

THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

A Core Value of LMPC

The necessity of prayer is one of the core values of LMPC. Our explanation of this value is as follows: “We cling to the words of Jesus: ‘Apart from me you can do nothing.’ We recognize our dependence on God as we pray regularly as individuals and with each other. Our prayer focus is as Jesus taught us: for his glory alone as his Kingdom advances and as he accomplishes his will in all things.” (See Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 98-107.)

Our Sermon Series: Lessons from Luke

A year ago, our congregation spent the month of January renewing our commitment to the authority and necessity of God’s Word. At the beginning of this year, we are turning to the other (and no less important) necessity in the life of the believer and the life of the church: prayer. There is no mistaking the centrality of prayer in the life of Jesus, particularly as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus prayed at his baptism, before his crucifixion, and as he was dying. Throughout his ministry, he withdrew time and again from the crowds to pray, and he taught his disciples how to pray. If our perfect Master was so devoted to prayer, should not we be likewise? Our hope is that this sermon series will spur all of us to commit ourselves afresh to Kingdom-focused prayer that is rooted and grounded in the Word of God.

Resources for Prayer at LMPC

Even as we recommit ourselves to prayer, we recognize that many, if not most, Christians can find praying regularly and thoughtfully to be difficult. If you feel (or have felt) frustrated or defeated when it comes to prayer, there are a number of resources that we hope will be helpful.

1. Seminar On Prayer:

Wednesday evenings, 6:10-7:00 p.m.

January 15, 22, 29, and February 5 in the Conference Room

Robert Row of *seeJesus* (a global discipleship mission founded by Paul Miller, author of *A Praying Life*) will be encouraging us to deepen and expand our prayer life in fellowship with our Heavenly Father. His seminar will also deal with practical questions such as “How do I stay focused when I am distracted with so much to do?” and “How do I pray when my own life is a mess?” Nursery provided.

2. Books On Prayer:

Many gifted and wise theologians have examined what the Bible has to say about prayer and wrestled with the fact that the Christian life is too often characterized by prayerlessness. If you want to learn more about how to pray biblically and faithfully, these books are an excellent place to start.

The Heart of Prayer: What Jesus Teaches Us - Jerram Barrs

Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation - D. A. Carson

Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God - Timothy Keller

Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer - C. S. Lewis

Praying: Finding Our Way Through Duty to Delight - J. I. Packer & Carolyn Nystrom

Pray with Your Eyes Open - Richard Pratt

The Life We Never Expected - Andrew & Rachel Wilson

3. Joining With Others in Prayer

Jesus assured his disciples that where two or three come together in his name, “there am I with them.” (Matt. 18:20) Jesus’ followers prayed together as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit and continued to gather for prayer as the church grew and faced persecution. Throughout the history of the church, great revivals have more often than not followed times of concerted prayer. At LMPC, the following groups meet regularly to pray for the needs of our church and for our missionaries.

- Ladies’ Prayer Band: Mondays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., Small Conference Room
- Wednesday Evening Prayer: 6:00-7:00 p.m., Small Conference Room
- Thursday morning Prayer and Bible Hour: 10:15-11:30 a.m., Reception Room
- Sunday evening Missionary Prayer: first Sunday evening service of every month, 6:00-7:00 p.m., chapel

4. Asking For Prayer

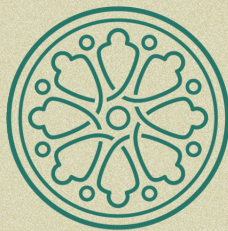
- During Sunday services, prayer requests may be submitted using either the Connect Cards located in the pew racks in the chapel and sanctuary or the tear-off strip on the bulletins in the fellowship hall. Everyone is also welcome to call the church office with prayer requests (423-821-4528), send a request via email to margaret@lmpc.org, or use the online form found at lmpc.org/prayer.
- Every Sunday morning, there are elders (often accompanied by their wives) available to pray with individuals who desire prayer for specific needs. (10:30 a.m., Brian Salter’s office)
- The pastors, elders, and our female youth and adult discipleship staff members are also available to pray in homes and in hospitals as needed.
- During communion in the fellowship hall services, church leaders (both men and women) are available to pray with individuals and families.
- Women who would like to request a prayer time with another woman are encouraged to contact Julie Dean, Adult Discipleship Coordinator, or Caroline Scruggs, Women’s Discipleship Director. Call the church office at 423-821-4528 or contact by email: julie@lmpc.org or caroline@lmpc.org

5. Staying Informed About the Needs of the Church

- Prayer lists are printed weekly and are available in both the fellowship hall lobby and the narthex between the chapel and sanctuary.
- Sign up for PrayLMPC to receive email prayer requests. Call the church office or email margaret@lmpc.org, or complete the form at lmpc.org/prayer.
- Pray for Me: Every fall, adults at LMPC are given the opportunity to pray for middle or high school students. Each “prayer partner” is given the first names of several students to pray for during the year using Tony Souder’s book *Pray 4 Me*. Throughout the year, youth staff will also inform the *Pray4Me* partners of prayer requests for the youth ministry as a whole.
- Senior intercessors: Many of our “VIPs” (senior citizens) have committed to regularly pray for the needs of our church and are kept informed of those needs through monthly updates from Joe Novenson, pastor of senior adults. If you would like to be added to the list receiving these updates, contact judie@lmpc.org.

6. Written Prayers

There are a number of devotional resources available at lmpc.org/prayer, including prayers based on the “I am’s” of Jesus and the Beatitudes. Many Christians find that using written prayers as a part of their devotions helps them to stay focused and avoid a hurried rush through the same requests (using the same words) day after day. The written prayers also frequently incorporate Scripture, encouraging us to make God’s Word the foundation of our prayers.



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