

First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City



Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations since 1991

Where The **Bible is True** and **Jesus is Lord**

December, 2024

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Speaking About Prayer

Are you looking forward to the new year? We have a completely new president. His cabinet is quite a mix of government employees and private sector personnel. This is something we can all comment on.

How are things at home? Everything going well for you? Hope so. It's no fun when it's not.

How are your finances? I know – that's no one's business but your own. Excuse me for prying.

What about your prayer life? How's it? Funny how we might answer this question, but we won't answer the one about money.

I heard a quote recently from CS Lewis. He said, "*Prayer isn't about getting what you want, but about aligning yourself with what God wants.*" While I know this is a very real truth, it caught me by surprise a little. Not because I don't agree – I do, very sincerely. Mostly because I want something to happen that's important to me and I'm afraid God will say no. Have you ever been like that?

If you have, then you know there's a wrestling match that goes on. We could say it's between the one praying and God, but that's not true. God's not wrestling at all. He's standing firm on His decision. He is absolutely immovable. Ever argued with your kids about something they want REALLY BAD, but you won't budge because you know what's best for them. It's the exact same thing. God won't budge because He knows what's best for us.

How about those times when God has backed out of the way and allowed you to have your way. Ah! Now those are experiences we can all talk about. You find out quickly, why God had been saying “No” all that time. It’s the time you say, “I don’t ever want to have my own way, Lord. Don’t let me do that again.” But do we mean it? Did we forget it when the next time comes around and we’re begging God to give us our way like any other spoiled 3-year-old. (Oh, did I say that out loud – sorry – well maybe not, but I know those times.) truly NOT FUN!

So, what am I rambling on about? I guess I’m rambling on about real committed prayer time. Time spent on your knees, no music – not even Christian instrumentals – not sitting in your favorite chair with your eyes closed, but on your knees, face in the carpet or in your Bible.

I’m talking about taking that wrestling match to the mat of prayer and laying your heart right there before God Almighty where we have actually, spiritually speaking, entered into the Throne Room of God where the 24 elders and 4 living creatures have their abode. I’m talking about spiritually being in tune with God and He can tell you to do anything and all you want to do is agree and go do it.

How do we get from this dimension to God’s? It’s not difficult, but it does take us back to the top of this article where we were talking about what’s going on in your life – distractions like finances and such – kids, grown or otherwise, grandkids, bills, the holidays, birthdays, age, our own medical needs, whatever. Whatever is pulling us out of that concentration and keeping our focus on the things of this world.

Elaine one time told us to grab a hymnal and start going through it to deepen your time with Christ. It’s a great place to start. I like to start with Psalm 150 and read to Psalm 145. These last six psalms are all praise psalms. They’re pretty incredible. I read them out loud to the Lord. It’s a great way to remind yourself EXACTLY who God is – CREATOR of the UNIVERSE! Not just this puny little planet we call home, but of the UNIVERSE! Amazing.

Imagine being in His Throne Room. Stand back with John and see if you can catch your breath with all the beauty you see – all the wonder – Angels, Saints, God illuminating all around Him – the emerald shaped rainbow around the Throne. The Lamb who had been slain – standing before you – you, face at His feet. Yep! That’s heaven. But then, you feel it. For the first time, or maybe the first time in a long time you have this overwhelming sense of love and acceptance that you’ve missed or never experienced. Yes! That’s His presence! It’s awesome! You don’t want to leave. “*Whatever You want, Lord, I’ll do. Yes, Lord.*”

Now that you're finally there you can bring your prayers and petitions before Him because NOW you will ask with HIS WILL in mind and not your own. Now, you will hear Him speak to you. Now the Bible will become alive. You will hear things you never really heard before. You will understand more than you have ever understood before. You will release what's been holding you back for so long and wonder why it took so long. Now, God can use you.

Oh, you've done things before "for the Lord" but they've always been works of the flesh. Today they are works of the Spirit – big difference.

Before you know it, you've spent over an hour in prayer – your eyes might be tear stained. You're surprised you've been with Him that long because it feels like just a few minutes. God's great that way. Today, things you prayed about made a difference. Congratulations. Welcome to the family.



Total November Contributions:

11/3 \$ 536.31

11/10 \$ 544.00

11/17 \$1,969.13

11/24 \$2,021.00 Redeemer \$4,000.

