

The Church of Christ



MESSENGER

Journeying together through the trials of life,

with no less than our very most, to eternity!

PRAYING SPECIFICALLY

by Bryan Elliff

My dad tells a story about an old deacon who was asked to pray during a church meeting. The man stood up and after other typical worn out phrases said, "Lord, we pray for all those for whom it is our duty to pray. Amen." I guess that about covers it.

That's what I would call a generic prayer. And while most people aren't that succinct, many of us tend toward generic praying. Generic praying is the kind of praying that doesn't really define a particular request. "Be with the Jones family, Lord." "Father, we just ask that you would work in this situation."

Now, not all generic praying is bad. Sometimes we just don't know what to ask for other than that the Lord would work in a situation or that he would be present with a family. This can be heartfelt and right. I certainly pray this way at times. I only want to suggest that when we pray, it's often right to ask for something—that is, something that we can articulate, something that we can remember.

Look at this prayer that Paul prayed for the Colossians: "We have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God . . ." (Col 1:9-10) This prayer has content. Paul has thought about what to ask for these Colossians and he remembers what he is asking. I want to pray more like that.

What were your prayers like this morning? When you prayed for that person, did you make any particular request or was it more like, "I bring Mike before you, Lord, and pray that you would help him with his job situation"? Sometimes we bring a whole list of things before the Lord but don't really ask much about them.

What is specific prayer? There are a few kinds. For Larry, you might pray,

Prayers & Praise

Do you have someone to remember in our prayers?
Or something you are rejoicing about? Please share

Prayers for each other that we continue to encourage and support
God's plans for us

Larry and Karen as they prepare to move here

Beth and Bruce: Beth's sister has passed away

Heneý's as they deal with outcomes from the RM's decisions

Fran and her family

Winona's friend, Melody, who is struggling with health issues



"Father, please help him to recognize that he is prideful in this area and grow him in humility." This is thoughtful, specific request. It may not, however, be easy to see if or when God is answering it. Other prayers may be even more specific. "God, give me an opportunity to talk with Jenny about Jesus this week at work." It will be easy to see if or when God answers that one. I recommend both kinds. One is more general than the other, but with both, you are looking for God to act in a particular way.

Reflect on these benefits of praying specifically.

Praying specifically requires more faith. Maybe that's why we don't do it as much. We are afraid to go out on a limb, uncertain whether God will answer as we've asked. So we hedge our bets and only pray vague prayers that He can't help but answer. Now, it's true that praying involves risk. God does not always do what we ask, maybe simply because what we asked for was not what He wanted to do. Even Jesus and Paul made requests that God did not grant (Luke 22:42; 2 Cor 12:8-9). However, if we never make requests with bold faith, we will never experience the joy of seeing God actually answer them. And the more we see God answer prayer, the more we will learn to pray according to His will.

Praying specifically requires more thoughtfulness. When you ask God for particular things and watch in faith for the answers, you think carefully about what you ask. You don't walk into the throne room guns blazing and leave the back wall riddled with requests you can't even remember the next day. Instead, you thoughtfully consider what God desires to do before asking Him to do it.

Praying specifically encourages an attitude of expectancy. When you pray like this, you look at the world with prayerful eyes. When talking with your neighbor, you remember that you have prayed for an opening to talk with her about Jesus. When visiting your friend in the hospital, you remember that you have prayed for his healing. When talking with your family, you remember that you have prayed for more grace and kindness in your speech. Consider keeping a journal. Write your requests and leave room to record God's answers. For me, praying specifically has made prayer more of an exciting conversation. It's no longer a 10-minute morning monologue, but an ongoing exchange of prayers and answers.

What if we walked into every day with the expectation that God hears and answers specific prayer?

