



The **TRUMPET**

A Monthly Newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran Church

GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
AND FROM OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

NOVEMBER 2013

From the Small Catechism:

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

You may have noticed that it's a fallen world. November preaches that fact with dead leaves, bare branches, and increasing cold, and the Word of God agrees. And it's strange that in a fallen world so much good still rains down on us from Heaven, even before we ask. ***God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers.*** And the human race is not extinct. And you may also have noticed that you and I are both sinners. Conscience preaches that again and again, and the Law of God agrees. So it's obvious that we don't deserve all this good that keeps coming, ***even to all evil people.***

In between and on top of any hard thing that a sinner like me actually ought to expect in this fallen place, it keeps coming, ***everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body***, more than any of us notice, until maybe we realize that, at least in this neighborhood, all of us are in need – of more storage space.

We go along, coiled around our selves or our fears or our worries – or even around our real and serious sorrows. God goes along relentlessly raining down good things. ***Food, drink.*** It must be love. ***Clothing.*** Comfort comes for the disappointments and the shocks that really shouldn't shock us in a fallen world. ***Shoes.***

Comfort comes. It doesn't have to come. It doesn't need to come. But it comes and comes and comes: beaches and candlelight, Christmas trees and city lights and body surfing and wind in the pines, ***land, animals,*** and fireworks and the coldness of snow and the heat of our bodies and tomatoes and lawn chairs and running fast and falling asleep and the faces we love. And lilacs and stars and bright brass bands and paintings and

footballs and turkey. **Food, drink.** and twilight through the curtains and all the colors of the children's hair – all my annual Thanksgiving litany. **House, home.**

Yes (no surprise) there's corruption in high places, and war (no surprise) in too many places, and storms, yes, as the world's ending nears. But as the world's ending nears, how is there also **a devout husband or wife, devout children?** Until the world's ending, why is there also the needful daily bread? **Money, goods.** How is there any **good government?** In this place, and for us sinners, while we go along, working, sleeping, playing – even staring at a screen, it keeps raining down so usually, while we hardly notice. **Peace.** And any and all **self-control** - and so very unlikely, for me, at least, **a good reputation.** How are there any **devout workers, devout and faithful rulers ?** But there are; there are. **God certainly gives.** It must be love. **Good friends, faithful neighbors, health.**

I'm not telling anybody to count your blessings, and that for three reasons: First, because in hard times (living where the branches go bare and the cold gets colder) it can be hard to see them. Second, because in hard times it's easy to imagine that God (the same God who gave His Son into bitterly hard times for us) – that He doesn't take our pain seriously, or that God (the same God who punished His perfect Son to spare us and to rescue us from this fallen world) – that He's punishing us and not blessing us at all. And third and most, because nobody possibly *could* count the blessings that He keeps raining down. **Food, drink, money, clothing, good friends, health, good weather, house, home, devout children, goods, peace, and the like** in good times, hard times, all times.

And when I consider that “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous,” I realize that every Christian is always being twice blessed. You see, for His Son's sake He counts us good and among the righteous and shines on us and rains down good. **Clothing.** At the same time by our own doing we manage to be evil and among the unrighteous – and He shines on us and rains down **a good reputation** in His eyes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

As I say, nobody could begin to count how much He gives. We need help from Heaven to even begin to see what Heaven sends. **Shoes.** And that's why **we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving** while fall turns to winter all the way until winter disappears in the everlasting Spring.

Home.

Happy Thanksgiving, beloved,

Pastor