**TERM TWO WEEK THREE:**

**Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Quality**

**1. OPENING PRAYER:** *(from the notices or this prayer:)* Let us pray: Lord, sometimes when I wake up, I wonder what happened to the night because it seemed to pass so quickly. But I still thank you for a new day of life and opportunity. Today I am going to try very hard to keep all negative ideas out of my mind, and to think your thoughts and try to do your will. Help me to do this. Help me today – to see quickly all the opportunities where I can praise others; to be patient with those I would so easily condemn; to be aware of all the opportunities where I can extend the same loving forgiveness as you have given to me; to stop and count to ten before I hand out harsh criticism. Give me control today so that the old nature in me will stay drowned, and the new nature rise to do what is right. Then I will have control over my temper, be slow to anger, speak no hasty words, and be a more loveable person. So help me today, Lord, that I may help everyone and hurt no one. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

**2. THREAD FOR THIS WEEK:**

The thread that we are considering this week is: Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Quality

**3. BIBLE READING THIS WEEK:**

The Bible reading is written in: Matthew 5:1-12: *When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**4. CONVERSATION:**

“I want the best for you.” These are words that you might say to someone when you fall in love with them. It shows to them that you are thinking about them, not just about yourself. It shows to them that you are thinking about them receiving the best things in life. It shows that you plan to ensure that they receive good – better – then best.

From a mountain top, Jesus was teaching crowds about being “blessed”. This is about getting the best in life. If you read through his list of what makes a person “blessed” you will be surprised by many of them. You are blessed when you “mourn”. You are blessed when “you are merciful”. You are blessed when you are “meek.” There is no language about riches, fame and glory here. Why does Jesus talk this way?  
  
This kind of blessing is about trusting God to be with you and to help you. Jesus is saying when you “mourn” and long for help, then you can trust that God will be with you and will provide comfort for you. This is a different kind of “blessing” that can make us strong when things seem tough. God will not abandon us.  
  
And God does this because God loves us. Because God loves us, God wants the best for us.

**5. PRAY:**

We pray, “Loving God, keep me going forward when things are tough. Help me when I fall and give me faith that trusts you to be there for me. Give me eyes that see the best in others and in this world, that I can help the world to become a better place. Remind me every day, how much I am truly blessed because you love me so much. Amen.

**6. LORD’S PRAYER:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**7. BLESSING:**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may have great hope. Amen.

**TERM TWO WEEK FOUR:**

**Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Quality**

**1. OPENING PRAYER:** *(from the notices or this prayer:)* Let us pray: Good morning, Lord! Thankyou for rest and refreshment, and the new day, and all your wonderful gifts to us. As I become aware of things I do that annoy my family or friends, help me to avoid them. As I become aware of things that please my family and friends, help me to remember to do them. Lord, you know how often I open my big mouth and speak before I think; help me today to overcome that weakness, so that I don’t hurt or embarrass anyone. If I feel compelled today to disagree with someone else, please help me to do so in kindness and courtesy. If anyone today has good reason to find fault with me, help me to accept the correction as if it came from you, my dear heavenly Father. Help me during this day – to consider the feelings of others as much as I think of my own; to keep growing more aware of the presence of Jesus with me, so that I may live more as he would want me to live. I pray in his name. Amen

**2. THREAD FOR THIS WEEK:**

The thread that we are considering this week is: Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Quality

**3. BIBLE READING THIS WEEK:**

The Bible reading is written in: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

**4. CONVERSATION:**

In the bible, God is called a shepherd. Shepherds know all about their sheep and watch over them. In the ancient world, a shepherd needed to give special care to his sheep because sheep were his livelihood. The shepherd sold the wool and milk, as well as selling little lambs when they were old enough. Simply put, without the sheep there was no shepherd. Shepherds took very good care of the sheep.

God is called a shepherd because God looks after us the same way. God loves us and makes it his business to provide for us. The Psalm reading for today talks about the shepherd leading us to green pastures and to still waters. This imagery is about being given quality of life because the shepherd cares for us.

Shepherds also used a “staff” or a “crook”. This is the stick that they used. It is not for beating the sheep. It is for hooking sheep out of fences and bushes, and it is used for striving away wolves and other predators. Again, the shepherd uses this device out of love for the sheep. We can apply this to our lives. Sometimes we think God is giving us a hard time, but this image suggests that maybe God is directly us to a greener pasture.

**5. PRAY:**

We pray

Jesus our good shepherd we thank you for watching over us and for caring for us. Help us to trust that you are always guiding us to green pastures and to still waters so that we can be refreshed and restored. When we get in trouble, please reach out to us and rescue us. Give us faith to trust you as the good shepherd who loves us. AMEN.

**6. LORD’S PRAYER:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**7. BLESSING:**

May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight. May the eye of God rest on you, and his ear hear your cry. May the smile of God be for you, and his breath give you life. May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home. Amen.