News/Announcements

Contact: 780.522.1685

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Winona Morland

Sunday meeting times

10:00AM-Sunday School

11AM-Worship service

4702 56 Ave, Lloydminster, AB

Midweek

Tuesday 7PM

www.lloydchurch.org

	Song leader	Communion	Message	Opening prayer/ announcements	Closing prayer
Today	Sean	Kevin & Brian	Dean Anderson	Kevin	Sean
Next week	Kevin	Sean & Brian		Sean	Brian

October/November readings	
29	Nov 1 Ezekiel 1:1-3:15 Hebrews 3:1-19 Psalm 104:1-23 Proverbs 26:24-26
Lamentations 1:1-2:22 Philemon 1:1-25 Psalm 101:1-8 Proverbs 26:20	2 Ezekiel 3:16-6:14 Hebrews 4:1-16 Psalm 104:24-35 Proverbs 26:27
30	3 Ezekiel 7:1-9:11 Hebrews 5:1-14 Psalm 105:1-15 Proverbs 26:28
Lamentations 3:1-66 Hebrews 1:1-14 Psalm 102:1-28 Proverbs 26:21-22	4 Ezekiel 10:1-11:25 Hebrews 6:1-20 Psalm 105:16-36 Proverbs 27:1-2
31	
Lamentations 4:1-5:22 Hebrews 2:1-18 Psalm 103:1-22 Proverbs 26:23	

News & Notes

- **Renovations:** projected completion for the basement the end of October.
- there is accessibility grants and info and we need someone to look more into it
- **November 5th:** our next congregational meeting
- **November 10th:** fall community clean up date - more info to come
- **Nov 16-18** –Saskatoon. Guest Speaker, Jonathan Storment
- **December 9th:** family and friends Christmas dinner - more info to come
- **Blessing bags outreach:** project starting now until December 9th. our goal is to put together 20 blessing bags 10 for men and 10 for women to be shared with the interval home and men's shelters. items should fit in a ziplock bag. talk to winona for more information
- **Hey Ladies!** Would you be interested in a woman's day? Paige Freser and Dawn Mitchell offer a ladies workshop. See back bulletin board for brochure.
- **Tuesday evenings:** 7pm at the church building. Bible study. Everyone welcome!
- **Sunday school:** starting at 10 am. this is a 13 week bible study that can involve everyone from the oldest to the youngest. please join us

**LET US
DRAW NEAR
WITH BOLDNESS**
 to the
Throne of Grace
that we may receive
Mercy HEBREWS 4:16
and may find
Grace
for
HELP in time of need

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:10 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on Luke 11:1-9 (NIV).

**Ask
Seek
Knock**

P	R	A	Y	Y	B	S	L	E	F	X	E	B	P	H
U	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	L	T	S	P	D	Q	A
A	Y	Z	A	U	B	Q	Q	S	E	E	E	R	X	L
U	Q	B	S	B	U	R	W	F	Z	A	A	E	G	L
O	R	R	K	P	U	J	I	U	R	Z	D	C	K	O
O	N	E	O	L	F	N	P	I	P	I	A	Q	H	W
T	A	A	P	X	A	A	F	V	I	X	E	M	M	E
E	M	D	E	D	M	F	T	W	T	F	S	N	U	D
M	E	C	N	H	R	D	O	H	N	L	F	B	D	W
P	P	K	K	R	N	E	G	R	E	S	M	Y	Y	U
A	V	N	I	I	Q	I	C	C	G	R	T	C	D	Y
T	N	O	F	U	N	J	C	E	S	I	N	S	A	O
I	J	C	W	D	K	S	D	G	I	J	V	Q	I	A
O	Q	K	I	F	B	E	K	P	I	V	J	E	L	A
N	M	M	W	N	M	J	J	P	V	W	E	M	Y	P

FIND	PRAY	OPEN	TEMPATION	FRIEND
SEEK	FATHER	NAME	KNOCK	RECEIVE
MIDNIGHT	DAILY	TEACH	LEAD	BREAD
SINS	KINGDOM	HALLOWED	FORGIVE	ASK