

Good Shepherd News & Notes

(Easter V) May 2, 2021

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KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org
Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



EFFECTUAL, FERVENT PRAYER:

The *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* once published a report on prayer. The report was based on a study of patients with heart disease. Five people prayed for half of the study's 799 participants at least once a day. After six months, researchers found no significant differences between those who were prayed for and those who were not. According to the leaders of the study, prayer is not effective at all.

However, more factors are involved in prayer than the study considered. The study provided no information about the spiritual disposition of the patients or about those who prayed for them. The study also assumed that the only way to measure the effectiveness of prayer is if you obtain exactly what you are asking for within the material world. This article will take a closer look at what God's Word teaches about truly effective prayer.

God's Invitation

The Bible records many invitations to pray. For example, God invited King Ahaz to ask for a sign (Is. 7: 10-11). Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Mt. 7: 7). Paul commanded the Thessalonian

Christians to "pray without ceasing" (I Th. 5: 17).

God's invitation for us to pray also comes with evidence of His genuine intent to respond. For example, Abraham's servant prayed for help in identifying the woman who would become Isaac's wife. Before the servant had finished his prayer, the Lord answered it (Gn 24: 14-15). Paul was excited to write to the Ephesian Christians that God does even more than we think to ask for (Eph. 3: 20). James also urges us on to prayer in three different sections of his Epistle (1: 5-6;; 4:2-3; 5: 13-18). Now that we are sure of God's desire for us to pray, what else do we need to know?

Prayer of Faith

James is specific about how we should pray and about the kind of person who may expect prayer to be answered. James says that a person lacking wisdom should ask for it, but that person must ask in faith (1: 5-6). Later in the Epistle, James refers again to the "prayer of faith" (5: 15) and to the "prayer of a righteous person" (5: 16). The connection between these features is fundamental. *(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

Jesus once told of two men who went up to the temple to pray (Lk 18: 9-14). One man was a Pharisee who was righteous in his own eyes. He thanked God that he was not wicked like other people. The other man was a tax collector. He prayed that God would be merciful. Jesus tells us that the man who prayed for mercy went home justified (righteous before God) rather than the other. The answer to prayer was linked to God's righteousness and mercy.

Faith worked in us by God's Word and Spirit, covers us with the righteousness of Christ. This faith also gives us conviction that God's will and ways are right, leading us to obedience. The prayer of a person made righteous by faith is motivated by that faith and seeks God's will. This is why such prayer is effective. (to be continued)

Taken from the Lutheran Study Bible (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO) 2009, pg. 2144.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Doorkeeper Team is in need of additional volunteers to spread out the workload of checking in members and visitors. If you are willing to serve 1 Sunday and/or Wednesday per month (or less), please see an elder or Tim Higgins for additional information.

The Altar Guild is also in need of volunteers to set up and clean up communion for Wednesday night services and also to clean up after the 10:30 am services on Sundays. Someone will train you on how to do this. If you are interested in serving in this way, contact anyone on the Altar Guild Committee or call Sondra Rathjen at (402) 423-0563.



MISSION PROJECT FOR APRIL

Since welcoming the first class of students in 2017, Concordia the Reformer has sought to prepare men to be shepherds, teachers, and evangelists. The church is now seeing the fruit of the labors of all who have worked for, prayed for, and supported the seminary, its faculty and students. The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea with Haiti. In April we are collecting donations to help with the support of a seminary student at Concordia, the Reformer Seminary, Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic. Rev. Dr. David Preus, joined us at Good Shepherd this past week to talk about his mission activity in the Dominican Republic.

LINCOLN MARATHON

The marathon will be on Sunday, May 2nd from 7 am—about 1:30 pm. Runners are estimated to pass the 48th St. & Hwy 2 intersection and continue west on Hwy. 2 from 7:30 am—9:18 am. There is a map posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Avoiding the route may be the easiest and quickest way to get to church on Sunday. For more details and the map go to lincolnmarathon.org.



PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639. Your request will appear for 6 weeks. If you would

like to keep it on the prayer list, you may call during the 6th week to renew it.

- **Barb Poppe**, with short-term memory issues.(3)
- **Marlene Smith**, grandmother of Beth Huff, for recovery from a stroke (1)
- **Renos Kunz**, recovering from a heart valve replacement(5)
- **Carol Renken**, in hospice care (1)
- **Joyce Thompson**, recovering from a blood infection (5)
- **Jim Baumann**, beginning treatment for leukemia (4)
- **Jon Novacek**, father of Jack, Alaina, & Nolan Novacek, having serious medical issues (5)
- **Shanon Roblyer**, for healing from multiple health issues (4)
- **Jimmy Liebsch**, friend of Jimmy Stepp, who needs a kidney transplant ASAP. He is also hospitalized with pneumonia.(4)
- **Chris**, son of Elaine Egnor, recovering from a stroke. (4)
- **Ron Kimes**, recovering from a knee replacement (4)
- **Suzie Van Valkenburg**, daughter-in-law of Bob & Elaine, beginning chemotherapy (3)
- **David Kirchhoff**, beginning radiation treatments(3)
- **Bob McClellan**, recovering at the heart hospital (2)
- **Ray Merriman**, son-in-law of the Novaks with a worsening cardiac condition. (1)

