

02-23-2025 Words of Worship

Morning Prayer – Pastor Lois Harder

Thank you God, for your great love that keeps us rooted and grounded in you. Thank you for your Holy Spirit that strengthens and encourages us. Thank you for your Word from which we learn about who you are and whom you've created us to be – made in your image, following in The Way of Jesus to help bring your Kingdom here on this earth, as it is in heaven.

We thank you God for the children in our midst who sing joyful songs of praise and remind us that it's important for us to be child-like in our faith and trust in you. Thank you for their parents and families, for their caregivers and teachers, for all who nurture them and teach them how to shine their God-given lights in the world.

We're grateful for the Know Jesus event that happened in Hesston this weekend. And grateful that Myra could participate in that along with Tabor's youth. O God, may you bless the time that was spent preparing, planning, organizing, leading and accompanying the students through that experience. May that time spent produce good fruit in the young people – and the leaders – who were there.

We pray for the sabbatical time coming up for pastors Luann and Robert. Be with them as they lean into time and space to rest, to rejuvenate, to reconnect with one another, with family and friends, and with you, God. Send your Spirit to them and grant what's needed for their souls, minds and bodies to continue serving you with joy and gusto. We thank you for the time that they've spent here at Alexanderwohl, Robert for a shorter time and Luann longer, listening, writing, suggesting, observing, speaking your words of wisdom to us as she used her gifts in ministry and service with us. We pray for your continued blessings on both of them as well as with us as we all move forward having appreciated and learned from one another.

We continue to pray for Steve and Sandy in Phoenix. We thank you God, for this opportunity for them to be there, for Steve to participate in this clinical trial. Be with him, in particular as his body works to absorb this new drug and his mind and spirit work to stay open to the possibilities that the future holds. Be with both Steve and Sandy, with the doctors and other medical personnel. May your Love be their strength.

We pray for others now, God who we know are struggling with illness, pain, broken bones or broken hearts, dis-ease in body or mind. In these moments we call them to mind and ask for your healing for them... (silence) Thank you, God for creating us with such remarkable healing powers. Help us to trust you as we work with those whose skills and education can bring us healing in lots of ways.

We pray for your wisdom and for the guidance of your Spirit each day and in each circumstance. In the midst of chaos and confusion, we want to stay focused on Jesus. In the midst of angst and anger, we want to stay focused on your Love. In the midst of power plays we want to focus on your upside-down strength found in humility. We want to be your people, God, following you faithfully in this world. We're grateful that you are our God. Amen.

Offering Prayer –

Lord, we bring before you the common things of our common life;
our money, our songs, our labors to be you faithful congregation,
our needs and dreams, our joys and sorrows, our selves.

We celebrate all this with you, seeking the touch of your Spirit
so that we will share more deeply what we are and have
with all our brothers and sisters in our communities and our world.

In faith and gratitude we offer common things
made miracles by your grace. Amen.