

## **Prayer of Thanks for Teachers of Children and Youth**

**Leader:** Teachers, you have been important guides for children and youth. In Sunday School you heard stories of judges, prophets and kings, and stories of Jesus from the book of Luke. Youth have explored how each book of the Bible fits into the whole. On Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, you teachers have created a time and space where our children can bring themselves into God's presence, so that we can see God's ongoing transformation in our lives.

**Congregation:** We give thanks for your time and teaching. We pray that as teachers you have also been blessed.

**Leader:** Parents and congregation, you also are a significant part of formation for children and youth in this congregation.

**Congregation:** We remember that our homes and our church relationships are places of faith learning. Be with us, Lord.

**Leader:** Let us join our hearts in prayer. God, we thank you for calling us to be your people, for teaching us as we teach our children. We praise you for your grace which moves among us, shapes us, and transforms us. We open our lives to you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

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## **Prayer of Blessing for Adult SS and Wednesday Teachers/Leaders**

**Leader:** As followers of Jesus, our spiritual transformation is a life-long journey, unique to each one of us, and a work of God's grace. As leaders and teachers, you have made time and space for grateful remembering, authentic sharing and new learning.

**Congregation and Adult Teacher/Leaders:** With the help of God's Spirit, we have been blessed with growth in our learning and in our relationships.

**Leader:** Let us join our hearts in prayer. God of Grace, God of Wisdom, we thank you for drawing us to you, here in your house. We thank you for working among us to make us your people as we live out our days. Your grace and power shapes us and transforms us. We open our lives to you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

## **Teacher Recognition**

**Teachers who helped with children:** Debbie and Jeff Jensen, Julie Linnens, Asia Frye, Judy Harder, Tracy Hefley, Jason Klanderud, Laura Paulus, Jim Paulus, Hank Unruh, Erin Unruh, and Jan Amstutz

**Sponsors who helped with youth:** Holly Swartzendruber, Tim Frye, Marcy Heidebrecht, Derek and Katherine Hamm

**Adult teachers:** Susie Kliever, Nancy Graber, Doug Miller, Glen Diener, Jim Jantzen, and Jeff Wintermote, Keith Harder

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### **John 17:20-26**

<sup>20</sup>“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”