

Zion Lutheran Church • Fairbanks, Alaska
Food for the Journey: Pastor Joe's Weekly Devotion
September 12, 2007

What We Need

Philippians 4:19. Paul writes, “*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*”

In the Small Catechism, Luther gives his explanation of the part of the Lord's Prayer about daily bread. He says, “daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body...” He then proceeds to list as many of those things as he can think of. I know that we've all heard this before, but what is the difference between want and need? Neither Paul nor Luther talks about God fulfilling every want of ours. But each describes God as meeting the needs of his people, according to his riches.

I know that there are a lot of things in this world that I want. I also know, from life experience, that God does not always give me what I want. It's probably a good thing, too. There have been times when I've asked God for something that would have caused more trouble than satisfaction. You can't always get what you want. I think I've heard that somewhere. God supplies the needs of his people. Not their desires, unless of course, their desires match his. He does this out of fatherly love for his dear children.

Here's a kicker to add. God supplies our every need, according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. He doesn't supply our needs according to our human standards. He gives daily bread to his children out of his glorious bread box. My parents used to have a shiny, chrome looking bread box. It reflected the lights of the kitchen or the sun, depending on the time of day. It was pretty nice. God's bread box far out shines the sun. His abundant and glorious bread box gleams with the light of the Son, Jesus. It's out of his riches that he supplies our needs.

So often, we can't see it though. God gives us what we need, but we can't see it. It doesn't match what we think we need. It doesn't look like God is providing anything. It's at those times when it is vital for us to turn to the cross and see what God has provided there. On the cross, God provided forgiveness, something we need. On the cross, God provided salvation, something we need. Forgiveness and life is what we need, and God supplies them both through the glory of Christ. When what we have doesn't look like what we think we deserve, we look to the cross of Jesus.

“Give us this day our daily bread.” The Lord opens up his storehouse, which by the way is much larger than Sam's Club, as difficult as that is to conceive. He daily provides for our needs as well as the needs of all people. In our faith and trust, we respond with a resounding “thanks!” Consider all that you have, especially your faith, forgiveness and eternal life. Know that all those things are supplied by your Father in heaven, according to his good and perfect will, through his Son, Jesus, for you.

Gracious God, thank you! For supplying our needs of body and soul, thank you! For giving us what we need out of your amazing storehouse, thank you! For giving us what you know we need rather than what you know we deserve, thank you! In the name of your Son, given to us as a gift himself, amen.