Total \$5,070.44 \$4,000 \$9,070.44

Quiet

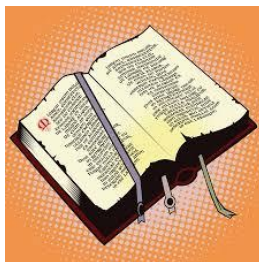
Time

With

God

December's Personal Scripture Reading

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
12/1	Jeremiah 26	12/16	Jeremiah 41
12/2	Jeremiah 27	12/17	Jeremiah 42
12/3	Jeremiah 28	12/18	Jeremiah 43
12/4	Jeremiah 29	12/19	Jeremiah 44
12/5	Jeremiah 30	12/20	Jeremiah 45
12/6	Jeremiah 31	12/21	Jeremiah 46
12/7	Jeremiah 32	12/22	Jeremiah 47
12/8	Jeremiah 33	12/23	Jeremiah 48
12/9	Jeremiah 34	12/24	Jeremiah 49
12/10	Jeremiah 35	12/25	Jeremiah 50
12/11	Jeremiah 36	12/26	Jeremiah 51
12/12	Jeremiah 37	12/27	Jeremiah 52
12/13	Jeremiah 38	12/28	Colossians 1
12/14	Jeremiah 39	12/29	Colossians 2
12/15	Jeremiah 40	12/30	Colossians 3
		12/31	Colossians 4



Outreach ideas

Hospitals or Prisons?

With last month's newsletter article in mind, I have a few ideas of things people can do to reach out to the community.

If you want to do some visitation at the local hospitals, you can go each of the hospital's websites and find the "volunteer" tab, then fill out the online form. There are a lot of different areas you can volunteer in - crochet/knitting, reading, clerical, administration, and so many more. I looked at both Mercy's website and Integris' website. They have some pretty involved forms online, but it would probably take about 15 minutes to finish and then you're on your way to volunteering at the hospital.

If you want to do Prison Ministry, you need to go to a "class" where you will be informed about all the rules pertaining to prison ministry. It's not a bad class. I've taken it. Once you complete this class you can volunteer at any of the prisons in the state - to the best of my knowledge.

Prison ministry is pretty cool. It's not scary and the inmates, since they don't have a lot of other options, they are anxious to learn what they can. Most of them have had real "Come to Jesus" moments and are excited about the Lord. If this is something you would like to do, please call the church office and I'll be happy to get the contact number for you.

Readers and Ushers

- 1 Heierdings
- 8 Michelle/Carol Gray
- 15 Wackerlys
- 22 Grays
- 24 Nils/Jim
- 29 Heierdings

Happy Birthday

- 7 Cindy Brown
- 8 Evan
- 9 Claudia
- 14 TJ Mathis
- 25 The Lord, Jesus Christ

Military Members to pray for:

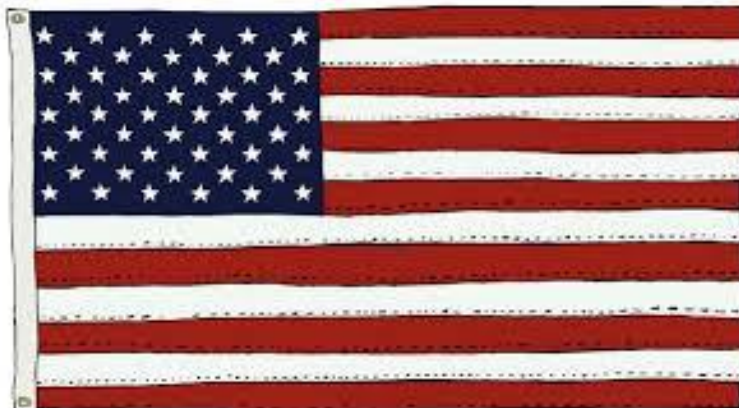
Gabriel Adams
Ryan Brubaker
Jacob Lee
Dillon McDuffie
Jared Ray
Joshua Ray
Lunna Ray



Prayer Requests

Sharon Billeg
Michael Bloese
Suzanne & Amber Borum
Joe Glass
Carolyn Lewallen,
Trent Mitchell
Betty Ray
Claudia Wright

PRAY FOR OUR NATION:



December Events

December 1	Caroling Practice	9:30 a.m.
December 1	Evangel Com Mtg	Noon - 1:00 p.m.
December 4	Mid-Week Bible Study	5:30 p.m.
December 5	Mid-Week Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
December 7	Confirmation	10:30 a.m.
December 8	Council Meeting	8:30 a.m.
December 11	Mid-Week Bible Study	5:30 p.m.
December 12	Mid-Week Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
December 14	Church cleaning	9:00 a.m.
December 14	Confirmation	10:30 a.m.

Mid-Week Bible Study on Hiatus (resumes January 8th)
Confirmation on Hiatus (resumes January 11th)

December 22	Caroling Practice	9:30 a.m.
December 22	Quick Lunch then Caroling	Noon - 3:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	8:00 p.m.
December 29	Evangelism Com Meeting	Noon - 1:00p.m.

