

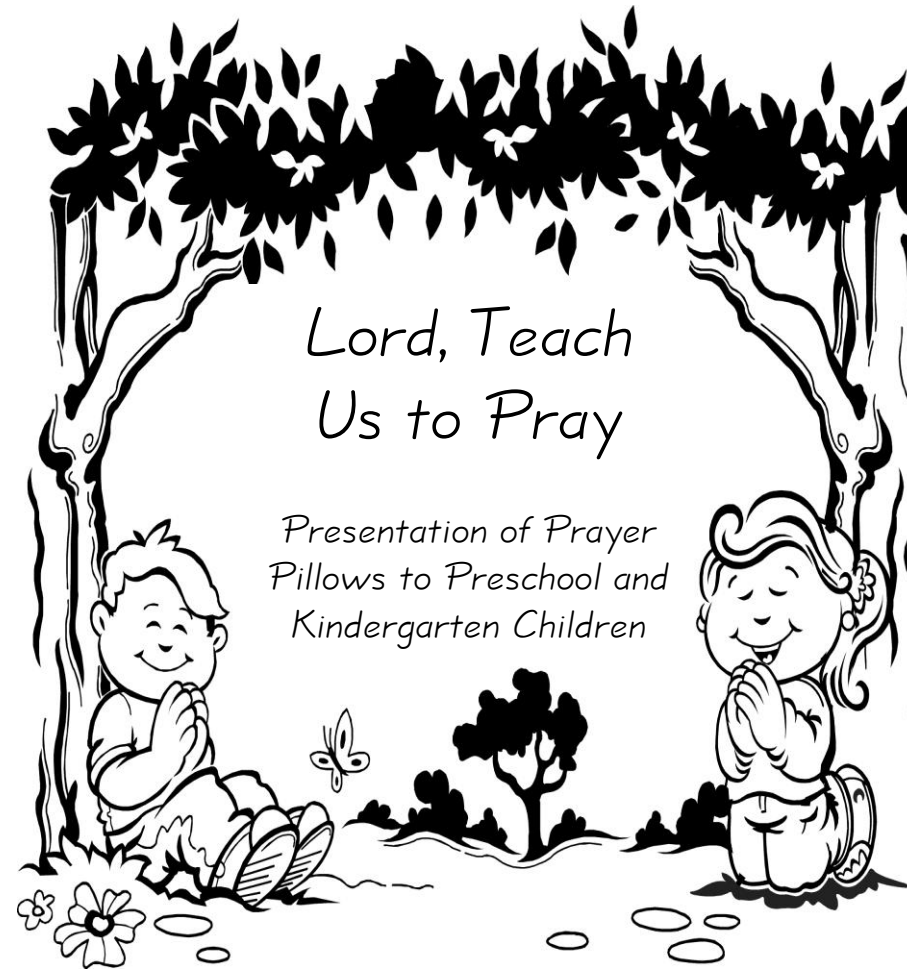
MILESTONES- What are Milestone

Ministries?.....This year the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church has been experiencing “Milestones Ministry”. Milestones is an intentional ministry that recognizes the life stages in our lives and in our congregation such as starting Sunday School, getting a Bible, First Communion, starting confirmation, and graduation. Each of these stages presents an opportunity for learning with children, parents, and those who love and care for them.

Most milestones will offer an event that includes parents and families, recognition during a worship service, and a special gift. All Milestones relate directly to the promises made at Baptism and holds the parents and the congregation in partnership to pass on vibrant faith.

Baptismal Promises:

- *To live with them among God’s faithful people,*
- *Bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,*
- *Teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,*
- *Place in their hands the Holy Scriptures,*
- *Nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God,*
- *Proclaim Christ through word and deed,*
- *Care for others and the world God made,*
- *And work for justice and peace. (ELW page 228.)*



Milestone Event

St. John Lutheran Church, Nashua, Iowa

Milestone Ministries

Worship Celebration: Presentation of Prayer Pillows

Leader: As the offering is being brought forward, we invite Preschoolers, Kindergarteners, their parents and their teacher to come forward with the offering to receive their prayer pillows. Teach us to Pray is one of our Milestone Ministry Blessings.

(The pillows are distributed as children enter the altar area.)

Leader: (holding a prayer pillow to your head) When I lie down at night on my pillow, or rest my head on a pillow anywhere and anytime during the day, I sink in, I relax. If it is traveling in a car or an airplane, I lay my head back and let the driver or pilot be in charge. If it is my bed pillow, I let God be in charge all night. This prayer pillow is to help you remember to let God be in charge and care for you and provide for you all day and all night, wherever you are, whatever is happening.

Your prayer pillow has a pocket for you to keep some of your favorite prayers, there is a booklet to help you get started. You can also write your own special prayer on cards. Pretend you are in your bed and getting ready for sleep....Lay your heads on your prayer pillow, and all of us in worship this morning will pray together. Repeat after me....

*O good and loving God
You made me and give me everything I need
Thank you for your forgiveness
And the gift of Jesus, my friend
Help me always relax in your love and care.
Help me live each day and night for you. Amen*

Leader: We would like to say thank you to the WELCA Quilters for making the Prayer Pillows.....THANK YOU! You may return to your seat as we continue our prayers.

10 WAYS TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHILD

One of the great privileges of parenthood is that we can ask God to work in the lives of our children. These prayers can be offered as a cycle of prayers for the week or simply used during the course of each day.

For the knowledge of God

Dear God, the Psalmist declares, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). In their busyness, may my children have quiet moments in which they think and reflect about God in their lives.

For salvation

Loving God, the Apostle Paul reminds us that the Gospel "is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). Help my children learn to trust in you early in their lives and remain faithfully committed to your ways throughout their lives.

For myself as a parent

Gracious God, fill me with sensitivity and insight that I may understand the best ways to guide my children so they may grow in your wisdom and love.

For parenting patience

Loving God, although family life is often hectic and busy, help me to listen with patience to the worries, troubles, and problems my children may have.

For kindness of speech

Gracious God, so many children have been deeply wounded because they have been the brunt of criticism, teasing, and taunting. May my children exhibit kindness in their speech. Let the words of Psalm 19:14 be true for my children: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight."

To recognize their mistakes

Dear God, may my children recognize when they are wrong and take responsibility where they are at fault. Give them a deep and sincere desire to put things right as quickly as possible.

For love

Gracious God, let my children follow the command of Jesus to "love one another" (John 13:34). Let them reach out with love to all within their sphere of influence.

For spiritual stability

Oh God, in times of moral uncertainty and temptation, empower my children to exhibit spiritual stability. May the words of Joshua have a firm grip in their hearts: "You are to hold fast to the Lord your God" (Joshua 23:8).

To help bear burdens

Loving God, let it be that my children are the ones who quickly reach out, helping to lift the burdens of others. Through my example, may my children understand the importance of fulfilling the call of Scripture to "carry each other's burdens" (Gal. 6:2).

To be salt & light

Gracious God, may my children learn how to cooperate rather than compete, to respect rather than revile, and to console rather than condemn. Even in their limited circles of influence, may they be "the salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-14).



Amen