

messenger

PRAYING “OFFENSIVELY”

“Pray without ceasing.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16

There is an old saying, “There are no atheists in a foxhole.” In times of extreme danger, when we feel helpless, it doesn’t seem to take a lot of motivation for us to pray. The more helpless we are, often the easier it is for us to pray. After all, what else can we do?

September used to be the beginning of a busy time for many of us. Things like school didn’t get going until after Labor Day. But now August is that month. The crowd of students is back, ISU football is in full swing, and parents have impossible schedules between soccer, dance lessons, music practices, and school orientations. By September we are full swing into all of that. When we are busy like that, what time is there is pray?

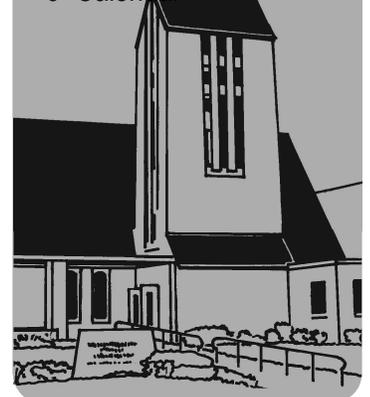
Martin Luther once said, “I’m busy today. I better pray twice as much.” That seems backwards. Isn’t praying better to do when we have the free time, when we aren’t in great need, when we can’t do anything else? That is true if we only think of prayer “defensively,” as something to help “me” when I can’t help myself. It is like ISU playing a cautious brand of football. And it does nothing to help others.

But God calls upon us to pray in all circumstances. As Paul said simply, “Pray without ceasing.” Paul didn’t mean by that to pray every second of our lives, but to continue to make prayer a part of our daily lives, both when times are tough and when they are easy, both when we are busy and when we are waiting, both when we are in control and when we are helpless.

That is praying “offensively,” praying not just for “me,” but praying for others. And even more importantly it is praying to help us recognize in all circumstances, not just when we are waiting helplessly, that it is God, not us, who is in control. That is why we go to church, not so much to do something, but to recognize that God is the one who gets things done. In the Old Testament God commanded people to rest on the Sabbath to make sure that they see that He is the Creator, not *we*. We don’t have to wait for Sabbath. Each day, in so many moments we can include God in our lives by talking to Him—the busier we are, the more we can do it.~MTH

inside

- 2 Worship Schedule
Worship Notes
Musical Groups
- 3 Education
Sunday Bible Class
Adult Info Class
Youth Activities
- 4 Getting Involved
Summer VBS
- 5 Student Ministry
Committee Notes
LWML Rally
- 6 Int’l Student Ministry
Financial Report
- 7 Kebede
Kebede Financial Rpt.
Take Note
Thank-you
- 8 Birthdays
Anniversaries
- 9 Calendar



Drawing by K. F. Dunker



**SEPTEMBER
Schedule**

September 1	5:00 PM Informal Worship (HC)
September 2	8:30 AM Creative Worship (HC) 11:00 AM Creative Worship (HC)
September 8	5:00 PM Informal Worship (HC)
September 9	8:30 AM Creative Worship 11:00 AM Creative Worship (HC)
September 15	5:00 PM Informal Worship (HC)
September 16	8:30 AM Divine Service, Setting 4 (HC) 11:00 AM Divine Service, Setting 4 (HC)
September 22	5:00 PM Informal Worship (HC)
September 23	8:30 AM Divine Service, Setting 1 11:00 AM Divine Service, Setting 1 (HC)
September 29	5:00 PM Informal Worship (HC)
September 30	8:30 AM Creative Worship (HC) 11:00 AM Creative Worship (HC)

Worship Note

Because Pastor Mark is Sunday School superintendent, there will be no 10 AM service this year. Parents of younger children are encouraged to watch the children sing from 9:40-10 AM in the MLC Student Center at the beginning of their Sunday School time.

Musical Groups Schedule

Beginning Bells led by John Anderson (oldogjohn@hotmail.com) meet on Tuesdays from 6 to 7 PM.

The Memorial Bells is led by student Jena Nahnsen (jnahnsen@iastate.edu). Bells will begin on Tuesday, September 4 at 7 PM.

