



AUGUST 2025

August is here, summer seems to be continuing its trend of ridiculously hot and humid alternating with cold, wet, and windy Northeasters. Can't seem to find a happy medium, oh well, either one beats snow, for now. July was a pretty good month, our youth were able to experience the LCMS National Youth Gathering and praise the Lord with more than 20,000 other youth. We thank the Lord for a good experience and safe travels. We also squeezed in our annual church picnic last weekend with over 60 people in attendance. A huge thank you to all of those who help with the planning and implementation, and a special thank you to Jeff Smuda for providing the music, I am not alone in the opinion that our singing talents are improving. Now next month we will be looking toward the resumption of Sunday School and Confirmation and also the Ordination and Installation of the new Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mellen and the Installation of the new Pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ramsey. And for the first time in recent memory, all of the churches in the circuit will have pastors, praise the Lord!

Well, on to our study of the ten commandments. This month, the one that is always the most challenging to teach to confirmands, commandment number six; “You are not to commit adultery”. Now I am guessing you understand the potential difficulties in teaching this commandment to young teenagers. Particularly, when there can be substantial differences in the social understandings of those teenagers based on their life, family, and social experiences. One thing I will say is that over the years of my teaching confirmation, those who have an understanding of Adultery are becoming younger and younger. While the name they use may not be the same, (i.e. cheating) the concept is there.

In reading through Dr. Luther's explanation in the Large Catechism, I found it interesting that Luther spends a large amount of time in reflecting on how this commandment is not just a discussion on adultery but a much deeper discussion on marriage and how God ordains and desires marriage and how adultery is not just a sin against husband and wife but against the sanctity of marriage and likewise against God himself and his desires and directives. Luther points out that among Jewish people it was ordered and commanded that one marry. And not only that but young people were to marry at the earliest age possible. He also states that "the state of virginity was not commended, nor public prostitution and lewdness tolerated as they are now." (the 16th Century – can't imagine what he would think of today?). He continues; "accordingly, adultery was the most widespread form of unchastity among them."

This is what he says about marriage in this commandment::

(continue on the next page)

(continued from the front page)

