Give Thanks for the Day: **Thank God for each part of your day, for your life, and for God's presence in the midst of it.**

As I reflect on this quote by Marjorie Thompson, our upcoming Spiritual Formation weekend speaker, I would like to share a story. While teaching in the late 90's I had a best friend named Lea. We were both teachers at the same middle school. I taught chorus and drama and Lea was one of our PE teachers. We became very close and our families spent many fun times together.

Several years after we met and became friends Lea was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was only 32, married and had two little girls. She had a double mastectomy and the prognosis was not great. Through all the chemo and radiation she kept her spirits high and never complained. One day she came to my classroom and said, "Terre, I never realized how wonderful each day is, how wonderful each person in my life is and how beautiful earth is." Have you ever really looked at all the beauty on earth when you are outside or taking a walk?" She said she wished she had thanked God for each day, for her life and God more. She really didn't do that until she became ill and started thinking about the end of her life. Unfortunately, Lea passed away about a year and a half after she was diagnosed. After her death whenever I went for a walk I thanked God for the beauty of the earth. It seemed to mean so much more now. I also took more time to thank God for my life, family and friends. Most of all I took more time to thank God for being in my life. It took the loss of a wonderful friend to open my eyes and to GIVE THANKS FOR EACH DAY!!

Written by Terre Eberly