hurry when God wasn't? It's so irritating! You're ready, but God isn't. God wants to work on *you* before he works on the project. Every believer must go through the University of Learning to Wait (ULW). Some of us are still working on our degrees from ULW! Noah waited 120 years from the time he started building the ark until it began to rain. Abraham was told he would be the father of a great nation and didn't have a child until he was ninety-nine. God told Moses he would be the leader to lead his people out of four hundred years of slavery, but then made him wait in the desert forty years. Joseph spent years in prison before God raised him up and he became the ruler God wanted him to be. God had David anointed as king, but then David waited for years until he actually got to be king. We all have to go through these waiting periods. Even Jesus waited for thirty years in the carpenter's shop before setting out on his public ministry.

Hab 2:3 *For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.* **Psalm 27:14** *Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

**Dear LORD it is quite evident that you and I are NOT on the same time schedule. I often want the quick fix & the immediate answer to my problems. I become anxious and annoyed when I must wait. Forgive me, Father, for you know the best time and the best answer to my prayers. Help me to trust you in all things. When I don't see things your way, help me to feel the very pulse of your heart, understanding you have my best interests in mind because you love me so much. You proved that in Jesus' perfect life, death & resurrection. You prove that on a daily basis. Thank you. Make me a patient, trusting child. Amen

Tues. June 22 Hundreds of people saw the resurrected Jesus on at least ten different occasions...He wanted to assure his followers that he had fulfilled his promise and confirmed that our salvation is complete. Larry S. Collyard **11 Cor. 15:54-57 (GW)** *When this body that decays is changed into a body that cannot decay, and this mortal body is changed into a body that will live forever, then the teaching of Scripture will come true: "Death is turned into victory! Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?" Sin gives death its sting, and God's standards give sin its power. Thank God that he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Heavenly Father, death is such a painful reality of our sinfulness. It hurts so much to see a loved one's body in the casket & even more to see the casket lowered into the grave. But we do have hope: through the victory after the cross when you arose. Thank you for showing yourself to so many people who could witness your promise kept. This gives us hope & takes away the sting of death and gives hope even through the pain of death. We praise you, Risen Savior and say Amen in your holy name.

Wed. June 23 Jesus had another reason to appear after rising. Not only does his resurrection give assurance we will rise, but it inspires his followers to share the joy and truth with the world, to tell everyone how he gives forgiveness and eternal life. ...Spread the news! Larry S. Collyard

Matt 28:19-20 *go and make disciples of all nations... and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

Acts 13:32 *"We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers **Acts 17:18b** Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. **Romans 10:15** As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

**Forgive us, LORD, for selfishly keeping the good news to ourselves. We think of "good news" as a good medical check-up or a pay raise, or no cavities, but often take for granted the BEST news we've ever known> Maybe that's because most of us have always knows the peace which comes from knowing you, Jesus. Make us excited to spread that joy and peace. Amen

Thurs. June 24 Government has laid its hand on health, housing, farming, industry, commerce, education, and to an ever-increasing degree interferes with the people's right to know. Government tends to grow, government programs take on weight and momentum as public servants say, always with the best of intentions. But the truth is that outside of its legitimate function, government does nothing as well or economically as the private sector of the economy
Ronald Reagan

2 Cor. 4:8-10 *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*

**O God, we pray in the Name of Your Son, Jesus, for our country's economy. Our country is in deep financial trouble and we are becoming a weak nation.. Father, we ask that You would raise up people of skill and wisdom who will affect our financial future. Give them inspired ideas and a voice with those in power who can effect change. Cause Congress to vote within your holy will in all matters. Give them foresight for the future of our nation, not just its present so our children's children would be able to live in peace, and the Gospel message freely shared if you should tarry. Father, as your people, may we continue to finance the spread of Your Word and help the poor all over the world, We pray that You would continue to prosper us so that we may continue to assist others less fortunate, in this country & across the globe. May we Bless others in your name. Amen.

Fri June 25 At the foundation of our civil liberties lies the principle that denies to government officials an exceptional position before the law and which subjects them to the same rules of conduct that are commands to the citizen.

Justice Louis D. Brandeis

Genesis 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" **Deut. 16:18** Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly.

**O Lord God, we pray for the Supreme Court Justices of America. Knowing that they are appointed by man, we pray that You will influence the selection of each new replacement. As they choose other judges, may they be guided by you to choose people who will judge morally in every matter brought before them. As our Justices make their decisions, we pray that their decrees are in accord with Your Will, not that of man. Help them set a standard of justice and balance for the judicial office at large, not only on a national level, but for every one who makes any type of judgment call in our nation. Amen.

Sat. June 26. What we cannot reach flying we must reach limping. It is no sin to limp. Rickert

Psalm 37:18-19, 23-24 The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure forever. In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty. If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

**LORD God, we pray today for those who are physically suffering; for those who have faced injury through accident, as soldiers, stroke or any other ailment. We pray for those who were born with physical deformity and never knew the freedom of running with other children or possibly walking without aid. Help them to know they are not useless. May they find delight in holding your hand even if they limp. Make their "walk" righteous before you through Jesus. Help us all to know your sweet presence and to rejoice that we have a future free from pain and sorrow. Help us all to use whatever time of Grace you have given to glorify you and tell others of the Good News of eternal life through Jesus our Savior who died that we might live. Amen