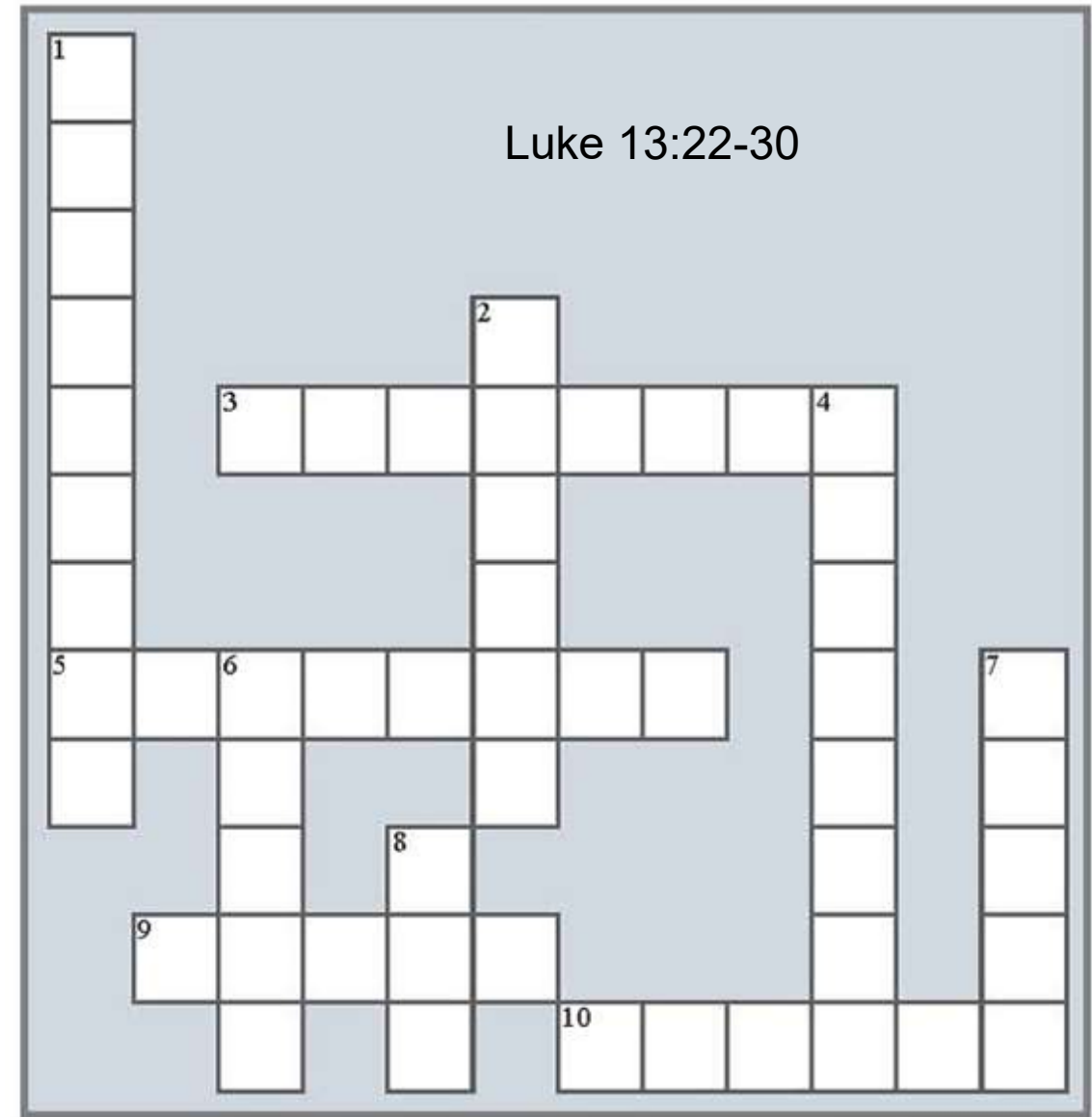
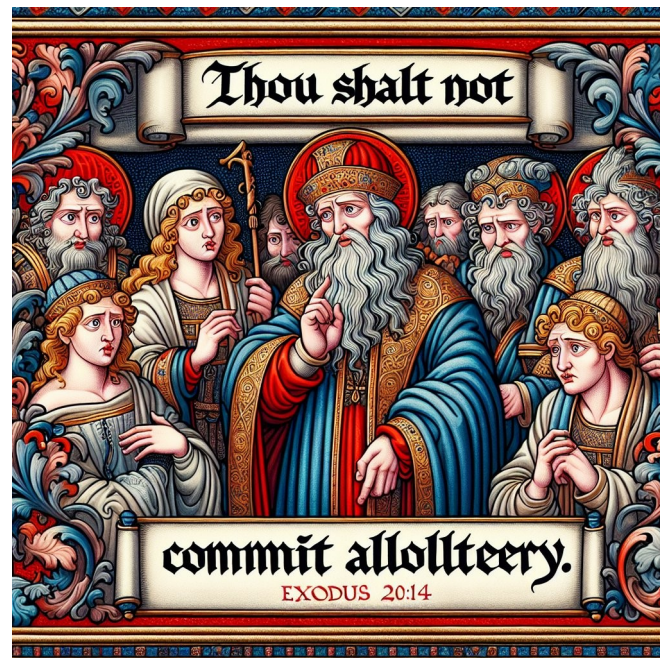
But since this commandment is aimed directly at the state of matrimony and gives occasion to speak of the same, you must well understand and mark, first, how gloriously God honors and extols this estate, inasmuch as by His commandment He both sanctions and guards it. He has sanctioned it above in the Fourth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother; but here He has (as we said) hedged it about and protected it. Therefore He also wishes us to honor it, and to maintain and conduct it as a divine and blessed estate; because, in the first place, He has instituted it before all others, and therefore created man and woman separately (as is evident), not for lewdness, but that they should [legitimately] live together, be fruitful, beget children, and nourish and train them to the honor of God. Therefore, God has also most richly blessed this estate above all others, and, in addition, has bestowed on it and wrapped up in it everything in the world, to the end that this estate might be well and richly provided for. Married life is therefore no jest or presumption; but it is an excellent thing and a matter of divine seriousness. For it is of the highest importance to Him that persons be raised who may serve the world and promote the knowledge of God, godly living, and all virtues, to fight against wickedness and the devil.” (Source: <https://bookofconcord.org/large-catechism/#lc-i-0206>)

So, I think it is quite clear how this commandment is in place to secure and protect marriage. Unfortunately, I think you might agree, the world no longer looks on this commandment as it once did. It seems in the world today that infidelity is almost encouraged. You can find all kinds of apps and social media outlets to help you “hookup”, all at the detriment of the sanctified life the Lord would like us to lead. Luther also spends some time talking on how the Roman Church by forcing chastity/ celibacy on those in Holy Orders, Priests, Nuns, and Monks is violating God’s laws and desires as well, but that might best be left for a discussion on another day. In closing Luther actually opens by pointing out this commandment like others is there to teach us to guard against harming our neighbor in any way.

