



ONLINE

Weekly Bible Study
Wednesday, November 20,
2024

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH

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Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.

Introduction: We pray in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." And it seems strange, since we talk about God's forgiveness being absolute. But, perhaps this line is also related to the biblical adage: do unto others as you would have done to you. How would we like it if God really forgave our sins as we forgave those who sin against us — and what sins are happening to us that we are not forgiving them? Are we mad because another driver cut us off on the road and hold that forever against him? Are we holding the grudge because a family member said something really insulting? Are we unable to let go of the physical pain caused by a strike of someone we once trusted? Oof. Yeah, see sins come in many layers and forgiving isn't always so easy, even as forgiveness from God really is very easy to receive.

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

Open your Bible and read through the passage. Once you have read through this passage, take three large deep breaths, read the passage a second time. Take note of what words jump out at you. What words do you need to look up for clarity of definition. Take three large deep breaths again. Read the passage one more time.

Seek:

What is a sin that a person causes against another? How do we separate the difference between a sin that needs forgiveness and someone accidentally bumped into us in the grocery aisle because it was too crowded, and though we say "Sorry" we know that really isn't a sin that needs forgiveness?

What is a sin that we cause against God? How do we know we have made some act that God needs to forgive us for? For instance, we are pretty sure God isn't counting it when we slip a curse word when we stub our toe crossing the bedroom at night. So, even though we say, "Sorry", to God for it, God is pretty much yawning over that. But what is a real sin against God?

Can you forgive someone, if your only motivation for forgiveness is to receive forgiveness from God?

Pray

Redeemer Jesus, your teaching about forgiveness is hard. Let your Spirit soften my heart that I may rest more comfortably not only receiving what forgiveness you give, but in sharing that same forgiveness with others. In your holy name, I pray. Amen