

The Messenger

March 2019

Does God Always Hear Our Prayers?

By Joyce Will

That's a million dollar question, isn't it - does God always hear our prayers? As a little tike, I learned short easy prayers in my nursery Sunday School class and also learned to keep our eyes closed, our heads, bowed, and our hands intertwined whenever we prayed. As a small child I remember my mother teaching me the childhood prayer - "now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." I remember not being able to go to sleep until I prayed that simple childhood prayer, often with my mother listening to me as my eyes were clenched tightly closed as well as my little hands tightly folded in prayer.

Long ago in Bible times, did you know that they didn't always bow their head and close their eyes when they prayed? They often simply looked upward and prayed to their Father in heaven. John 11:41 says - "Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that You have heard Me.' But know this - God is always more concerned with our hearts than our behavior when we pray. When it comes to prayers it is less important how we position our bodies and more important that we have our hearts wide open.

Early in my childhood I learned the Lord's Prayer and remember hearing the sometimes lengthy prayers the preachers prayed from their pulpit on Sunday mornings. Sometimes when I heard those prayers I wondered about all the words the preachers used. The words they sometimes used seemed awfully fancy so I began to wonder, do I have to pray with all the thous and thees and such. But then I learned that one just needs to talk with Him - just. talk. That's all - just like He's your best friend and you just have an ordinary conversation with Him. Jeremiah 29: 12 confirms what we want to know that He indeed always hears our prayers - "In those days when you pray, I will listen." I love that promise, don't you? "I will listen". Am pretty sure that means He hears them all, my friends.

So my dilemma was, do I pray with all those fancy words or do I just talk to Him. I tried both and I know in my heart that He heard each one, but maybe had to chuckle a bit when I tried to use fancy words that I suppose were often not used correctly.

Continued Next Page...

Minden United Methodist Church

*Vision: The Lord will renew and
strengthen us like eagles.*

Isaiah 40:31

*"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength,
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

Office Hours:

Pastor Peter: Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday, Friday
and Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Pastor Peter will not be in the office on Mondays.

Aleda Younkin: Office Manager
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:
8:30-12:00 PM—1:00—3:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Pastor | Peter Choi |
| Office Manager | Aleda Younkin |
| Custodian | Debra Overleese |
| Prayer Chain | Joan Fries |

*Worship Time
9:45 AM
Sunday School Time
9:00 AM*

Address Service Requested

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Minden, NE 68959-2415
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Pastor's Cell: 201-888-8430
Parsonage: (308) 832-2215
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I recall once in my youth that I wanted with all my might a specific fellow would say yes when I asked him to go with me to an activity. I remember that I prayed and prayed and prayed that he would say yes. I was surely beyond disappointed at the time when the answer was no. How many times have you asked God for something, felt that He was punishing you by not giving it to you and then later on discovered that He was actually protecting you? How awesome is that! Does God hear such trivial prayers when some might believe that they are just silly unimportant pleas? Yes He does - remember His promise - "I will listen." As a teenager, I felt certain that God had deserted me, that He didn't hear my prayers that I had fervently prayed. And to tell the truth I felt a little angry at God that He didn't arrange for this to work out, as I had wanted it so much. But I soon learned that God's timing is perfect. Never too early. Never too late and that we need to only trust Him in our waiting. Trust Him in our wondering. Trust Him in our prayers. He will answer us when He knows the time is right. In Isaiah 60:22 we learn - "When the time is right, I, the Lord will make it happen."

Without a doubt we know that there is never a moment when God doesn't care, never a time when He doesn't hear our prayers. In Philippians 4:6 we learn - "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers."

Have there been times when you've almost given up on God answering your prayers? Of course there has been. But I and many others will tell you - don't lose hope! Remember that He is good and when His answer comes to you, it will indeed exceed anything you could ever ask or imagine. Be thankful for closed doors, detours and roadblocks that God puts in our lives at just the right times. They protect us from places we are not meant to go, despite how much we think we know what is right for us. Years after my prayerful pleas, I firmly thanked Him that He didn't nudge that fellow to say yes, as He had much greater plans for me!

My friends, know this - our God is faithful. We just need to keep praying - God is listening. Without a doubt, our God does hear our prayers, whether we close our eyes or not and whether we lift our hands in praise or keep them clasped together. Remember His promise to us - "I will listen". That makes my heart smile, hope it does yours too. Jw♥

Confirmation Sunday...February 10th, 2019



Time of Prayer during Confirmation Class



Fun outing for the Confirmation Class



Opening Exercises for Sunday School



February UMW Meeting



February Finance Meeting



Getting the Newsletter ready for the mail.



