



“For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be yes!” Dag Hammarskjold

Dear Friends,

The short prayer above is a favorite of mine. This prayer is grounded in gratitude for past blessings, while looking forward to the future with positive expectation.

The first part of the prayer regarding gratitude is well worth making a regular part of our lives. I wish I could say that it was always a regular part of my life. The more I reflect on my life journey there were times when I wasn't as thankful to God as I should have been, or I was so worried about the outcome of something I was a part of, I looked at what was lacking rather than blessings of the occasion. Most of all looking back, I didn't acknowledge God as much as I should have as the source for those blessings.

Now one of the conscious things I do to develop a more regular attitude of gratitude after each daily entry I make in a journal I keep, I put these letters at the end: TYFAYB. It simply means “THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR BLESSINGS.”

The second part of that prayer speaks of the surety that there will be good things God will do for us in the future. I know many times for us trusting God for a positive outcome in the future is not easy either. Too often challenges and obstacles of the present cloud bold vision for the future, and since we're only human, we can get discouraged or disillusioned.

But if I understand the biblical story of God's future for God's people, while there are challenges, obstacles, or set-backs along the way the biblical story always ends in triumph for God's people. Consider how God worked through his son for our sake and salvation. While it comes through the cross, Jesus' final act is the resurrection. The dark visions of Revelation at the end give way to the end of sorrow, the permanence of the Heavenly City, and God dwelling with God's people (Rev.21:3).

Dag Hammarskjold's prayer will be the theme of our 2018 General Fund Stewardship Campaign. It is fitting since next year (2019) we will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary, making it a good time to give thanks for past blessings and look forward to what good things God has in store for us in the future.

May all of us, both as part of the body of Christ here at Fairbanks Lutheran, as well as in our own walk with the Lord embrace Dag Hammarskjold's prayer as our own- “For All that has been, Thanks. For All that will be – YES!!!!

Sunday Worship Services
9:00am - Heritage (Traditional)
11:00am - Celebration 2 (Contemporary)
Sunday School 10:00am

Thanksgiving Day Service
11:00am, meal afterwards

Your Brother in Christ,
John