Next month: “You are not to steal.”

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



FEW
ISAAC
FEAST
SAVED
NARROW
TAUGHT
EVILDOER
PLEADING
GNASHING
JERUSALEM



The silent auction that ended June 1st made \$415 . John Eyerly won the fishing trip with Randy. They had a great time fishing and limited out on lake trout. The three quilts from the sewing circle also were auctioned off and helped greatly to help the youth for their trip to New Orleans. Watch for upcoming pictures from The Youth Gathering in September’s Newsletter. It was a great time.



Watchful Servant: Luke 12:35-40

ANXIOUSLY	Z	G	S	P	U	K	B	W	S	X	O	H	G	U	O	R	H	T	U	G
AWAITS	P	B	G	E	K	M	A	E	L	E	A	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	N	Z
BANQUET	J	T	L	T	C	T	D	G	L	A	R	N	J	D	E	I	O	I	B	M
BE DRESSED	D	Z	U	E	C	O	C	I	N	I	I	V	P	B	O	M	N	N	I	G
BELIEVERS	M	U	E	H	S	S	N	X	M	L	E	S	A	B	Y	R	W	H	Y	V
BLESSED	R	I	F	R	T	S	I	D	C	M	T	V	T	N	U	K	T	B	D	O
BROKEN	O	U	O	H	M	O	E	E	W	I	E	E	E	B	T	C	N	H	B	Z
BURNING	L	V	G	Y	U	A	R	D	A	A	U	D	S	R	E	S	S	I	K	C
DAYBREAK	U	I	U	S	F	Z	S	W	B	Q	T	P	I	P	S	L	V	Y	H	W
DOOR	N	R	L	I	F	H	A	T	N	G	M	C	X	A	U	I	P	H	A	T
EXPECT HIM	U	Y	N	V	T	B	D	A	E	A	Q	E	H	P	T	X	F	T	C	U
FINDS	K	D	U	R	G	U	B	N	L	R	Q	C	E	Y	A	E	C	G	K	M
GIRDED	S	A	U	W	R	R	T	H	I	R	D	W	A	T	C	H	L	N	K	U
IMMEDIATELY	Q	L	N	E	L	N	U	Y	V	V	Q	I	N	O	I	Q	O	Y	A	G
KNOCKETH	Y	V	E	W	F	I	T	O	W	A	R	D	O	N	P	C	E	V	E	N
LAMPS BURNING	U	D	L	E	R	N	Y	D	E	D	R	I	G	D	K	N	L	Y	R	I
MASTER	B	A	I	O	J	G	M	A	O	V	W	I	I	E	C	I	W	P	B	D
NIGHT	H	H	O	Q	E	R	O	F	E	R	E	H	T	K	E	J	L	X	Y	D
RECLINE	T	D	B	R	O	K	E	N	I	I	P	H	E	H	L	C	F	Y	A	E
SECOND WATCH	H	N	C	R	T	K	P	O	X	D	E	S	S	E	R	D	E	B	D	W
SERVANTS																				
SERVICE																				
THEREFORE																				
THIEF																				
THINK																				
THIRD WATCH																				
THROUGH																				
TOWARD																				
TRULY																				
WATCHFUL																				
WATCHING																				
WEDDING																				
YE																				

A Story For The End Of Summer Janice M. Flanders

It's a weird time of year If I am being honest. Not weird in a bad or eerie way. Weird in a weird sort of way. August has always been like a yearly fork in the road.

Growing up, the end of summer was about going back to school. Summer fun was over. Shopping for new bookbags and school clothes did not excite me. It was time to settle in, get back to schoolwork and stay focused on my classes.

Too soon to turn my attention to thoughts of the holidays. They were too far away.

I've always been oddly nostalgic about the end of summer. There has always been something about saying goodbye to summer that is different than all of the other season changes.

I'm in a pensive state of mind at the beginning of August, but by the time fall officially comes in September, I'm looking forward to long walks with golden, red, and russet-colored leaves crackling under my feet. I love Autumn, but I first have to mourn the passing of Summer.

It may sound like hyperbole to some of you, but it's the only way I can describe it. Summer's end has always seemed like I was losing something, like a friend moving away.

Not to worry, I'll be gearing up for Fall and Halloween she-nanigans soon enough.

As I stand at this year's fork in the road, I'll wave goodbye to my friend and say, see you next Summer.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st .– 7th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)
Bible Studies
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479
Office Hours: M /Th 9-5 Tu. Off or 11-3 Wed. 12-8 Fri. 10-2 or off
Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/T/Wed 9:00-2:30
Days and times may change.

Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 **Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185
LFOJ Administrator: JoAnn Martkonis 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home
Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

Ingrid Pocernich
Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION
For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

David Wright
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING
For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Brad Prill	Vi Basina	James Fletcher
Harold Larson	Linda Stenroos	Steve Key
Tim Erickson	Patty Hmielewski	Pam Ekholm
Don Pocernich	Jamie Klema	Keith Tveit
Ingrid Pocernich	Karen Piff	Riley Bretting
Mike Trimble	Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish
Chuck Sandor	Mary Dahl	Cheryl Hildebrandt
Dwayne Lynch	Tom Anderson	Karl Wellnitz
Don Pocernich	Bill Swartz	Rick Kallio
Larry Hildebrandt	Octavia Pearce	Cindy Lazorik
Tracy Thompson	Clyde Sukanen	
Karen Wayne	Casey	
Chuck Betsy		

And those in our hearts

Dear Lord, We lift up those who are suffering from illness and pain. Please extend your healing hand to touch their bodies, minds, and spirits. We ask for strength, knowing that you are the ultimate healer. Bless them with health and wholeness, Lord, and may they feel your loving touch. Thank you for your mercy and the precious gift of health. Amen.



The Secret of Blackrock Island

When twins Aiden and Mira found a dusty, locked chest in their grandfather's attic, they didn't expect it to hold a hand-drawn pirate map, complete with jagged coastlines, strange symbols, and a giant red X near a place called Blackrock Island.

Grandpa only smiled when they showed him. "Some things are meant to be discovered by brave hearts," he whispered. "But remember, what leads the way has no eyes, yet sees all."

With the map in hand, Aiden and Mira set out on a summer voyage, sailing through crashing waves and dodging squawking seagulls overhead. After days at sea, they spotted it, an island shaped like a black tooth rising out of the water.

The shore was lined with slippery rocks and tangled vines. They followed the map through the buzzing jungle, past an old bridge, and into a shadowy cave.

There, carved into the wall, was a final clue:
*"To find the treasure hidden deep,
Beyond the rocks and ocean steep,
Solve this riddle, brave and wise.
What shows the way, though it has no eyes?"*

Mira turned to Aiden. "It must be something from our adventure... maybe even a word we've seen before."

Can you solve the puzzle and the riddle?



Dear parents and guardians,
Our 4th of July float was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way!
We are working on getting shirts made and are hoping to have them available for staff and families soon!



TOTVILLE NEWS: Greetings from the Infant Room!

Summer seems to be flying by. We hope everyone had a fun and safe 4th of July holiday!

The little ones have been enjoying a lot of outdoor play. Also, water play on hot days. They have come in hungry and tuckered out, ready for lunch and a nap. Our new friend, Julie, is adjusting well. She has had no problem making friends.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

LEARNER LANE: The Learner themes this month include 4th of July, circus, dinosaurs, the beach, and the ocean. We read the Bible stories of Jesus goes to Heaven, the First Church, the Lame Man, and Saul is a changed man.

We have been loving all the extra time outside lately! I am hoping to be able to have a water day soon.

Summer is in full swing! We have been playing lots of games, having dance parties, and making plenty of memories!

-Ms. Hanna



TODDLER TIDBITS: The Toddler room has been working on sharing and taking turns. They have been participating in a sharing circle where they practice asking for a turn with a toy and pass it in the circle.

We have also been talking about oceans and learned the song "slippery fish." This week, we did a flashlight scavenger hunt and worked together to make playdough!

Next week, we will be talking about recycling and making sensory bottles out of recycled items! If any families have empty plastic bottles, we could use for our project, please send them on Monday. Thank you! It has been so fun getting to know these wonderful tod-

LFOJ WISH LIST/NEEDS

Monthly:
Regular paper towel and/or Tri Fold paper towel
Toilet paper
Hand soap (unscented is best, Must be antibacterial)
Great value brand canned fruits
Natural peanut butter
Parent's choice gentle baby formula (must be iron-fortified)
Ragu spaghetti sauce
Prego alfredo sauce
All natural ketchup (no high fructose corn syrup)
Tomato soup
Graham crackers
Vanilla wafers
Elbow noodles
Other wish list items:
Foam tumbling mats

