YOU & ME?
WE'RE NEIGHBORS!

CORN MAZE

"Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6a

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for walking with us today. As we take this path, help us to focus and quiet our minds, leave our worries and fears behind, and feel your loving presence with every step we take. Show us the way. Amen.

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HUMAN BINGO

"Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

Prayer

Dear God, we know you strengthen us when we link arms with each other. Help us to approach each other with curiosity and love, so that we can grow in relationship and be able to do your work in this world hand-in-hand. Amen.

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PRAIRIE LAND

"Walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?" Matthew 6:28-30

The restored prairie lands show what Minnesota looked like prior to European settlement in the 1850s. Walk through the paths and around the pond to travel back in time.

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the bright sun, the green trees, and the blue sky. Thank you for the animals, the flowers, and the sweet singing birds. Help us to be good helpers who love and care for your wonderful world. Amen.

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1850'S HOMESTEAD

"You will be blessed when you are out and about and blessed when you come back."
Deuteronomy 28:6

The original and reconstructed buildings help recreate the authentic, mid 1850s pioneer homestead.

From "A Prayer of Thanksgiving" by Howard Thurman

I pass before me the main springs of my heritage:
The fruits of labors of countless generations who lived before me,
Without whom my own life would have no meaning;
The seers who saw visions and dreamed dreams;
The prophets who sensed a truth greater than the mind could grasp
And whose words would only find fulfillment in the years which they would never see;
The workers whose sweat has watered the trees,
the leaves of which are for the healing of the nations;
The pilgrims who set their sails for lands beyond all horizons,
Whose courage made paths into new worlds and far off places.

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ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

"An understanding mind gains knowledge; the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."
–Proverbs 18:15

The Gallagher Country School lets you explore what school building would have looked like in the early 1900s.

Prayer

God of love and interconnection, help me see every person I encounter at school as my neighbor. Remind me of your compassion for all living things, even when I feel annoyed or angry at them. And when I am feeling left out, remind me that you are a friend who never leaves me. Amen.

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COUNTRY CHURCH

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."
Matthew 18:20

Built in 1881, this Country Church played an important role in the early development of Minnesota. Churches were often one of the limited opportunities for rural families to have special interactions with each other.

Welcome to Worship!

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1930'S DAIRY FARM

"God, you make grass grow for cattle; you make plants for human farming in order to get food from the ground." Psalm 104:14

In the 1930s, the number of farms in Minnesota reached its peak. This is what a working farm in that time would look like. Today, this farm is still home to a number of animals. For their health and safety, please give them their space and do not touch or reach through the fences for them.

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of farms. Help keep our crops, critters, and families safe from harm. Help the rain to come when we need it, then help the sun to shine nice and bright. Keep our trucks and tractors running just right. And at harvest, help us to always be grateful for what we have got.
Amen

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FEED MILL

"All your creations wait for you to give them their food on time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled completely full!" Psalm 104:27-28

The feed mill was built in 1928 and served as a location to grind grains into animal feed for local farmers.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for all the animals big and small. Thank you for giving us food to share with them. Help us to be kind and take good care of them every day. Amen

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BLACKSMITH SHOP

"Look, I myself created the metalworker who blows the fire of coal and who produces a tool for his work." Isaiah 54:16

The Blacksmith Shop was built in the 1870s and operated until the 1980s. Blacksmiths would help local farmers build or maintain tools, horseshoes or wagons. This shop is unique in that the second story housed the Town Hall for Meriden.

Prayer

O Lord, whose hands have shaped the world, be present at the blacksmith's forge. Bless the fire that it may burn bright, and guide the hammer that it may strike true. Protect workers from the flying spark and the sudden heat, and fashion them, as they fashion the iron, into a tool of usefulness and grace. Amen.

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LAWN GAMES

"Look at how good and pleasing it is
when God's people live together as one!" Psalm 133:1

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for games, and for inspiring those who make them. Join us now as we laugh, play, and enjoy time together. May our fun remind us of your presence and our friendship remind us of your love. And may our competitive spirits not cause division, but lead us upward toward humility and joy. Amen.

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REFRESHMENTS

From Luther's Small Catechism:

"Give us this day our daily bread." What does this mean?
In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it in thanksgiving.

What does "Daily Bread" mean?
Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Reflection

As you enjoy these refreshments, discuss with one another: What is your daily bread? What nourishes you? What are you particularly thankful for today?