

St. Peter Lutheran July 2022 Newsletter

July 3rd – Communion Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

~ FLY group to share experiences from their Onward conference in Wisconsin

~ Free Will offering during fellowship for Rodney and Malinda Hinrichs' "Reaching the Unreached"

July 6th - Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

July 10th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.

~ Semi-Annual Meeting following the worship service

July 12th – Quilting Workday, 1:00 p.m.

July 14th – WMF Bible Study and Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Lesson 4, "Behold Christ's Kingdom".

July 17th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.

~ Muffin Sunday, Ladies names A – J are asked to bring the muffins.

July 24th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.

July 31st - Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.

Usher's List: July 3 – Ben Lau & Bill Picek

Communion Lay Assistant – Keith Sprecher

10 – Brian Villmow & Calvin Luebke

17 – Chad Lau & Corey Whitney

24 – David Hartmann & Don Fink

31 – Doug VanZee & Dwight Brenner

Cleaning List: June 27 – July 3 Pat Klumb & Renee Olson

July 4 – 10 Pat Kreth & Tammy Bamberg

July 11 – 17 Sandy Lau & Tami Fink

July 18 – 24 Sara Wright & Beverly Jahn

July 25 – 31 Andrea Wright & Audrey Fink



The Power of Prayer

The word pray means to "ask earnestly, beg, and entreat." The significance of the word pray is communication between two parties, one asking and one answering. "Pray tell, what time is it?" would be an example of a simple exchange between two people, one with a need and the other able to fulfill the need. Through the passage of history the clearest understanding of prayer was between those with power or authority and their slaves, serfs, subjects. Direct imagery of kings having power over their subjects and the subjects needing to come in humility to beg and request aid is a best understanding of prayer in the worldly sense. Likewise, this carries over into the religious sense.

Most of history has seen prayer defined and understood mostly in the relationship between mortal beings and their gods. Why did people pray? They were in need of help. Perhaps they needed information, wisdom, or understanding. There were gods for most any occasion and circumstance such as war, peace, love, health, crops, weather, finances, or anything else you can think of. Are you tempted to think we are more sophisticated than our ancestors who worshipped and prayed to most anything from rocks and trees to the sun, moon, and stars? Think again, the next time you appeal to "lady luck" or Mother Nature, Mother Earth, or any number of other false powers.

Is prayer effective? Is it powerful? Is it pointless? Is it necessary? The answer depends upon whom you are praying to? Are you praying to yourself, as your own god and source of power and authority in your life? That may get you through things you have knowledge of and control over but you will face something bigger than yourself eventually, eventually death itself, and you will not be able to help yourself out of that predicament. So then, many seek answers and help through other people, experts in various fields such as engineering, psychology, health, or finances. And yet, all of those people are just as you are, limited in power and ability and selfish in their human nature. They will fail at some point.

Prayer matters if the Who you pray to matters. For prayer to be effective and powerful it must be a communication with an authority that has power and influence over all of creation. The source of the design, function, and purpose of life, God, is the One alone who can provide power to prayer. The One who created time and stands in judgement over all of time, from before it began and on after it ends, it is He alone that has the knowledge and wisdom that is above all other sources, temporal and eternal. For the person desiring aid in this life, my best advice is to seek out your Creator, listen to His voice, read His testimony, test Him for any weakness or falsehood and trust in Him when His righteousness, power, and truth is shown as faithful throughout all time and space. It is faith, trust, belief in the One True God that alone can provide the answers and power to get you through this life of trials and temptations and bring you forth as a new creation into a new life of eternal peace with Him.

My prayer to Him for you today is that you seek to lean upon His strength, His knowledge, and His understanding rather than your own, nor that of any other human being (Proverbs 3:5-8). Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5), such that your communication with your Creator becomes as common and necessary as your breathing. Pray in the confidence and boldness that comes from the blessed assurance that your Creator knows you, loves you, and desires for you to be with Him.

May these passages bless you as you contemplate the power and effectiveness of praying to your Creator:
Luke 18:1-8, Acts 12:1-17, Philippians 4:4-7, James 1:2-18, James 5:13-18