

**Devotions – September 5-11, 2021**  
By Pastor Ann Gonyea  
Eden Lutheran Church, Munising, MI

**Sacred Goodbyes**

**Introduction**

Recently a few friends and I have talked about and been living through sacred goodbyes. The internet proverb that kicked it all off said, "Not all people are meant for you in all seasons. There is beauty in impermanence. Allow for sacred goodbyes."

**Sunday, September 5, 2021**

Please read Ruth 1

Let us pray:

*God who moves with us through the mountains and valleys of life, bless us in our leaving and our staying. As we branch out in new directions, strike a balance in our hearts and minds between the tenderness of sacred goodbyes among friends and loved ones and the hopeful possibility of what is to come. Guide us as we find our places and spaces in this newness. Amen.*



**Monday, September 6, 2021**

Please read Genesis 25:7-27

Let us pray:

*God of our very first coming and are very last going, the days between those bookmarks of life are full of you and us, victories and spectacular failures, introductions and partings, well-laid plans and chance. Help us to see not only the timelines of our individual comings and goings, give us also a blessed glimpse of the generations we help create. Amen.*



**Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

Please read Luke 24:36-53

Let us pray:

*Jesus our friend who walked the human walk, who lived in flesh and bled when that flesh was pierced, some days we still lament that you left before our eyes could take you in. As hard as it was, we wish we were present at your sacred goodbye. Help us to catch glimpses of you here for now – in a peaceful greeting, in the wounds, in our belief and our disbelief, in our communion with one another. And when our final sacred goodbye comes, make our eyes clear and strong when they finally do take you in. Amen.*



**Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

Please read 2 Kings 2:1-12

Let us pray:

*God of the generations, we rejoice when our leaders rise up in your grace and abundance, prepared and driven by you to build community, nurture connections, collaborate in ways new and old, embolden others to lead. Bless all of us who, like Elisha, are coming into new places of leadership. Bless all of us also, who like Elijah, must leave to make room for those ready to step into new leader roles. Amen.*



**Thursday, September 9, 2021**

Please read Matthew 2

Let us pray:

*God who came to us in the skin of a refugee, made so perfectly for this world and yet terrorized by it, help us to walk as you would with refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, people willing to risk it all for safety, peace and community. Help us to honor their sacred goodbyes. Give us the*

*courage and the confidence to encourage and embolden them to life in new lands lived to your glory and joy. Amen.*



**Friday, September 10, 2021**

Please read 1 Thessalonians 3

Let us pray:

*God of even our unwanted separations, find ways to connect us. We are divided -- by pandemic, politics, geography, misinformation, circumstance and sin. And yet you do not abandon us. You build connection, even in our stubborn division. Help us to see it. And help us to embrace it confident in you and our salvation, because where you are, there is life for us! Amen.*



**Saturday, September 11, 2021**

Please read Psalm 91

Let us pray:

*God who created us for life in community, for Luther's Priesthood of All Believers, for relationship, our sacred goodbyes are so heartbreaking. And our new beginnings ignite our passions and curiosity. Give us the wisdom and depth of love to bless one another as you bless us. Amen.*