God Bless,
Tressa Groom
Director
JoAnn Martikonis
Administrator

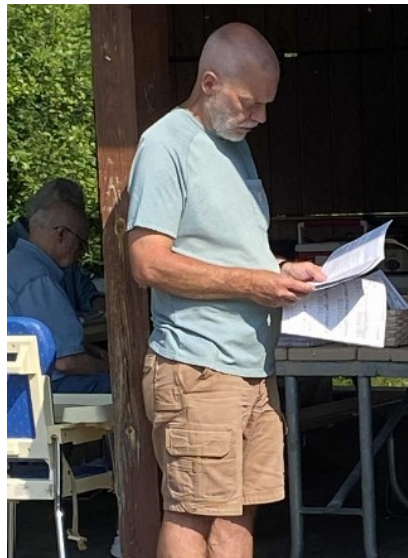
COOK'S CORNER

Pizza Burgers

1 pound of hamburger
1 tsp of basil
1 tsp of italian spice
1 jar of pizza sauce
Shredded cheddar cheese
Hamburger buns

Brown the hamburger.
Mix the seasonings with the sauce and hamburger. Place open faced on hamburger buns. Top with shredded cheddar cheese.





**Church Service and Picnic
Sunday, August 3, 2025**

Prentice Park

A great time was held by all..
Hearing the word of God, and
praising God with singing.
Then, followed with comradery
and good food.



Silence is Golden, unless you have children, then silence is suspicious....very suspicious.....
Having one child makes you a parent: having tow you are a referee.” David Frost

“It is amazing how quickly the kids learn to drive a car, yet are unable to understand the
lawnmower, snow-blower, or vacuum cleaner.” – Ben Bergor



Andre, Tiffany, Cadence,

Gloria, Maria, Eli

2025 LCMS Youth Gathering – New Orleans

We would like to thank the Zion Lutheran Church congregation for their financial help, support, and prayers for our group who attended the LCMS youth gathering in New Orleans in July. We had a wonderful time during the week there learning about the theme of Endure from Hebrews 12 1-3. The days were hot with walking to the convention center for Bible study, learning sessions, and playing group games and activities. The mass events in the evenings at the Caesar Super Dome were enjoyed with music and guest speakers. We had time to explore some of the city including the French Quarter, the WWII museum, and ate at a couple New Orleans restaurants for some local food of jambalaya, po'boy sandwiches, gator bites, and beignets. The attendees will make posters to show some of their favorites from the week. Look for those to be in the narthex in the upcoming weeks.

Maria, Tiffany, Eli, Gloria, Cadence, and Andre

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother? He said, "Call be backup."

A clean conscience is a sign of a bad memory.

Restaurant sign: We do not have wi-fi. Talk to each other... Pretend it's 1995. .

I was born to make Mistakes.



...Not to Fake perfection.

5 Bible Verses to Battle the Summer Heat Rick Hamlin

Heat getting to you? Wonder how you're going to get through August? Giving thanks for your air-conditioning? (Dr. Peale used to say that the biggest life-changing invention of the 20th century was the air conditioner.) Take cooling solace in these verses—and while you're at it, a cooling glass of water.

1) As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22)

This is the way God planned it, the seasons folding into each other. When I want to curse the heat, I think of how I will feel on a bitterly cold day—I might even miss the heat.

2) "...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." (Matthew 10:42)

A hot day might offer a chance to cool yourself off as you cool someone else off. Think what a cup of cold water would have meant in Jesus' time, as close as you could get to air conditioning.

A man visited his doctor, and the doctor checked him over before commenting, "It looks like you get a fair bit of exercise."

The man replied, "Oh yeah, in fact, just the other day I walked 5 miles over rugged terrain as I climbed over rock and trees. I also waded along the edges of a lake, pushing my way through tall thistles, and even slid down sandy slopes while getting sand in my eyes."

The doctor was quite impressed. "Well, you are certainly a dedicated outdoor enthusiast."

The man replied, "Not really, doctor. I'm just a really bad golfer."



3) Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. (Psalm 19:6)

Sometimes I remind myself that God is in the heat (as I take refuge in the shade). After all, where does the heat come from? The sun, of course, and we would all wither and die without it. Just as nothing is hid from God, nothing escapes the sun's rays.

4) Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. (Proverbs 25:25)

Jesus is the good news, and He is ready to fill all thirsty souls. Yes, check the weather. Be prepared. On a hot day I go out for my morning (slow) jog first thing, before the worst of the heat kicks in, but that's not all my thirsty soul requires.

5) They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. (Isaiah 49:10)

Just when you want to say, "I can't last another day in this heat," remember the One who has pity on us and guides us no matter the weather or the season. Those cooling springs of water are nearby, no matter what. Look for them. And thank God for that air conditioning too.

A Prayer for Today

This evergreen prayer for peace and unity, spoken by astronaut Frank Borman in 1968 while orbiting the moon, still holds true to this day.

Give us, o God, the vision which can see Thy love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Thy goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