- **Adam Mankin**, beginning immunotherapy following the removal of a melanoma (3)
- **Sarah Wright**, daughter of a friend of the Novaks with pregnancy complications (1)
- **Dean Posner**, hospitalized. (2)
- **Dennis Linam**, father of Brooks Linam, healing from the aftereffects of a surgery (3)
- **Thanksgiving for the birth of Timothy Dewaine Steele III** to Vicar Timothy & Amy Steele on Sat. 4/17 at about 10 pm. (2)
- **Thomas & Marlyse Goodroad**. Thomas is assigned to Good Shepherd as a vicar for the Aug. 2021—July 2022 year. (1)
- **Isaiah & Audrey Armbrecht**. Isaiah will serve his vicarage at St. John Lutheran Church in Decatur, IN (1)
- **Dan Golden and family**, as he has received his first call to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Parkersburg, WV (1)



“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

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STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: James 1: 17— “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.” God is the source of all goodness. When we do good, therefore, we imitate Him and reflect His light to all the world. Christians give freely because God has first given so freely to us. We are only imitating our Father and growing up into His likeness.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEK (May 2–9)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Steve Mercer Kevin Meyer
Laureline Malecha Caleb Durr
Julie Golden Corban Bellows
Zenjin Schroeder
Leslie Graphenteen

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

Terry & Deb Princ

LIFE MOMENT: Sinful selfishness made human flesh an agent of death. Jesus Christ’s resurrection claims our bodies as instruments of life again. Since abortion and assisted suicide do not bring life, they cannot come from God — or from God’s people. Receiving life as His gift sometimes means waiting (Isaiah 25: 9), but this wipes away tears from every face.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thanks to all who arranged to have their “Choice Dollars” sent to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Because of your action, Good Shepherd has received \$1,942.00.



Eternal Spirit of the living
Christ,
I know not how to ask or
what to say;
I only know my need, as
deep as life,
And only You can teach
me how to pray.

Come, pray in me the prayer I need
this day;

Help me to see Your purpose
and Your will —

Where I have failed,
what I have done amiss;

Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ”
LSB 769, vs. 1, 2



FINANCIAL INFORMATION APRIL 25, 2021
WEEKLY BUDGET NEED \$ 11,253.00
ATTENDANCE: SUNDAY, APRIL 25: 197 WED, APRIL 21: 107 TOTAL: 304
OFFERING: \$ 6,328.00

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN MASK POLICY

Our pastors and elders have been constantly monitoring the Directed Health Measures that have been issued from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. All practices and procedures at Good Shepherd fall well within the Health Department rules without requiring masks. Masks are encouraged but not required; let your conscience be your guide. Masks are available at the sign-in table and hand sanitizer is available there and several other places throughout the church.

Please be respectful of others and follow common sense social distancing and communicate with others regarding your personal comfort level. If you are not feeling well, please stay home. We are working hard to ease back to normal, as the DHMs allow. As of March 14, hymnals have returned to the pews, tape has been removed, extra sanitation during distribution has ended.

We are thankful that we have had over 130 Divine Services since corporate worship resumed last May with no health issues or concerns. Sunday Bible Study for families in the Fellowship Hall will continue until further notice. Tables have been spaced out and overflow seating is available in Room 109.

***DOORKEEPERS TODAY: (May 2) 8:00 am: Tim Higgins
10:30 am: Peg Olson***

ELDER TODAY: (May 2) : Ken Knaus

***USHERS TODAY: 8:00 am: Matt Fritz, Jim Stepp
10:30 am: Matt Durr, Steve Eckhoff***

***ACOLYTES TODAY: 8:00 am: Broderic Beed
10:30 am: Colson McNabb***

***COMMUNION SET-UP: Sondra Rathjen
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: Maureen Marshall***



COFFEE AND GOODIE SERVERS NEEDED

Volunteer a little bit of your Sunday morning time to serve coffee and goodies during the Bible Study. By increasing the teams in rotation, your team will be serving only 3-4 times per year. Contact John Reigle at 402.304.4023 for more information and to sign up.

MISSION PROJECT FOR MAY

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation will be the mission project for the month of May. LHF translates, publishes, distributes and introduces Lutheran materials for the church around the world. Imagine trying to understand Scripture in all its richness without the benefit of *Luther's Small Catechism*. LHF is at work in more than 80 countries, providing pastors and teachers with the Lutheran materials they need to teach and evangelize those who don't yet know Christ.