Sun June 27 Is your Christian life in-balance or out of balance? Are you banging around and making a lot of noise or are things running smoothly in your life? Do you need to begin reading the Bible? If so, find a good modern translation; something you will be able to understand. Then, dig in. Underline, meditate, memorize and obey. Do you need to let others into your life? Do you need to find a way to serve the body of Christ? Do you need to allow joy into your faith? Perhaps you should try singing to the Lord. Pay attention to the words of the hymns we sing. Dare to express your faith in song. Don't worry about those sitting around you . . . focus on the Lord who enjoys the praise of His children. Finally, do you need to integrate your faith into your everyday living. Look for ways to be more God-honoring at the restaurant, at home, in the field, in the check-out lane of a store. Be ruthless with yourself. Confront the excuses, expose the duplicity, push for balance. Unionchurch.com

Col. 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**LORD God, we cannot be balanced without you. Our emotions take us from highs to lows. Our neediness to be accepted and loved create tension between us and those we love and want to serve. Help us, Father, to focus on your word where you tell us all we need to live here on earth, but more importantly how our eternal life has been won through our Savior, Jesus. Thank you for forgiving us when we are emotional wrecks and wretched sinners. Thank you for making us balanced in you. Help us to live lives of thankfulness and praise for all things because Jesus gave us all in himself. We pray in his name Amen

Mon June 28 "The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance. C.S.Lewis

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. **Psalm 43:4** Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. **Psalm 119:35** Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

LORD, it is true, the more time I spend in your Word, the less I focus on the things of this world. Help me to **delight in your word and not to avoid it. My sinful flesh and Satan seeks to keep me from the dance with you and the joy of learning more of your love for me and sinful mankind. Help me to see you through the eyes of faith and trust you in all things. May my desires and actions be pleasing to you. May we be faithful in church attendance, giving money and taking holy communion. Amen

Tues. June 29 Bring your word to the measure of you manhood and your manhood to the measure of your word. from **Manhood 101** (Honor Books) Edwin Louis Cole

Psalm 119:133 Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me. **Psalm 31:14** I trust in you, O Lord; **LORD this world needs men & women of honor; those who can be trusted to do what they say & will say things that are pleasing to you. Help us all to live up to be "Christians" as followers of Christ. May our actions be in line with your teachings from Holy Scriptures & when we fail, help us to admit our wrong, ask forgiveness & accept the free grace you offer at the cross. Let our lives be witness to your working in our lives but also to your grace as we accept it from you and show it to others. Amen

Wed. June 30 Find me a song to sing. Find me the words and a story I need. I could sing what I've always known. I think I'm running out of time and I'm scared to death of what I can't express. There's a word on the tip of my tongue but it's already been said. I think it's already been said before. Ben Devries

Psalm 143:8 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. **Mark 13:11** you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. **John 12:49** For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. **Psalm 85:6** Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

**Heavenly Father, none of us knows exactly how much time we have yet on this earth to tell others of you. May we take seriously the commission you have given each of us, to share the joy we have in knowing you. Father, give us each a song in our hearts so that we might share our joy even in the midst of pain and loss. Many who are experiencing difficulty of various kinds are witnessing in their situation more than those of us who are healthy and seem to have many Blessings. Forgive us, Father, for often taking for granted your goodness. Open our mouths to sing your praises. Open our hearts to love one another with words of kindness. Help those who are gifted to write, to use their talent to write about you. Bless those song writers, musicians and singers to use the gift of music to bring you praise. Help us all to bring you glory and honor. Amen.

Thurs. July 1 The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight. Theodore Roosevelt

2 Thes. 3:7-11 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

**Heavenly God, what a terrible blight on our country it is to have people who believe they are entitled to others' hard-earned money just because they don't have it! Father, forgive those who are lazy & slothful. Forgive those who will not work or refuse to change their life-styles of taking welfare in fraudulent ways. Give our leaders true and Godly guidance on how to change our welfare system, that those who truly need it receive help, but those who do not, will be brought to justice. Give discernment through your Holy Spirit and help us to elect officials and leaders who will serve under your precepts. Hear us in Christ. Amen

Fri. July 2 A creature revolting against a creator is revolting against the source of his own powers--including even his power to revolt..It is like the scent of a flower trying to destroy the flower. C.S Lewis

Ezekiel 2:8 But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you. **Isaiah 45:9** Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherd on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands'?

**O Heavenly Father, the devil, world and our flesh are always at war with you. We know that even within the Body of Christ we can so easily be led astray from following your will and way. We for pray your Holy Spirit to lead & guide us so that a moral, Christian voice can be heard by our leaders & the media. Open the hearts of those in leadership positions to affect change which is pleasing in your sight. Cause us, as Christians, to become the standard bearers to such a degree that we can profoundly affect the morality of this nation. Turn our people's hearts to you & your Holy Word that we all might have eternal Life with you with Jesus. Open our eyes that we may see the error of our ways. Gather all believers to seek your will in prayer to form a mighty front against the wickedness and snares of the devil. Disarm the evildoers, leaving them powerless and not in control of our great nation. Inspire our media--television, newscasters, reporters, filmmakers, and celebrities--to promote a truly moral social justice and morally righteous entertainment and fashion. May they come to a knowledge of the truth regarding their own eternal future if they don't know you as Savior. Be our strength when we are tempted to give in to the ways of this world. Help us to lead our lives all for the greater honor and glory of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sat. July 3 The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first and love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life. Theodore Roosevelt

Col. 3:16-17 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Philip. 2:3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*

**O Father, how unlike your commands we in our nation have been behaving! The selfish ambition of many of our leaders is so very evident in the way they vote within their party. Forgive and help them to seek the good and Godly ways. Forgive us, LORD, for seeking our own good in seeking prosperity sometimes at the price of our family or our integrity and Christian ethics. Forgive us for not fulfilling our duty to you & others. Father, help us to live lives of Godliness. Bless & keep us in Jesus Amen