Pancake Feed

Pancake Feed, February 17th

Lenten Lunches Are Beginning March 6th...

This year all Lenten lunches will be held the St. John's Catholic Church. Lenten Lunches will be held on Wednesday, March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and April 3rd and 10th at 11:45 am. The cost of the meal is \$5.00 with all proceeds going to fund programs of the Minden Interchurch Ministries. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend, as it is a good time for interchurch fellowship.

Writing The Gospels Of Matthew And Mark For Lent...

Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally "turn around" and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

During the season of Lent, we will be writing the Gospels of Matthew and Mark from the Bible into a special book at our Church. It will be a meaningful time to remember Jesus Christ and His ministry. We are asking the members of the congregation to sign up for a day and then come to the church on that day and write down one or two chapters from these Gospels. You will start where the person before you left off. We will continue until we have completed the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

Volunteers For Summer School Lunch Program Needed...

The 2019 summer school lunch program is quickly approaching. We are looking for a volunteer to help schedule the rest of the volunteers for this rewarding service that spans from the first of June to the end of July. If you are interested, please contact the Minden E-Free office at mindenefree@gmail.com or 308-832-1574.

Thank You To The United Methodist Women...



A "Big" thank-you to the United Methodist Women for their very generous donation. They paid for the booster hot water heater for the dish washer, the hot water heater under the sink, and they also paid for Yellow Van to strip and wax the floors in the kitchen. You ladies are amazing! This donation was over \$5,500 dollars to the church.

Thanks again,
Gary Smidt-Finance Chair
Dave Craig-Trustee Chair

March 2019



Members and Friends of Minden & Upland

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 World Day of Prayer | 2 |
| 3 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship Youth & Parent Mtg. after Worship service | 4 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 5 7:00 pm Girl Scouts | 6 Ash Wednesday 11:45 am Lenten Lunch 6:00 pm Mom's United 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service | 7 | 8 6:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal | 9 Grimes/Likens Wedding |
| 10 Daylight Savings Time 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship | 11 7:00 pm Cub Scouts | 12 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Mtg. | 13 9:00 am UMW 11:45 am Lenten Lunch 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Bell Choir | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship 2:00 pm Cub Scouts | 18 8:30 am-4:00 pm WIC 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 19 7:00 pm Girl Scouts | 20 11:45 am Lenten Lunch 6:00 pm Mom's United 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Bell Choir | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship 4:00 pm Cub Scouts | 25 | 26 7:00 pm Girl Scouts | 27 11:45 Lenten Lunch 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Bell Choir | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship |  PHONE PRAYER CHAIN If you or your family has a prayer request you would like put on the Prayer Chain for prayers please call Joan Fries at 1-402-756-0257. | | | | March Greeters & Ushers... March 3 rd : Mike & Jodi Boudreau Gene Lundeen & Thelma Jensen March 10 th : Dave & Allyson Jameson James & Jeanette Wilkinson March 17 th : Denny & Fran Lange Paul & Dawn Moyer March 24 th : Fred & Joyce Will Gary & Deb Smidt March 31 st : Vivian Bunger & Joan Fries Kurt & Jennifer Muller | |
| March Refreshment Hosts... | | March Scripture Readers... | | | | |
| March 3 rd : Mike & Jodi Boudreau March 10 th : Dave & Allyson Jameson March 17 th : Dick & Kay Lyn McBride March 24 th : Pastor Peter & Lena Choi March 31 st : Dan & Ginger Frizane | | March 3 rd : Marah Dornhoff March 10 th : Kay Lyn McBride March 17 th : Joyce Will March 24 th : Makenna Dornhoff March 31 st : Joyce Will | |  | | |
| Life in Our Church Families... Deaths: Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of: Randy Wolfe who passed away Feb. 2 nd . Gene Thompson who passed away Feb. 5 th . Please call the office when you know of any illness or hospitalization among your friends or family members. Thank you. | | | | | | |
| February Financial Report... General Giving in February \$15,266 General Fund Giving to Date \$33,073 General Expenses in February \$16,670 General Fund Expenses to Date \$31,579 | | | | | | |