The Memorial Choir will begin Thursday, September 6 at 7 PM led by student So-Yeoun Lee (devotion@iastate.edu). Carol Weber will accompany the rehearsals.

The Memorial brass will begin Thursday, September 6 at 8:15 PM led by student PJ Van Der Weide (pjv@iastate.edu).

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Education

Rally Day - Sunday, September 9

Join us for the first day of Sunday school by learning things that happened in Jesus' time. Register at: <https://vbsmate.com/events/MLCAmesIA/17038>

Confirmation Classes Begin

Confirmation this year will be for Middle School age youth, 6th-8th grade. Classes will begin Wednesday, September 5.

Youth leader Elaina Soulek will be teaching a summary of the Bible to the 6th graders.

Pastor Beagley will be teaching the Ten Commandments and Creed to the 7th graders.

Pastor Heilman will be teaching the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Holy Communion to the 8th graders.

Sunday Bible Class

Sunday Adult Class (at 10 AM in the Student Center) will study the Tabernacle and how it points us to Christ.

Adult Info Class

The **fall adult instruction** class taught by Pastor Dave will begin at 7 PM on September 12th. This six week class is a brief introduction to a biblical understanding of Christianity and of the Lutheran faith. Old time Lutherans are always invited as a means of refreshing the faith they learned in Confirmation class. Those who are interested in more information about the Lutheran class will find this class preparatory to membership. There is no obligation to join. The focus of this class is to read the Scriptures and to underscore the basic foundations of Christianity.

Youth Activities

On July 22 the high school youth had their fourth annual car wash. They also sold egg rolls made by Kong Keochai and students. They raised over \$450 from the car wash and \$250 from the egg rolls. This is in preparation for the national youth gathering next summer in Minnesota. They will be planning their triennial auction for next month.

The high school youth met weekly on Wednesday throughout June and July. Our thanks to the Coles, Dan Voss, and the Higgins for hosting.

Parents of high school youth will be asked to meet with Elaina and Dan on Sunday, September 9 after the 8:30 AM service (9:40) downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

The Middle School will resume monthly meetings with an activity on September 12. The 6-8 graders will meet each *second* Wednesday of the month for supper and an activity after confirmation.

Getting Involved

Contact Lyle Groth to volunteer

Thanks to all who helped as ushers and greeters this summer! Also, thanks to those who helped with the student brunch on August 19.

Special thanks to Amy Balvanz who filled in for me this summer while I recovered from shoulder surgery.

I conducted the student interest survey on August 19 and 26. You can fill out a **Student or Congregational Interest Survey** by picking up a copy in the office.

Service Volunteers

Serve or be on the substitute list as an usher, greeter, or communion assistant (weekly cycle).

The Board of Directors is asking for volunteers who could be in the church office Sunday from 10-11 AM to help with needs for the copier, have a key if people need to get into a janitors closet, and take notes for staff. We will be looking for one volunteer each Sunday. Jeanne is available until 10 AM in the office after 8:30 AM service. Contact Jeanne if you are interested in helping or have any questions.

Volunteers are needed to watch the parking lot before the early service from 8:25-35 AM.

Each week visitors come to our church who are not aware of alternate parking at the Union.

We need a list of volunteers who can man the sound system each Sunday. If you would be willing to learn how to do it and help, let me know. This a good task for youth!

Altar Guild

Work on the Altar Guild (monthly cycle) preparing Holy Communion. Contact Brenda Smith.

Prayer Pals

Would you like to be a prayer pal for a Confirmation student this year? Contact Jan Anderson for details.

Property Needs

The Property Committee can still use more people on the committee. Contact Rod Berryman for details.

If you have a prayer request, or would like to be added to the prayer list, please submit to me at legroth1@gmail.com.

Get involved with the International Ministry

If you are available to be a conversation partner this semester contact Judy. She will match you up with a partner and you can meet for an hour a couple times per month. It will be one-on-one conversations. It is a great opportunity to meet a new friend.

Help us out with driving to different event!

Volunteer any of your time to help transport internationals (i.e. Worship services, Sunday school, ISM activities or trips, English classes). If you want to be a teacher or Substitute teacher for fall classes let Judy know.

