

**7/23/18**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

*Jesus was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you.” Luke 7:6-7*

Jesus’ words are amazing. What he says to the centurion leaves me in awe. “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel” (Luke 7:9). What did this man say and do to merit this response?

Certainly, he had done good things. He was respected in his community. He was even generous. Jesus, however, did not commend him for his generosity or his goodness. It was the centurion’s words which brought Jesus’ reply, that he was not worthy to have Jesus come into his house, or even for him to stand in the presences of Jesus. These are truly humble words which make me consider how I approach the Lord.

Often my prayers are like a “to do” list for God. They are more like demands than heartfelt desires. They are more like requirements than requests. My patience may even run thin when God does not respond as quickly as I would like. While I may think this attitude is justifiable, quite the opposite is true.

I need to learn an important lesson from the centurion. It was his humility before the Lord which made him recognize his unworthiness. It was also his humility worked through faith which trusted that whatever Jesus would do, would be a blessing.

It is this gift of faith which I need for my life. Not only does it bring me before the Lord in humility. It also makes me recognize my unworthiness to expect anything from the

Lord. Still, faith leads me to Jesus. It gives me confidence to trust he will answer me. It gives me contentment to know whatever he does will be for my good. It even gives me hope to know he will rescue me from the pain of guilt over my sin and give me freedom from the torture of the devil's deadly grip.

It is this gift of faith which gives me true humility like that of the centurion. It also leads me to confess that while I am unworthy of anything from the Lord, I can trust he will graciously give me all things.

***Prayer:*** *O precious Savior, I thank you for the gift of faith which brings me before you in complete humility. While I deserve nothing from you, I know you will give me what I need. Bless me through your love. Hear and answer all my prayers. Give me peace in knowing you love me even though I am unworthy of your compassion. Amen.*

*(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)*

**All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Proverbs 1:2**

**Remember in your prayers:**

*In Need Of Our Prayers*

Sue Whittier, Allan Champlain, Allan Champlain's brother-in-law, John Roth, Bill Geisser, Rose Marie Lenz, Jean Johnson, John Smith, John Ladner, Ellen Laurencell, Keith Haslam, Evelyn Lothar, Carroll Lothar, Marge Krueger, Carolynn Perkins, Tammie Mueller, Mary Emery, David Shield, Steve Schroeder (friend of Brenda Henschen), Bradley Orahod (great nephew of Cynthia Champlain).

## *Specific Prayers*

### Military Personnel

For Bethany and Christ the King Lutheran Churches that the Lord richly bless our family of believers with His grace and mercy.

John Saylor who is undergoing cancer treatment

Keane Foster, Marlene Fleming's brother who is experiencing many health issues

Two friends of Jodie Roberts are dealing with cancer

Jodie Roberts' friend's sister who was in a car accident

Allan Champlain who is dealing with health issues.

Marilyn Yelland is recovering from surgery

Don Bublitz who is battling lung and lymph cancer

Vickie Weston who is dealing with health issues

Ernie Kully, Sue Whittier's son, who has a lung disease and needs a lung transplant

John Smith who is dealing with health issues

Ed DePaola, Samantha Hultgren's son-in-law will be undergoing heart by-pass surgery

Dee Jahnke and her family as they mourn the death of her sister

Steve's (a visitor at Christ the King) mother who is in hospice

## **This Week In God's Grace**

**Today:** Pastor's Day Off

**Tuesday:** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Christ the King  
Pastor at Christ the King until 2:30 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. Pastor has dental appointment

**Wednesday:** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Bethany  
Pastor at Bethany

**Thursday** 9:00 a.m. to Noon, 2-5, 6-8 Pastor at Christ the King  
**Friday:** Pastor at Bethany  
**Saturday:** 9:00 a.m. Work Day at Christ the King  
**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Worship Service at Bethany  
9:30 a.m. Fellowship at Bethany  
9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Christ the King  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service at Christ the King

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

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