

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Teach Us To Pray!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray For:** Clohe Larson, The Reeds grandson, Caleb and his mother; Phyllis Maxwell as she recovers from surgery, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe; Wayne Ezell will be traveling to Seattle for surgery on the 23rd.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers, Thad Douthitt (deployed) , Steve and Abby, Hans and Danesa are traveling outside. Eddie and Susan are traveling and will return around the 25th. Tina Crawford is also outside and plans to return on the 25th. Tom and Debra and Paul and Alice are also traveling this week. Joe, Beverly and their family and Bill Beebe will be at the Alaska Statewide Lectureship in Soldotna this weekend.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." **Luke 11:1 (KJV)**

**Today's Wisdom:** "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy." **Psalms 64:1 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 72      Record: 96

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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April 22nd, 2018 BULLETIN for the

# Church of Christ AT WASILLA

## 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

## Teach Us To Pray! (Part 1)

God has given us so many wonderful blessings. In fact, His blessings seem to go on and on and we become so accustomed to them that we fail to see them for blessings and think that that is just the way things are supposed to be. Lets spend some time today thinking of blessings that we too often take for granted.

1. The placement of the earth in the solar system. Think about this for a moment, if we were much closer to the sun our planet would be more like Venus, too hot for liquid water. If we were much farther from the sun it would be too cold for liquid water.
2. The rotation of the earth that gives us day and night. This just happens to be the perfect combination of light and darkness to allow us to work hard and then renew our bodies in sleep.
3. The tilt of the earth that provides our seasons.
4. The presence of the gas giant planets that protect the earth from constant bombardment by asteroids.
5. The magnetic field that protects us from harmful radiation from the sun and that turns that radiation into a glorious visual performance known as the Northern and Southern Lights.

There are so many more blessings that He has granted us that I can't begin to list them all. And most of them we take for granted and never even thank Him for. But perhaps the most often overlooked blessing of all is the blessing of prayer! Oh, we pray at the gathering of the church. And most of us pray thanking Him for our meals. We casually tell people that we will pray for them, then go through our day and never think about them or the prayer we promised again. Sometimes we pray when we are driving, simply because we have nothing else to do and we are tired of listening to the radio. At other times we pray because that is all we can think of to do, and we have an attitude of "After all it can't hurt!".

To true Christians, this blessing of prayer is something to be cherished, nurtured and used constantly. It should be more than an empty promise that we use to pretend to be concerned. It is more than a quick statement that we feel we need to make before we can eat. And it is certainly not something that we should use as a "last resort", that can't hurt anyway. Consider what honest and true prayers allow us to do. Through prayer, we can talk directly with the creator of the universe! What a tremendous thought that is!

By: Bill Beebe

Just think, we who have so little power, so little strength and such a small amount of knowledge can talk directly to the being who designed the universe, who set in motion the stars, who created the planets, who created life itself! When we can not even call the governor of the state, or the President of the nation, we can talk with the creator of the universe. And we don't even use it much and what is perhaps worse is that we do not prepare for it.

Don't you think that if you had a chance to talk to the President you would set aside a period of time and be sure that nothing else interfered with it? Wouldn't you make sure that you were prepared for that conversation so that you wouldn't waste the time you had with him? But what do we do when we do pray? Do we set aside a special time for prayer? Do we set up a special place to pray? Or do we just go into it half heartedly wanting to get through it so that we can say that we prayed? I don't do as good a job at my public prayers as I should. I have a distant cousin in Arkansas who when he was asked to pray would write his prayer down. I initially thought that was kind of weird, but the more I thought about it the more I admired him for it. He recognized the honor of prayer, he was talking to God! He wanted to be sure that he covered all he needed to or wanted to in his prayer and he would not go into it unprepared.

Not only do we fail to prepare to pray, but perhaps what is worse is that we never teach our young men and, yes, our young women too, how to pray! Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1) and we should teach new Christians, and maybe all of us older ones as well, how to pray. The New Testament records a considerable amount of instructions on prayer given to us by Jesus. Consider just these few things:

1. Luke 6:12, Luke 9:28, Mark 6:46, Matthew 6:6, go to a private place to pray
2. Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:28, pray for those who don't like us much
3. Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we should always pray
4. James 1:6-7, pray with faith never wavering

So...lets all consider our prayer life. Do we actually pray, or do we just say that we do? When we pray do we make time for it, or just pray when we have nothing else to do? Do we pray expecting God to answer, or are our prayers uttered because we don't know what else to do? Are we teaching our young men and women both to pray, or do we just think that they will figure it out themselves. We need to teach our young people, both male and female, to pray so that their private prayer lives can be active and fruitful and so that our young men can effectively lead public prayers in our worship services providing examples so visitors and other Christians can see what a powerful blessing this really is!