



## Peace Lutheran Church

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### Where Do Prayers Go?

October 2016

Sometimes a pronoun can make all the difference in what we mean to say and what we actually do say. For example, if someone was desperately poor and you wanted to help them, would you send out a request for money **TO** them or **FOR** them? Sending out a request “to” them for money wouldn’t do them any good. They don’t have any money. However, sending out a request “for” them for money might do some good by raising money from those who have it and can help their financial situation.

This is also true in talking about prayer. If you read comments on obituaries, posts on Facebook, and other public communication, you will see people saying things like, “Sending out thoughts and prayers to the family.” I often wonder why they were directing prayers “to” the family. I can understand sending out sympathetic thoughts to someone in need but a prayer is a request for something. Why would you send out a request “to” someone in need? Wouldn’t you send out a request “for” someone in need?

That’s how the Bible talks about prayer. For example, in a reading we heard a couple of weeks ago in church, Paul said, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2) Notice that all kinds of prayers are to be made “for” all people (i.e. “for their sake” or “on their behalf”) and they are to be directed to the One who can hear and answer them, rather than to those who are in need of them.

What’s the point? Am I unnecessarily obsessing over a minor point of grammar? Perhaps. Are people just being sloppy in how they phrase things? Perhaps. But I think there are points to be made here about how our society (and some Christians) view prayer.

First, have prayers been reduced to nothing more than a fond wish or a pleasant tradition that you invoke out of habit when something bad happens? Is prayer to be taken no more seriously than someone who says, “God bless you!” when you sneeze? Sending prayers does seem to be a nice thing to do and it even has a religious overtone to it.

Secondly, when prayers are being sent, are prayers actually being said? It’s easy to say that you are “sending out” prayers. It takes much more effort to sit down, compose one’s thoughts, and address God with the needs of another person.

Yet it is so worth the effort. Not only has God commanded us to pray for ourselves and others, but He has promised to hear and answer every prayer made in faith for Jesus’ sake. As Paul says, we can pray “for” all people with all kinds of needs with all kinds of prayers and God will provide just exactly what is needed in His time and according to His will.

Let’s let people know that we aren’t simply wishing them well by sending prayers to them but that we are actually talking to the one true God on their behalf and for their needs. Tell them specifically what we are praying for. Then let’s do it. Let’s actually pray for our neighbors, trusting God to hear and answer them. Let’s pray fervently and frequently.

May our prayers end up in God’s ears where they can do some good and not just something that looks nice in a Facebook post.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO

**Everyone** who donated composition books for inmates at the Cascade County Detention Center.  
**Everyone** who participated and helped in any way on Rally Day.  
**All of the ladies and gentlemen** who go to Benefis Extended Care Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.  
**Everyone** who attends Family Night and helps with food preparation and clean up.  
**Gloria Creek and Val Martin** for playing the organ during our worship services.  
**All those who volunteer** to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes.  
**Everyone on the Prayer Chain** for their time and prayers.  
**Everyone** who has donated treats for our fellowship time.  
**All of the men** who volunteer to usher.  
**Angelika Fisher** for cleaning the church.  
**All of the ladies** who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.  
**Cheri Magnuson** for cleaning the Communion linens.

This list is not inclusive. Please accept our apologies if we have missed giving you credit for serving the Lord in any fashion. We know that the Lord knows your service to Him.

## LWML

- ♥ **Thank you to all of the ladies who attended the Fall LWML Retreat at Camp Utmost!** A good time was had by all!
- ♥ **LWML Sunday will be October 2.** LWML will have a display on the bulletin board with some historic facts and information about where the Mites go and some of the projects and events that we have sponsored locally, nationally and around the world. Thank you to **Helen Lewis** and **Linda Aguiar** for organizing the display. The LWML worship service will be used for the 9:30 service and altar flowers will be provided.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.** We may have a guest speaker. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us!!
- ♥ **Remember to bring your new soap for Soap Sunday on the second Sunday of each month.** Soap collected will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for your continued support.

## Friday Ladies Bible Study

October has arrived, bringing the year long celebration of the Reformation. There will be many special Bible studies and programs centered around Christ and the Reformation theme. May God bless our participation in these activities.

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will begin the study of the BOOK of MATTHEW. Bible study will be held on October 7th, 14th, and 21st from 1-3 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave. So. There's always an extra chair waiting for you!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. Tuesday, October 11th at 11 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will gather at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave. So. On Friday, October 28th at 11:45 a.m. the Bible study group, spouses, and friends will meet for a no host lunch at Jaker's, 1500 10th Ave. So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Join them to start your Reformation weekend!

## Cleaning Day set

Cleaning Day has been set for **Saturday, October 15** beginning at 9 a.m. Everyone please come and help us clean the Lord's house and prepare for colder weather. **This is a servant event for the youth.** Come for as long as your schedule will allow. Lunch will be provided.

## Bring your documents to be shredded!

Members of Trinity Lutheran and a Thrivent Action grant are sponsoring a Shred Event on **Wednesday, October 12, 2016 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at Trinity. For a \$5 donation you can have your old unwanted documents destroyed.



