



# GENERATION TO GENERATION

A DEVOTIONAL  
FROM THE SAINTS OF  
TEMPLE LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAVERTOWN

*BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO PLANT A TREE  
UNDER WHOSE SHADE THEY WILL NEVER SIT.*

One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.

Psalm 145:4

Sit in our sanctuary, look about, and listen: strong stone walls and lofty rafters; an inheritance of silver for sharing the eucharist; sacred music, recorded in hymnals, one at each pew, donated for the good of all. Reflect on His gifts, freely given to us by those who came before us.

Sit in our sanctuary, look about, and listen: envision generations baptized that we will never know. Reflect on His gifts, freely given to us to share with those yet to arrive.

Sit in our sanctuary, look about, and listen: cherish the ones He blessed us to be with in worship. Reflect on His gifts, freely given us, and pray for what we might achieve together.

Eric Sacks



By: Ava Carr

A prayer from the trenches of parenthood:

O Spirit of the living God, thank you for the gift of our children  
Our beautiful, miraculous and sometimes exasperating  
children

Heavenly Father, may we teach our children how we live out  
the values of your Kingdom in every facet of our lives.  
Help us to guide our children by example and may our example  
be none but yours.  
May we have the faith to lean on you, our heavenly co-parent,  
when darkness falls.  
May we rejoice in the silly minutiae of life with littles and hold  
onto the laughter when they aren't so little anymore.  
Thank you indeed, beautiful Giver, for laughter.

O God of peace, we wholly give you our fears for the future our  
children will inherit.  
We pray for our perseverance and wisdom amidst a world that  
always seems to be crumbling.  
We pray that the hope we have for our children and  
generations to come is fortified by the knowledge that the race  
is already won.  
Let us live, O Lord, in the reckless abandon of your extravagant  
love and let it wash over and through us to the lives we don't  
even know we touch.  
Thank you indeed, beautiful Giver, for your extravagant love.

Lisa Jennings



By: Beatrix Lay

## Devotional For Growth and Our Future

*“For there is hope for a tree,  
When it is cut down, that it will sprout again,  
And its shoots will not fail.  
“Though its roots grow old in the ground  
And its stump dies in the dry soil,  
At the scent of water it will flourish  
And put forth sprigs like a plant.”  
Job 14:7-9*

When I think about this Lenten season, it was so *normal*. We were back together in church; singing without masks, listening to the minor chords, and hearing the traditional lectionary verses. It was so different than last year; we were streaming all services, unable to congregate, and wondering if an Easter Egg Hunt for our community was in the cards. And, a small group of us gathered, masked, to deliver to homes *Lent in a Bag*. It was a creative way to have so many of our traditions delivered straight to our homes so we could recognize the season--even if we were apart.

One of the items was a packet of Pennsylvania wildflowers. Native to our climate, we could sprinkle these in our yards, bringing Temple and a bit of our Lenten vespers to our own homes, or donate them back to the newly created Temple Lutheran Wildflower garden. A small strip of dry soil, surrounded by our old building, it was to be a visible sign of growth and life to the travelers on Earlington Road.

And now, a year later, the garden is returning! Through COVID--and that 2021 Lenten season--it seemed as if we had little to no hope. But at Temple, we didn't let our traditions die--we made new ones! Lent in a Bag will live on as a reminder that despite that bleak time, we grew. Our church grew despite what felt like dry, unfertile soil.

Temple has deep roots--in our community, our traditions, and church family. We are like the tree; even when we feel "cut down" we will sprout again. We will find the "fresh water" and flourish if we continue to water our soil, find new life, and celebrate our faith together. This is why participating fully in our Capital Campaign is so important for us all; we must provide hope and seeds of new life for generations to come.

*Prayer: Lord, like wildflowers, we want to bring hope and joy to those around us. Let Temple Lutheran be constantly growing under your loving gaze for generations to come. Help us support all those who worship with us--now and in the future. Amen*

Sarah Foss

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,  
"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"  
And calling to him a child,  
he put him in the midst of them and said,  
"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.  
Whoever humbles himself like this child  
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."  
*Matthew 18:1-4*

When we are among children, we can gain great insight and knowledge. The point is not that Christians ought to be silly, or gullible, or naïve. Rather, they need to look to God as a child looks to their parent with trusting faith, and acceptance of their own limitations. Those who support and guide other spiritual "children" are serving God.

The need to support our children's programs and physical location is paramount to the success of Temple Lutheran Church's mission. Not only does this help our young mission partners but if you get the real meaning of the passage, Jesus wants us all to act as children. Children are vulnerable and in need of guidance and caring. If we all let our guard down and allow ourselves to be helped and cared for, I think we may be in for a great life experience. By contributing to the capital campaign, we will all benefit immediately while securing future generations to enjoy the fellowship and love ingrained in the body of our church.

Heavenly Host: Please allow us to become as children so we may see all that is your glory. Help us (TLC) achieve our financial goals through the Generation-to-Generation capital campaign and allow us to see the benefit of your wisdom that you have in store for us. Your kingdom is upon us now and forever, Amen.

Mike Schneller

# Temple Lutheran Church



By: Jules Carr

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.

*Psalms 127:3*

“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.”

*Psalms 145:4*

“For the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.”

*Luke 1:49-50*

A generation is the group of people born and living at the same time period of about 20-30 years, who share some similar life experiences, historical events, pastimes, heroes, or occupations, who are all regarded collectively. Generations are loosely categorized in 7 groups: The Greatest Generation (born 1901-1927), The Silent Generation (born 1928-1945), Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964), Generation X (born 1965-1980), Millennials (born 1981-1995), Generation Z (born 1996-2010), and Generation Alpha (born 2011-2025).

The amazing thing about Temple Lutheran Church is that we have people that fit into each of the generation categories. As Mission Partners, we are all united under the same mission statement of welcoming unconditionally, worshiping fully, living generously, and celebrating growth. We come together with the same core values of inclusion, service and community. And we have the same vision of transforming church, neighborhood, and God’s world in the name of Jesus.

In our Generation to Generation Capital Campaign, we unilaterally agreed that it is imperative that we provide a safe, well-kept church for generations to come, that we pay down liturgical debt, provide an inviting space for our youth on our campus, and hire a Youth and Family minister leader that is in tune with the church’s needs and mission. The Bible declares that children are a gift, heritage, and a reward from God. It is our responsibility to instill in them faith in God, trust in His word, a desire for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and a willingness to serve, honor and praise Him. It all starts with a revelation of how deeply God loves us all.

Our willingness to serve and worship Him with our time, treasures and talents, is a direct response to a personal revelation of God's love, grace and mercy toward us. God's mercy is on all of us who honor Him from generation to generation. May all the generations represented in our church continually be aware that we are highly favored, greatly blessed, and deeply love by our Heavenly Father. Amen.

Father God in the name of Jesus we thank you for your Holy Spirit that has united us under the same core values, vision, and mission. We ask for your blessings over our Generation to Generation Capital Campaign as we attempt to serve you by being of service to your people. It's in Jesus' name that we pray, Amen.

Songs to Meditate on:

1. "How Deep the Father's Love" by Selah
2. "The Blessing" by Generation Worship
3. "I Jesus Name (God of Possible)" by Katy Nichole

Nikita Johnson

Your presence is hard to grasp  
The thought of it  
Hard to imagine being reality

You are foreign to me  
Something I can't understand  
So I shut it out

By some grace you shine  
Part the clouds and become more real to me  
I am grateful for what you have allowed me to do

You've been there all along  
Through the years  
You are something else

Something

Extraordinary

By  
Jack Keaveney