Student Ministry

University Student Ministry at Memorial Lutheran Church

A student welcome lunch was held on Sunday, August 19 at noon. We thank all those who helped with that event.

In August a letter was sent out to new students welcoming them to Memorial. Throughout the school year six mailings will be sent to students. We hope to make contact with students who worship at Memorial through our peer ministers, the Outreach callers, emails, and phone calls. Our web site has a student section which informs students about activities we have for them. Student interest surveys were also made available to students on August 19 and 26 to help them identify how they might want to get involved.

On Wednesday, August 22 our first Wednesday fellowship time for students began. Each Wednesday at 8:30 PM students take turns leading devotion with songs led by Norm Weitzel.

LWML RALLY—"Chosen to Serve"

October 6 from 9 AM-3 PM

The In-gathering items needed will be given to Moulton Elementary School in Des Moines. A box will be in the narthex for your donation.

Underwear - sizes 4, 5, 6
Socks for small children ages 5-8
Colored pencils
Crayons
Gift cards from Wal-Mart or HyVee

Committee Reports

Summary of the July 10 Board of Directors Meeting

Property committee chair, Rod Berryman, presented ideas for new signage. The board authorized the committee to accept the bids from First Class Signs using money from the combined memorials fund.

Financial secretary Judy Newhouse presented options for staff health insurance from the Concordia Plans. The board will vote on that in August.

Members of the congregation will be asked if they want to contribute anything to help Kebede's son, Solomon, attend college in Texas.

The board has authorized the staff to either donate the van to the ministries in Iowa City or Cedar Falls or sell it.

The Structured Mission Workshop will be July 21.



Summary of the August 14 Board of Directors meeting

The board will be looking for someone to head the property committee.

The board moved that the staff work to provide background checks for all who work with minors as volunteers.

The congregation will continue for 2019 with the existing health insurance policy with Concordia Plans.

The new sign on the west side is up. The sign company is working with the city on completing a sign on the north side which meets the code.

The financial report looks very good for the end of summer, and generous donations have been made to the Kebede fund.

Next meeting—September 11.

International Student Ministry

Our first "FISH" (Friday International Student Hospitality) will be held on Friday, September 7 at 6 PM. Cost for the meal is \$3 per person, \$7 per family. John Anderson and the men of Beta Sigma Psi will be doing the cooking.

A group of internationals went to see the Balloons at Indianola on August 2 and went to the State Fair on August 13.

Schedule of Classes for this semester- *Please let Judy know if you can be a substitute teacher.*

Monday	10 AM --4 levels English - Weihua Zhu, Bruce Calhoun, Pam Millen
	11:15 AM --Art Class - Cleo Lynch
	1 PM --Bible study - Judy Newhouse
Tuesday	10 AM --Intro to American Literature - John Carlson
	10 AM --English Lab - Kristi Carlson, Ken Dunker
	11 AM --TOEFL - Ken Dunker
	2 PM --US Citizenship - Judy Newhouse
	6 PM --Life in English - Judy Newhouse
Wednesdays	10 AM --4 Levels English- Wei Hua, Bruce Calhoun, Jewel Proctor, Bob Hunter
	11:15 AM --Composition Class - David Heddendorf
	1:00 PM --Health class - Linda Vogtlin
Thursday	9 AM --Quilting Class (1st & 3rd Thursdays) - Linda Vogtlin, Sally Hartman
	10 AM --Idioms - Judy Newhouse

Financial Report

As of August 19, 2018

	<u>Budgeted Amt.</u>	<u>Received</u>
Expenses	234,413.00	318,158.00
Synod	22,154.00	13,827.00
Missions	3,415.00	0.00
Kebede	<u>21,979.00</u>	<u>28,685.00</u>
Totals	\$281,961.00	\$360,670.00

To date, members and friends of Memorial Lutheran have donated their Thrivent for Lutherans "Choice Dollars" in the amount of \$2,574.00.

Thank you for your support.

Kebede Ministry



We see a group of women from the Tabor Congregation in Awassa, Ethiopia, our sister congregation in East Africa where our friend Kebede has his office.

