

# Memorial Messenger



Author: Jeffrey D. Enderle  
Volume 106, Number 3

## **Prayer in Jesus' name**

Slumps affect all the greats. Last year's baseball batting title winner might go through the first week of spring training without a hit. A sure-bet first-round NBA draft pick might go cold from behind the three-point line just as his team enters the conference tournament.

## **Prayer slumps**

Christians can grow weary and tired in their devotional lives too. For some Christians growing weary is just getting forgetful. They become so busy with daily trials and joys that their Christian faith weakens and they no longer have the strength to turn to God in prayer. Prayer feels more and more like an overbearing obligation than a gift from God.

For other Christians, frustrations in their prayer life often come because of unrealistic, even unbiblical, expectations. Sometimes they pray and pray. They beg urgently and plead repeatedly. Then they wait, but they still don't get the answer they are after. So they try harder. They convince themselves that if only they were following a better system, they would be more successful.

But what is success in prayer? How do we define it?

Is success in prayer defined by getting the results we are after? If we measure prayer by what we get from God, we reduce our heavenly Father to a coach. As if we followed the advice of a coach we would be able to sink every free throw. As if taking to heart the hints and habits of a hitting coach would enable us to hit one out of the park every time at bat.

## **Successful prayer**

When Jesus teaches us how to pray ([Matthew 6:5-13](#); [Luke 11:1-13](#)), he encourages us to approach "our Father." He urges us to be like little children as they come and ask their loving parents for whatever is on their minds. It's a natural part of their relationship.

Jesus created that relationship with our Father in heaven. Through Jesus, we know our Father loves us. Through his cross, he removed our sins so we can approach God as little children. He wants us to come to him with what troubles us and with what brings us joy and pleasure—like children do.

Prayer is not an obligation we owe to God. Instead he has given us the privilege to pray, the gift of coming to our loving Father as his dear children. Prayer is simply a part of our relationship with God through the saving grace of Jesus. Prayer flows from the recognition that through faith in Jesus we are children of God.

Our slumps in prayer life come to us at times when we forget that our Father loves us and wants what is best for us at all times. Sometimes we take him for granted as we are distracted by all of life's daily schedules and experiences. At other times we are frustrated that our Father does not answer our prayers quickly or exactly as we want. So we give up. Our prayers seem unsuccessful and of little value.

Our parents did not give us everything we asked for when we were children. Instead, they thought more about what we needed than what we wanted. Their goal was to see us grow and mature until we were ready for some of the things we wanted. Our heavenly Father thinks the same way, only he sees our future and our lives much better. With perfect love, he promises to give us what is best for us.

The way out of our prayer slumps is to remember our Father loves us, listens to us, and can even turn our difficulties into good ([Romans 8:28](#)). And then simply pray.

**SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION** Memorial Lutheran School's new school year began Aug 20<sup>th</sup> with a half day. The students will be once again singing at our Worship Services and this month-- it is September 15.

There are also two fall track meets with other area Lutheran school students this month, and the first Hot Lunch of the new school year is Sept. 27.



**BACK TO SCHOOL** also means the back-to-school worship schedule. *Sunday School and Bible Class* will be held at 9:15am and our worship service at 10:30am. BC will finish the "12 disciples" and our next class is "Irreconcilable!" a study of the intense conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees (and how it continues on today).

**PASTOR KOBER** of Sola Fide, Georgia has declined his call to serve at Memorial. The next Divine Call meeting is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.



**POTLUCK!!** After our September 8<sup>th</sup> service (the return to the late service), in the fellowship hall downstairs, there will be a potluck and we all know what good cooks Lutherans are! Bring your own table service if you can, and a dish to pass. Please sign up and indicate what dish and how many will attend. We hope to see you there!

**THE CAMPUS MINISTRY** at Michigan State serves both domestic students (and actually any young adults 18-20s in the Lansing area) and international students. It is *supported* by local WELS congregations and individual WELS members in the area and also WELS Home Missions. If you would like to stay informed about this important ministry, put your name and contact information on the signup sheet in the narthex.

A big part of our ministry to internationals is helping international students with speaking English. We do this with "English As A Second Language" (ESL) classes or in simple gatherings for English conversation over light refreshments. If you are willing to do either, we need you! Please let **Pastor Burger (517-505-3052/ [normburger@comcast.net](mailto:normburger@comcast.net))** know if you would like to find out more about or help with this important aspect of our ministry. Thank you for your prayers, interest in, and support of this ministry!

**PICTURES REQUESTED** The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is working on a new church directory. We kindly ask members to submit a family photo. You can do so by texting your photo to Karl Remus at 517-490-6208, sending your photo via email at [remuskarl77@outlook.com](mailto:remuskarl77@outlook.com), or by asking Karl, Joe Janecke, or Jason Leitz to take a photo for you at church.

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

Thank you, Pat, for deep cleaning the school.

Steve Houser will paint the patronage garage.

Parking lots at school and church were refinished and painted

### **BOARD OF EVANGELISM & STEWARDSHIP:**

We had the Backpack giveaway on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We are planning on having a Trunk or Treat this coming fall on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

Sunday School\_- Calls have been extended and accepted for the upcoming Sunday School Year.

VBS – Was held July 22-25 and was a great success, the BOCE would like to thank all who participated.

### **SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICES:**

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Playlist</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
09/01	Joe Janecke, L. Vogt	Kathy Ward	Carol Lycos	D&S Fisher	(to be done 08/31) Leitz
09/08	Jim Janecke, N. Schilcker	Mary Ann Groop	Karl Remus	S. Houser	(to be done 09/07) Leoffler
09/15	S. Houser, Z. Pederson	Sheryl Arnston	Nancy Hart	D. Steiner	(to be done 09/14) Miller
09/22	A. Rusnak, P. Jantos	Karla Leitz	Joe Janecke	K. Ward	(to be done 09/21) Muscott
09/29	T. Loeffler, J. Zoran	Marlene Zoran	Judy Domke	P&S Crandall	(to be done 09/28) Staffeld