

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Prayer, a conversation with God!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray For:** Abby started PT last week and Steve had two procedures on his back last week and one more scheduled for this week. Wanye and Cathy Ezell, Lois MacAlvain (Gale Larson’s mother) needs prayers for recovery from a stroke, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe, Hans, for his safety and that fishing season will improve.

**Prayers Answered:** Great worship services with friends and family!

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers, Hans is in Dillingham. Jacob Smith is traveling until the end of August. Ben is traveling outside, should return by the 29th or so.

**Door Knocking:** Please consider volunteering for this effort.

**Radio Program:** Listen to “Searching the Scriptures”, our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.

**Today’s Scripture:** “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” **Acts 2:41-42 (KJV)**

**Today’s Wisdom:** “But as for me, my prayer *is* unto thee, O LORD, *in* an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.” **Psalms 69:13 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 71      Record: 96

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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July 22nd, 2018 BULLETIN for the



## God’s Plan of Salvation

- Hear .....Romans 10:17
- Believe .....Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
- Repent ..... Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
- Confess ..... Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
- Be Baptized..... Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
- Arise & Walk in Newness of Life.....Romans 6:4

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...”

—Romans 1:16 KJV

### MEETING TIMES

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes: 10AM  
AM Worship: 11AM  
PM Worship: 6PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7PM

### OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. 3PM-7PM

### COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

[www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

## Four Things The Early Church Was Devoted To:

Our pattern for the church today is exemplified by the early church. We know that what they did, how they worshiped and conducted themselves was acceptable to God. Therefore, in order for us to be confident in our practices today we should look to them for guidance. In Acts, Luke tells us four things that the early church devoted themselves to: *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* **Acts 2:42 (KJV)**

These four things, 1) The Apostles Doctrine, 2) Fellowship, 3) Breaking Bread, and 4) Prayer are things that we should be doing as a congregation today. But what do these mean? What does it mean to devote ourselves to the apostles doctrine, or to fellowship, or to breaking of bread, or to prayer? Over the next few weeks, we will look into these to determine how we should be conducting ourselves today.

**Prayer:** Humans have a need, a deep and abiding need, to talk. I remember when I was in the Boy Scouts and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow. One of the things that they made us do was carve a wooden arrow, attach a string to it and wear it around our neck. For the next three days we were not allowed to talk to anyone, even to answer questions. Every time we talked, one of the instructors would cut a notch in the arrow. The third notch caused the arrow to be broken and the candidate was eliminated from consideration. I made it through with one notch, but others didn't. Talking, it seems is something we are hard-wired by God to do. Just listen to the various conversations in our building before and after services and between class and worship. There is a buzz that is active, sometimes loud, and always good to hear. We talk to our family, our friends and our co-workers. We even talk with total strangers standing in line at the checkout counter, on the phone or at public venues. When we have nothing else to talk about, we talk about the weather.

However, our ability to talk to certain people is strictly limited. I know no one who can call up the President of the United States, and few who can call the Governor. Certainly none of us can call the Prime Minister of Canada or the UK, nor the President of Russia even if we had something important to tell them. But each one of us can talk directly to the Creator of the Universe!

Prayer is the avenue that each Christian can use to converse directly with God. And the great thing about it is that we don't even have to have something of universal importance to tell Him. We can talk to Him about how we feel today, or about our concerns for our children, our wife or husband, our mother or dad. We can talk to him about our finances, about our health, about the Church, and even about the weather. And He will listen, how awesome is that!

By: Bill Beebe

And when we are in situations where we can not from the thoughts and words for our prayers the Holy Spirit will step in and help us. *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”* **Romans 8:26-27 (KJV)**

So not only do we have the ability to talk directly to God, God in the form of the Holy Spirit will help us when we don't know the words or when we can not form the thoughts to converse with the Father. The problem is not God's, He has done everything He can to make our conversations with Him easy and often. He wants us to talk to Him often, Paul says it this way: *“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (KJV)** This, it itself, is something that is amazing. Not only does the Creator of the Universe want to hear from you, He wants to hear from you constantly. He wants a conversation that is real and not forced or reserved for troubles or ceremony. He wants to hear from you several times a day!

The problem is we don't pray nearly enough. We usually give thanks for our meals, and we often make sure our small children pray at night and we pray when we are in difficult situations. That is why all hospitals have chapels, people who never pray, or who rarely pray, can be seen in those rooms praying during periods of high stress. For sure, God will hear the Christian during those times, but He wants to hear from us much, much more.

Too often though we do something first, then ask God to get us out of the bad situation we got ourselves into by not asking Him to begin with. Too often we pray only when we are at the worship services, or at a special meal such as Christmas or Thanksgiving. Too often we consider conversing with God to be something that can only be done in very special or very difficult situations. But that is not how He wants our conversations to be. He wants to hear from us all the time. He wants to hear how you are feeling, what is on your mind, how your health is, how your family is, and He wants to hear about your triumphs not only about your difficulties!

So a healthy prayer life will be constant, common, and informative. Otherwise He wouldn't have had Paul write *“Pray without ceasing”*. And He answers our prayers, most of us will agree to this. But His side of the conversation has already been given to us. It is His Word, the Holy Bible. That is how He talks with us today. Pray to Him about common things, then read His response in the Bible, you will be surprised how well He talks back to you.