

30 Days of Prayer

Day 15

Luke 10.30-37

³⁰Jesus [said], 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' ³⁷He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Jesus told this parable so that we might recognize Jesus in all people. He identified the Samaritan, an outcast in his time, as the neighbor of the man who was beaten. His call is not only to identify the Samaritan as a good neighbor, but to lift up the compassion that the Samaritan had as a quality that we should have for one another.

Shepherd of the Hills has a compassionate team of caring and hospitality ministers. Today we lift them up and offer our thanks for the love they show our neighbors every day.

God who has identified our neighbors as all those around us,

You have told me who my neighbor is. You have showed me how to love and care for my neighbor. Yet I continue to spend my time, energy, and money on myself and my own family and friends. Help me to see beyond my own needs to the needs of others. Help me to remember that when I am serving you by serving others, you have promised to provide for all my needs. Help me to be generous in my giving and in my serving. We offer praise and thanks for the many caring and hospitality ministers in our midst who model servant leadership... *(take all the time you need to name the members of the caring and hospitality teams and thank God for the blessing that each of them has been in your life).*

Gary Poorman, *Via de Christo liaison*, for his passion for this transforming ministry that brings people to Christ...

Billie Poorman, *Via de Christo liaison*, for her generous spirit and abundant faith...

Dick Schulze, *Stephen Ministry Team coordinator*, for his commitment to Shepherd of the Hills, and his care for those who need a listening ear...

Carole Schulze, *Stephen Ministry Team coordinator and WELCA treasurer*, for her tireless work on the newsletter so that others may know the thriving ministries at Shepherd, and for her compassion for those who are lonely...

Norma Langehough, *Deborah Circle leader*, for her willingness to host others as they explore their growing faith lives...

Ann Silrum, *Lydia Circle leader*, for her commitment to this congregation and the women who worship here...

Nancy Olseth, *Lois Circle leader*, for her kindness and enthusiasm for women's ministries...

Marge Bullemer, *Lois Circle leader*, for her dedication to the women at Shepherd who want to continue in a deep relationship with Jesus Christ...

Ginny Gunderson, *Quilters Team leader*, for her years of service and caring for those in need of basic items like clothing and a warm blanket...

Betty Edmundson, *Prayer Chain Team leader*, for her devotion in prayer and her witness to the power of prayer...

Delores Shjefte, *Good Company Team leader*, for her loyalty to the seniors in the congregation who have been models of faith for years...

Ruth Rand, *Good Company Team leader*, for her persistence in inviting others into fellowship and faith...

Lorraine Cushman, *Wednesday Morning Bible Study Team leader*, for her consistent leadership in bringing others to the Bible and for making sure all are well fed, physically and spiritually...

LaVerne Olson, *Wednesday Morning Bible Study Team leader*, who has been battling illness for several months, for her kindness and generosity, and her love for others...

Rich Rinker, *Appreciation and Recognition Ministry Team leader*, for his gift of gratitude and his willingness to share with others how much they mean to this congregation...

Donna Duchene, *Wedding Coordination Team leader*, for her commitment to ICA, and for her kindness toward those who are committing themselves to a marriage union that is blessed by God...

Sue Bohnsack, *Wedding Coordination Team leader*, for her commitment to those who have come to this congregation to celebrate their marriage vows...

Pam Mitchell, *New Members Team leader*, for her openness in welcoming those who are new into our church family, and for showing them how they might use God's given gifts and talents to serve in a variety of ways...

Sue Kreager, *Sunday Hospitality Hour leader*, for her dedication to bringing worshipers into fellowship week by week, making this congregation more than an organization, but a family...

For all funeral luncheon team leaders, for their unfailing compassion toward families who have lost loved ones, and for their being the hands and feet of Christ when people are most in need of Christ's presence...

Thank you, Lord, for the models of kindness and faithfulness that each of these servants is to me. Help me to find my own gifts, that I may serve you and love you by serving and loving others. In the name of Christ,
Amen.