

The Great Privilege of Prayer

Ways and Encouragement to Pray!

18th Sunday after Pentecost / 17th Sunday after Trinity – 2012

Sunday, Sept. 30 → 8:00 & 10:45 ♦ Monday, Oct. 1 → 7:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, many people have a practice of writing down what they want to remember. For example: → a student makes a homework list; → a grocery shopper makes a store list; and → a church makes a membership list. Even though such people could function without a list, they will almost always function better with a list. *Prayer is similar!*

Now that we know more about ♦ *how prayer works* and ♦ *its power*, the next steps are to **have** and to **faithfully use** a good list or structure to guide our praying.

1. **ACTS:** An easy format to remember and use:
 - a. **A = Adore** – We adore God for who He is:
♦ eternal, ♦ unchangeable, ♦ almighty, ♦ all-knowing, ♦ present everywhere, ♦ holy, ♦ just, ♦ faithful, ♦ good, ♦ merciful, ♦ gracious, ♦ love
([Small Catechism Explanation, 105-107](#))!
 - b. **C = Confess** – We remember and confess our sins
([1 John 1:9](#) “If we confess...”)!
 - c. **T = Thanks** – We remember and give thanks for God’s many blessings ([Deuteronomy 8:10](#) “When you have eaten...”)!
 - d. **S = Supply** – We ask our heavenly Father, *who already knows our needs*, to supply our needs.

Such praying shows our **trust in** and **dependence upon** Him!

2. **Prayer Basics – Part 1 Brochure:** Copies are available by our main entrance; these are some of the highlights:
 - a. What is prayer?
 - b. Whose prayers are heard by God?
 - c. What are some benefits of prayer?
 - d. What are some good prayers to use?
(The brochure contains a total of 22 prayers; it is also available at www.blc7500.com, see the *brochure* page).

Hymn Verse: "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB 869, v. 1

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.

3. **Guidance For My Daily Prayers:** See today's insert; these are ways to use the folder:
 - a. Keep it with your Bible, Meditations, Portals, etc.
 - b. Put the weekly prayer requests inside.
 - c. Faithfully use it as noted every day!

Hymn Verse: "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB 869, v. 2

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With His presence cheer you.

4. **Care Bookmark:** A good way to pray for the salvation of others; this is how it works:
 - a. Think of 2-4 people who may not yet know Jesus as Savior; write their first names at the top.

- b. Pray through each step at least a couple times each week; when you come to the blanks, insert the names from the top.
 - c. Get yourself prepared to share the Bible with them by memorizing some key verses: Romans 3:23; John 3:16; 1 John 1:9; 1 John 5:12.
5. **Stephen Ministry:** We have a Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministers who are being a blessing to their care receivers; please pray for them. If you could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please talk to our Stephen Leader or to me.

Hymn Verse: "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB 869, v. 3

With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
 In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
 All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,
 Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.

6. **Some Final Encouragement to Pray:**

- a. ^{NAS} **Psalm 55:22** Cast your burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken. // God has made us righteous through Jesus; therefore, let us ♦give our burdens to God and ♦trust Him to sustain us in every circumstance!
- b. ^{NAS} **Matthew 7:7** Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. // Prayer should not be a last option, *but rather a first option!* Let us pray with confidence that God will keep His promises!

- c. ^{NAS} **John 15:7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. // As we continue in God's Word, we will grow in our knowledge of God's will. Then, *as we ask according to God's will*, God is faithful and He will do it!
- d. ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, **shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** // Have you ever given your troubles to God in prayer, only to have them back over and over again? What is the solution?
- i. Think about a **hot potato**: As you would quickly get it out of your hands, ***so quickly give all of your requests to God!***
 - ii. Furthermore, *every time those anxious thoughts return*, **keep giving them to God** and **keep receiving His great blessing of peace!**

Conclusion: And all God's people said: ***Amen!***

For Much More: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230