

Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are living in uncertain, pandemic times. Congregations throughout our synod will be providing ministry in different ways, some virtually and some in person while social distancing. Wherever you find yourself in this time, know that you are loved and held by our Creator and Sustainer of life. Be gentle with yourself and others. Remember the grace God provides for us all. Participate fully in a way that you feel most safe. If that's online at home or together social distancing, be free to let your own wisdom guide your steps.

I am including parts of a free downloadable resource from Milestones Ministry, LLC, that includes opportunities to reflect on these COVID-19 pandemic times. I pray they will be helpful in processing our joys and challenges, draw us into scripture to deepen our faith, and give us a sense of peace.

Finally, may the prayer activities included fill you with opportunities to connect with God and one another, *at home or away from home.* (Deuteronomy 6:7)

Blessings,

Robin Souhrada

Director of Faith Formation

Bethlehem Lutheran, Cedar Falls



Button Prayers



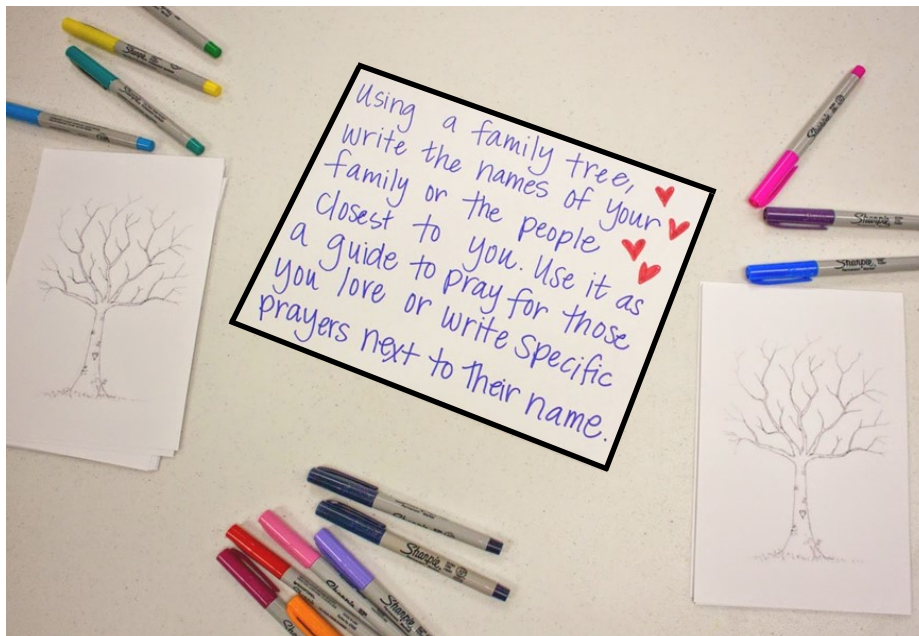
- Choose a button
- Feel the hardness of the button and think about people who are going through hard times. Ask God to help them.
- Buttons are used to fasten clothes together. Ask God to bring together people who have fallen out and moved apart from each other. Pray that God will bring peace.
- Look at your button and see how many holes it has. Think of that number of things you would like to say thank you to God for and say thank you prayers
- Look at the color of the button and say thank you to God for something that is that color.
- Find someone who has the same color button as you. Say thank you to God for families. Ask God to bless them and help them to live together and to love each other.
- Find someone who has a different button than you—it could be different in shape, size, or color. Ask them what they would like God to help them with. Pray for this person and thank God for making everyone different and giving us all different gifts.

This information is prepared for you by the
Northwestern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network
for use by families and local congregations.

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Connect-A-Prayer



Using a connecting type of toy, take a piece, say a prayer, and add the piece to another piece.

Watch how all the prayers of the community connect and build together.

Daily Prayer

Morning-time

God, remind me of your steadfast love throughout the day, for in you I put my trust. Amen.

Meal-time

Gracious God, thank you for the food before us, the friends beside us, the love between us, and your presence among us. Amen.

Day-time

Father, my praise I gladly give, in all I do, and think, and live. Amen.

Evening-time

By day O God, you grant your steadfast love, and at night your song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. Amen

Bed-time

God, grant to all a refreshing sleep. Amen.

MILESTONE MOMENT

SOCIAL DISTANCING DISCUSSION

Caring Conversations

Answer these questions:

- My joys and challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic are...
- The people I have connected with by phone, email, social media, or letters are...
- Some of the changes after social distancing mandates are lifted may include...
- God's presence in my faith life during this time has been...

Devotions

Read the following: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Phillipians 4:6-7 (NRSV)

What word or phrase stands out to you? Talk about how God can give comfort and hope during this time.

Service

Talk or think about how you have served others during this social distancing time. How can you continue to care for others in your home, community, and world?

Devotions

Light a candle. Say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.**

Pray: **Gracious God, be with all people and nations during this pandemic. Take away our anxiety that we may care for one another and live with peace and hope through Jesus Christ. Amen**

Blessing: **May the peace of Christ bless you with hope and joy.**