

June 26, 1993 Wittenberg Alumni Luncheon

I would like to read a prayer I found in Michael's file. He gave many prayers for a variety of campus events, but I found one specifically for a Wittenberg Alumni Luncheon dated June 1993. So, this has been changed to a dinner prayer. By reading his words, I feel like I am bringing a part of him to be with us.

Gracious God; gift giver of all that really matters; of all that finally, ultimately matters in our life together.

We thank you for safe journeys back to Wittenberg, and especially now for this present time to share again some history and hope; memories and promises again; and good food shared and renewed friendships around these tables, and certainly all those stories of transition and growth that occurred here on this campus years ago, and in the years following – transition and growth forming each of our own unique, sacred personalities.

Forgive any shared past-times of hurt or pain we may have caused each other – known or unknown. May healing prevail. May this be a reunion that is a union.

Bless too, we humbly ask, - bless with the reach of your eternity- all of our classmates who have died since we shared classes and youth on this campus.

And gracious God, bless those of our class who are not here due to distance, illness, or indifference...those separated from us by miles and time. We thank you for their lives and their effect on our positive growth. Grant them, and us all, wholeness and peace; grant them Shalom.

So, for this afternoon and the rest of the weekend – this out-of-the-ordinary time -may there be true dialogue, and careful and inclusive listening; easy honesty and empathy...all of us enriched...Celebration in our reunion.

We offer this prayer and continue this weekend, and the rest of our lives, in the very presence of your creative process; and your living Word – who took the form of a servant to walk with us on our journey, and the offered gift of your engaging Holy Spirit.

He would have said “Amen”, but in addition to Michael's prayer, I would like to add these petitions:

May we appreciate those who founded this institution of higher education and have strived to uphold the high standards and values of this church related liberal arts college.

May we as the class of 1968, this 50th reunion class, recognize the privilege and responsibility of our Wittenberg education.

May we ask ourselves what Michael's favorite Scripture asks: "What does the Lord require? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

May this meal that we are sharing tonight feed us in a deep and meaningful way, so that we can leave refreshed, renewed, and empowered to serve others, perhaps globally or locally, but wherever we are led.

With humble and grateful hearts, we offer this prayer. Amen