## October Anniversaries

- Oct. 10 Kevin and Kristen Jacobsen  
 Oct. 15 Bill and Elsie Huss  
 Oct. 30 Kris and Stacey Smelser

## Baptismal Anniversaries

- October 1 Lyle Onstad  
 1 Tom Croskrey Sr.  
 2 Gloria Creek  
 3 Molly Jacobsen  
 4 Sarah Ostlund  
 7 Joan Sivumaki  
 10 Rick Johnsten  
 17 A.J. Hirst  
 20 Connie Croskrey  
 23 Karen Schaefer  
 27 Lee Henselin  
 28 Ruth Denning  
 31 Ruth Rozokat

**Deacon for October: Bruce Clark**

### October ushers:

- 2 – Lyle Onstad and Tyler Denning  
 9 – Mitch Martin and Matt Schlund  
 16 – Jeff Blomgren and Darrell Greenwood  
 23 – Pat Lewis and Kevin Aguiar  
 30 – Greg Franczyk and Ed Ostlund



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Tami Birkholz**, Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder  
**Leonard Gidlow**  
**Jane Hering**  
**Connie Juden**  
**Rev. Erich Kaelberer**  
**Bill and Dorothy Neuman**  
**David Norman**

Our members who are away serving in the military are **Kurt Mueller** and **Michael Lewis**.

## National Life Chain Sunday

We are encouraged to build a Life Chain on **Sunday, October 2 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.** Meet at the northeast corner in front of Holiday Village Mall to pick up a sign. For more information call Jim and Barb Going at 727-4878.

## Central Circuit Reformation Service

Join us for a joint Reformation service for all the congregations in the Central Circuit on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at Peace Lutheran Church in Great Falls. The offering from the service will go to support two missionaries from our Central Circuit: Rev. Eric Stinnett in Ethiopia and Rev. Andrew Schlund in Mexico City. The pork loin and desserts will be provided by the Peace LWML at 5:00 PM. All attendees are invited to bring German side dishes to share. At 6:00 PM, we will have a report on our 2016 Synod Convention from our lay delegate, Steve Jarvis of Missoula.

## Montana District Pastors Conference in Miles City

Pastor Schlund will be attending the Montana District Pastors Conference October 11 – 14, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Miles City. We will continue with our Bible study during Family Night on Wednesday, October 12.

## Finances

JANUARY 1 - AUGUST 31, 2016		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$85,435.20	\$93,546.64
Other Income	\$ 4,428.99	\$ 120.00
Interest Income	\$ 353.79	
Total Income	\$90,217.98	\$93,666.64
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$55,010.78	\$55,156.56
Administrative	\$5,092.07	\$ 5,580.00
Buildings & Grounds	\$14,053.76	\$16,533.44
Missions	\$10,650.47	\$ 7,666.64
Christian Education	\$ 2,900.11	\$ 3,333.36
Total Expenses	\$87,707.19	\$ 88,270.00
Net Church Income	\$ 2,510.79	\$ 5,396.64

## Roller skate to Christian music!

A new skating rink has opened and Christian music is playing on Monday evenings from 4 to 8 p.m. Come and skate at Wheels of Thunder, 1609 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. No.

# Philippians Workshop

from LCMS Stewardship Ministry

*Hey, Pastors and Lay Leaders:*

Does your parish struggle to meet the budget?

Does the thought of hearing (or preaching) a sermon on financially supporting the church make you cringe?

How do we encourage generous living without becoming legalists?

The Philippians Workshop is based on Paul's words in Philippians Chapter 1. In that chapter, and throughout the whole book of Philippians, we see how all the leadership of the congregation is working together in the realm of stewardship.

Join us at Peace Lutheran Church in Great Falls on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> to hear from LCMS Stewardship Assistant Coordinator, Rev. Nathan Meador. Bring your Bible, your questions, and your love for your church.

Pastors arrive at 3pm

Lay Leaders arrive at 5:30pm for dinner

Out the door no later than 8:30pm.

## Applying Bible Principles

General Norman Schwarzkopf once recalled when he was the Assistant Commander for Personnel at the Pentagon. He had been in this assignment for two weeks when his superior left for an eight-week trip to the Orient. General Schwarzkopf expressed concern about his ability, even as a major general, to handle this new responsibility. His superior told him to follow "Rule 13." When Schwarzkopf asked what "Rule 13" was, his superior told him, "When given command, take charge." "But what if I don't know what to do?" asked Schwarzkopf. The reply was that he should follow "Rule 14 - Do what is right."

Sometimes Christians are in a similar predicament, especially concerning actions based on feelings. We do many things in the Christian life because they are "right," not because we necessarily want to do them or feel like doing them. Nowhere is this more true than concerning our giving. Even when perhaps we do not feel like giving, mature Christians give because doing so is "right" and because God has motivated our hearts to give.

Unfortunately, some people follow the life principle of giving only when they feel like it. The problem is that they seldom feel like it. Oh, they might give to a special project now and then or respond to a special need that appeals to them. Otherwise, though, they usually fail to give unless they happen to feel like it.

In some ways, such individuals who give only when they feel like it fit Abraham Lincoln's description of those who achieve financial success but little else in life. "Financial success," he once said, "is purely metallic. The person who gains it has four metallic attributes: gold in his palm, silver on his tongue, brass in his face, and iron in his heart."

"In contrast," writes Randy Alcorn, "the Macedonian believers 'urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service [giving] to the saints' (2 Cor. 8:4). When we catch a vision of God's grace, we will give according to our duty, yes, but far more, we will give beyond our duty, voluntarily captivated by the grace of our ever-giving Lord."