

LIFE AT THE SEM

March 2021

Ryan and Kari Maser

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Health care workers, administrators, teachers, and leaders, as they continue to navigate through the pandemic.
- Favorable and seasonable weather, and for all those who work the land.
- For those battling mental health issues and struggling with depression and isolation.
- For the placement process at Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne), and calling congregations.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
– 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Lately, I have been thinking about prayer. There have been certainly much to pray about lately – the ongoing pandemic, tragic shootings across the nation, safety and protection for those who travel, and receiving my first call in about a month. There is so much to pray for, in fact, that I do not always remember to include everyone or everything.

What have you been praying about lately?

There is one thing that I know I could be doing better at in my prayer life – aside from taking time to remember everyone and everything. That is praying for **all** people and things. Are we (myself included) sometimes selective and prejudice in our prayers? Do we only pray for people we choose and like – who look, talk, or think like us – or the things that we want?

In the verses above, Paul challenges Timothy, a young pastor, to be intentional in praying for all people and setting an example for the people he is called to serve. Of course, this is not just a word to Timothy – it is also a word of challenge to you

and me. Who and what we pray for matters – because God desires all to be saved and in relationship with Him through Christ! We are to pray for all those in positions of authority over us, no matter who they are. In Paul and Timothy's day, that meant praying for the Emperor Nero – the very man who despised and openly persecuted Christians – and others who were either unbelievers or hostile to the faith. Who can you pray for today?

One more thing – note the four different words Paul uses for prayer: when we pray, we are challenged to make supplications (offered for specific needs), prayers (generic petitions), intercessions (appeals for the sake of others), and thanksgivings (prayers of gratitude for God's grace and mercy). We can pray that the gift of faith would be imparted on someone who does not know Jesus. We can pray for healing for a person who we may not agree with. We can thank God for protecting and emboldening persecuted Christians to live out their faith in other countries. There are so many ways to pray for all people and their various needs and ways in which God is at work in their lives. Would you join me in being challenged to pray for all people – no matter who they are?

Almost There!

The countdown to Call Day is upon us! There are under 40 days to go as of this writing. The excitement is in the air on campus as the weather becomes more Spring-like. Although it is so near, there is much to learn and do yet. The first quarter of 2nd Semester recently ended, and the new quarter will begin on March 29th. My class schedule will change slightly, as I will begin two new 7-week courses, Conflict Reconciliation and The Idea of the Crusades, and continue with Pastoral Leadership and Theology. Papers, reading, and classroom discussion will preoccupy most of time. However, more time is spent with my dear classmates and others on campus as our time together draws to a close – sports, golfing, fireside visits, and who knows what else! Kari continues with her teaching, and although her kids are much easier to manage with the nice weather, she is looking forward to a much-needed Spring Break the week after Easter.

With the increase of vaccination and plummeting of COVID numbers around us (praise God!), we have taken advantage of hosting family members and friends for dinner and visits. We welcomed our parents and my brother for weekend visits. We enjoy these opportunities and have come to realize how much we love providing a meal and hospitality for others – something that will certainly continue as we look forward to ministry in a few short months. If you are in the area, stop on by for a COVID-friendly visit!

As we anticipate Holy Week and the celebration of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, may God keep you all in His care and grounded in the gift of faith that is yours in Christ. Thank you all for your generous support and prayers – we thank God always for you!

God's peace,

Ryan and Kari Maser

Upcoming dates:

Call Day – April 28th, 2021

Follow this link to watch the Call service live at 7:00pm (CDT): www.csl.edu/callday

Graduation/Commencement – May 21st, 2021