

Good Morning!

Today we will start our prayer concerns for Pastor Bryce. He has one of those nasty viruses that are going around and is not able to be here this morning. He did get the service written but the sermon is all on me so say a prayer for both of us.

Nephew Drew, Kathy Albright, Tim and Kathy McMullin, Gail, Shirley, Alli's friend, Steve, Becky Mataya, others.

We all know that the different books of the Bible were written by different individuals at different time and translated at different times. This is Luke's version of teaching people how to pray. We are more familiar with Matthew's version which we say each Sunday and many other times when we gather. The meaning is the same but some of the words are different. This came up in our new member class this week. Why do we use sins and others use debts or trespasses. Good question. If you attend the Lenten Luncheon this week we may all say the Lord's prayer. We will say sins, the Lutheran's and others will say Debts, and the Catholics will all say trespasses. It's what we know, what we are comfortable with and yet still a unified prayer even though the words may have a slightly different meaning. I don't speak any language other than English but even in the English language there are examples. The word through, for instance, may mean finished, or it may be enter. I am through with my meal, or I will go through the door means passage, two very different meanings of the same word. I understand that when St. Paul's was first forming that this was a rather pointed discussion. The Methodist side wanted one version, the Christian side another.

Rev. Williams who was pastor came up with sins and that was what stuck. A compromise that continues to this day.

The next section of today's reading tells us that if you are persistent, someone will answer. This may be the philosophy of all the robo calls that we get for Medicare supplements or updating our cabal service. The difference in the Bible reading is that the person who comes to the door is a friend asking for help for their friend. If someone comes banging on my door at 2 a.m. I may say go away at first. But if they are persistent, and are someone I know, I will eventually wake up enough to help them out. Now this sounds pretty good that if we keep praying we'll get what we want. But the scripture goes on to show that its not that easy. If this person is somone I don't know, I'm going to call the police rather than go to the door myself. Jesus is the same way. If I ask for something good and reasonable, that is what I will be given. I will not be tricked by receiving something evil. But, if I live a life of sin and am. Not someone that Jesus knows as a believer, the prayers may not be answered. This applies to people whp know the difference between good and evil. People. Who know better but are not living the righteous life would gain so much by knocking on God's door. The Holy Spirit comes to those who ask. It may not be an easy journey but with the help of the Holy Spirit, it can be a successful one, For everyone who asks, etc.