

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

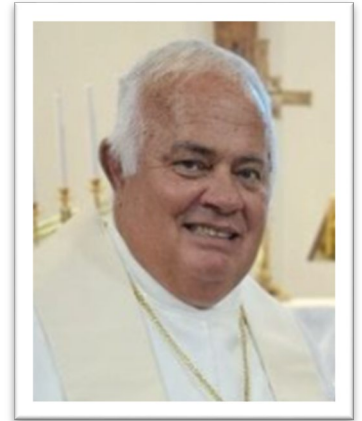
May 2024

Dear Christian Friends,

In my conversations with our members, the subject of our children and grandchildren is one of our favorite topics.

The Psalmist wrote this about our children, "**Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.**"

And in Proverbs 17, we read, "**Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.**"



Debi and I have been blessed with four children and 16 grandchildren. They bring such joy to our hearts! And since nine of our grandchildren are now in their teenage years - let me be honest with you - we have begun to wonder and worry about their decisions and futures.

With that tendency to be anxious over that which we have no control in mind, I have begun writing a series of prayers for our grandchildren. Here are the first five of those prayers.

First in a Series of Prayers for Grandchildren A Prayer for the Broken Hearted

Gracious God, the Psalmist teaches us that you are close to the brokenhearted, and that you save those who are crushed in spirit.

Today I pray for those of us whose lives have been forever changed by the loss of children not yet born. Draw near to those who are bent low in grief over "what might have been", and fill them with Your Spirit. Jesus, be our Good Shepherd, as You have promised, and follow us around with goodness and mercy in all the seasons of their life. Holy Spirit, be our Teacher, their Encourager, and their Counselor. Help us this day to rest in Your promise to be with us through thick and thin, for better and for worse. Help us to be still and know the peace and the joy that only You can give. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Second in a Series of Prayers for Grandchildren A Prayer for Physical and Spiritual Strength

Gracious God, we thank you for the incredible blessings of life You have given so many of our children's children. We confess that as parents and grandparents, we have often gone overboard in our zeal for success and victory at sporting events. Forgive us, renew us, and help our grandchildren and us to keep a proper perspective on all things temporal.



We pray for Steven Griffin and all of our grandchildren's bodies as they develop and grow. Grant them enough success to keep them motivated and enough disappointments to keep them humble. Bless their coaches with wisdom, as they mentor, discipline, and teach our youth. Watch over their parents, as they try to strike a proper balance between work and play. May our homes be safe places where families and friends travel through the ups and downs of life together in joyful and prayerful fashion. Help our loved ones to stay focused on You, dear Jesus, as their Savior, their Lord, and their Best Friend. Holy Spirit, we pray that You would be their Counselor, their Teacher, their Coach, and their Encourager in all the seasons of their life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Third in a Series of Prayers for Grandchildren
A Prayer for God's Grace to be Ruling in Their Hearts**

Gracious God, today we thank you for Grace Jean and all our grandchildren. We are so blessed to know that You knew and loved them before they were ever born. You knit them together in their mother's wombs. You have ordained all of their days and promised to be with them in all the seasons of their lives.

We pray that in all of their days, Your grace would be ruling in their hearts. Move them to be confessing their sins instead of explaining them, that your forgiveness would be front and center. Pour out Your Spirit on them, that they would be quick to listen and slow to lash out in anger. As they grow and mature in their faith, help them to see the beauty of sincere apologies and the ugliness of holding grudges. Help them to forgive others, in response to You, Jesus, forgiving them. As often as they confess their faults to You and others, I pray that Your grace would sweep over their souls, that it would guard their hearts, and rule over their thoughts, words, actions, and habits.

Father in heaven, help Grace Jean and all of our grandchildren always to know deep and how wide and how long is Your love for them. Jesus, be their Good Shepherd, as You have promised, and follow them around with goodness and mercy. Spirit of God, be their Counselor in times of confusion, their Teacher in times of trouble, their Encourager in times of sadness, and their Helper in times of distress. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Fourth in a Series of Prayers for Grandchildren
A Prayer for Hope Built on Christ**

Gracious God, again we thank you for our grandchildren and all the precious memories we enjoy, as we think back on so many pleasant events. We thank you not only for the good times full of warm fuzzy feelings and laughter, but also the hard times full of disappointments, failures, and tears. We thank you for Your promise to work everything out for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your promises.



We pray for Hope Christine and all of our grandchildren, that they would always know how deep and abiding is Your love for them. That You have a plan to heal and to prosper and to guide through all the seasons of life. That You will be with them and for them and alongside them through thick and thin, for better and for worse, in good times and in bad. That Your Spirit would be their Teacher in times of trouble, their Mentor in times of confusion, their Counselor in times of fear, and their Helper in times of distress, their Encourager in times of melancholy.

**Fifth in a Series of Prayers for Grandchildren
A Prayer for Hearts Full of Mercy**

Gracious God, today we pray for Mercy Joy and all of our grandchildren as they travel through the ups and downs of life in their families, schools, and circles of friends. We thank you for creating them marvelously, wonderfully, and with unique purpose.

We know that the angels in heaven rejoice every time a single sinner cries out for mercy, and with that in mind - we pray that our grandchildren would know how beautiful life can be as often as we confess our sins and experience Your mercies which are new and fresh every morning. Send Your Holy Spirit upon them day after day, that they might walk humbly before You and forgive those who are sinning against them, in response to You forgiving them. Help them to learn how ugly life gets as often as we hold onto grudges. Help them to live with such a passion for loving their neighbors that others are attracted to You, to Your Church, and to Your Word. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Larry J. Griffin

Easter Sermon Series: "Jesus at Work"

- **May 5 - Jesus Choosing**
- **May 12 - (Mother's Day) - Jesus Praying**
- **May 19 - (Pentecost) - Jesus Sending**