Women play a vital role in the ministry of the Tabor congregation to spread the Gospel in Awassa, the surrounding communities, and

throughout Ethiopia. They know how important women are to Christ and His ministry. On July 22 we celebrated the day of Mary Magdalene, a woman who was the first to see Jesus alive on Easter. Women like Pricilla, who worked with St. Paul, and Tabitha (also called Dorcas), who made clothes for the poor in Joppa, were a lynchpin in the efforts to spread the Gospel in the early Church.

The women in the picture meet regularly for prayer and to make crafts to sell to support mission efforts. People from our congregation contribute to the specific women's ministry program offered each year as one of the special projects Kebede offers to us to go above and beyond what we give to support his basic ministry.

Kebede Financial Report

	<u>Budget Amt.</u>	<u>Collected Amt.</u>	<u>OTHER NEEDS</u>	<u>Budget Amt.</u>	<u>Collected Amt.</u>
<u>Salary, wires, & Work Program</u>	40,760	28,685	Gidola Cong.	5,000	1800
			Women's Grp.	4,000	1500
			Youth Grp.	4,000	1500
			Hursa Outreach	3,000	2100
			Seed Project	6,000	1100
Next payment on September 1					

TAKE NOTE

In your new directory please change Denise Balvanz's email to: dibalvanz@gmail.com

and...Judirae Obrecht no longer has a land line.

If anyone needs a correction noted please contact the office.

Prayer Shawl Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month, (unless otherwise announced), in the Student Center at 7 PM. Yarn and projects are provided. If you have not learned how to knit or crochet we are very willing to teach you. Please join us for a fun evening!

Thank you!

On behalf of the staff, congregations, and church workers of Iowa District West I want to say thank you for your financial partnership during the second quarter of 2018. Your gifts, among other things, helped provide for our District convention at which delegates from all 172 congregations gathered to conduct business, worship, and hear how we are serving together in support of Christ's mission. Thank you for your partnership in that mission!
~President Steve Turner, Iowa District West

Birthdays

September 1	Pat Zierke	September 16	Mary Ater
September 2	Lida Teske		Stacy Cesler
September 3	Rod Berryman		Luke Leidal
September 5	Deb Coles		Arlo Meyer
	Linda Weitzel		Carol Weber
September 6	Jennifer Bruner	September 17	Ben Voaklander
	Michael Tringides		Kebede Mulatu Ponta
	John Dirks, Jr.	September 18	Ron Gloede
September 7	Sarah Teske		Destiny Lempiainen
	Anthony Lehman		Cameron MacKenzie
	Ayon Lual	September 19	Daryl Herzmann
	Tim Grotheer	September 20	Sarah Schoppe
	Lisa Booms	September 21	Dale Hover
September 9	Averie Bruner	September 22	Marcia Holst
	Tracy Porter		Emma King
	Kathy Cole	September 23	Candace Flakoll
September 10	Eric Baldrige		Megan Vollstedt
	Tanner Johnson	September 24	Linda Kelley
	Myra Nell	September 25	James Arthur
September 12	Dan Franklin		Jeff Cesler
	Mary Sue Brown		Patti Kimle
September 15	Travis Hosteng		Justin Nolting
	Noah Krull	September 27	Bruce Battles
	Heather Kellner	September 28	Ashley Smelser
	Arlo Meyer	September 29	Teena Dory
	Max Noack	September 30	Lyle Groth

September Anniversaries



1	Don & Judy Beitz	55 yrs.
1	Jim & Diane Bengtson	28 yrs.
1	David & Jennifer Evans	17 yrs.
2	Max & Jeanne Noack	41 yrs.
3	Bob & Jan Anderson	58 yrs.
3	Daryl & Barbara Erickson	35 yrs.
5	Dale & Pauline Balmer	64 yrs.
6	Rodger & Marcy Main	21 yrs.
7	Keith & Angie Halfwassen	16 yrs.
7	Ron & Cleo Honold	61 yrs.
12	Tim & Paula Dacken	26 yrs.
12	Larry & Patricia Gilbert	43 yrs.
13	Russ & Sally Gleason	38 yrs.
20	Rod & Carol Berryman	49 yrs.
26	Ben & Jennifer Voaklander	26 yrs.
27	James & Andrea Sharkey	10 yrs.
28	Jim & Lojean Petersen	44 yrs.

