



## Wednesday Prayer

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Knock and the door will be opened for you

***“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:9-13***

When my daughters were young, it seemed like they asked me “Mommy, can I have...?” a hundred times a day. Children know that they’re dependent on adults to provide for their needs. As we grow into adulthood, we do more for ourselves, and often slip into the mindset that we should completely provide for our own needs, that we shouldn’t ask for anything. Church leaders and others get frustrated and burned out trying to do it all sometimes.

In last week’s devotion, we were reminded that ministry is about *listening* and *doing*. In this week’s lesson, we’re reminded that communication with God is a two-way street. Part of listening to God is bringing our needs and concerns to God, admitting to God and ourselves that our efforts alone are not enough to bring about justice in an unjust world. God is a loving parent who wants us to bring our hurts and concerns forward in prayer in order to receive what we and others need.

Cherish All Children has many ideas for ministry to prevent exploitation of children and youth, but it all starts with prayer. Bring the needs of the children in your congregation and community to God in prayer as you start this work. And as you continue, root your educating, equipping and engaging activities in prayer.

**Gracious God, we come to you knowing that we are all dependent on you. We ask for resilience and safety for the children and youth in our congregations and communities as they face many dangers in our world. We pray that doors of opportunity for ministry will be opened in response to our knocking, and we seek your Holy Spirit to guide us and all who work to bring justice and an end to trafficking. All this we ask in faith, trusting in the certainty of your mercy. Amen.**

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Written by Kay Kinkel, MA, MSW, formerly rostered as an Associate in Ministry in the ELCA, and now a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.