

“He gets us to join in with Him as He prays to His heavenly Father.”



prayer

## From Pastor's Desk The Gift of the Lord's Prayer

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

Jesus teaches us how to pray by giving us His prayer, the prayer that He prays, the Lord's Prayer. This is a remarkable gift. For when Jesus teaches us to pray, He doesn't just set us to work by themselves with some instructions on the theory or practice of prayer, like so many modern teachers of spirituality. Instead, He gets us to join in with Him as He prays to His heavenly Father. When we join with Jesus in His prayer, it's like playing the part of a fictional person on stage. We assume the identity of that person. We have our part to play and our lines to say. But in prayer we don't just assume an imaginary character; we identify ourselves with

Jesus and Him with us; we share in His holiness and royal work as the only Son of God the Father.

Since we are disciples of Jesus, He gives us much more than a set prayer that is to be the model for all our prayers; He gives us His own status as God's Son and allows us to share in all the privileges of His unique relationship with His heavenly Father. By giving us His prayer, He includes us in His relationship with His Father and allows us to act as if we were Him, dressed up and clothed in Him (cf. Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:26–27). By giving us His prayer, Jesus

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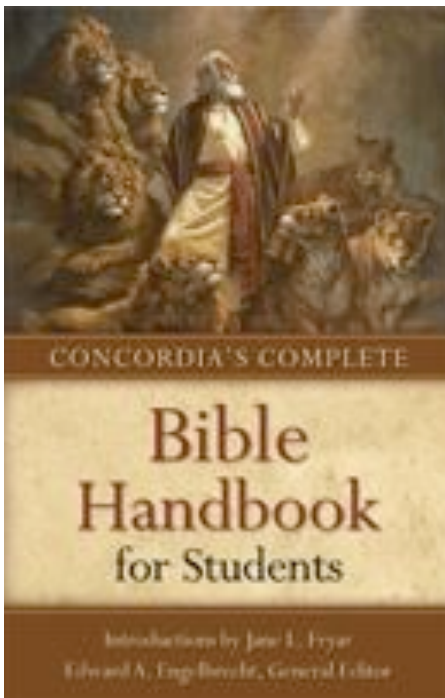
puts us in His shoes and involves us in His royal mission, the holy vocation as the royal Son of God. We may therefore stand in His shoes and pray with Him for the hallowing of His Father's name and the coming of His Father's kingdom.

But still it gets better. The prayer that Jesus gives us to pray with Him is, in fact, His prayer for us and for the whole world. In it, He doesn't just address God as His own Father, but as "our" Father; He goes as far as to pray for "our" daily bread, "our" forgiveness, and "our" protection in temptation, even though He Himself needs none of these things. He identifies with us and our needs, sins, and temptations. He joins Himself to us so that we can join Him in prayer and borrow everything from Him. He swaps places with us so that we can be where He is before God the Father (John 12:26; 17:24). Therefore, when Jesus teaches us to pray, He gives Himself and His intercession to us. Martin Luther gives us this picture, that in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus carries us into His Father's presence, and we ascend there "in His skin and on His back."

So the next time you pray the Lord's prayer, consider this: Jesus is praying with you and for you, carrying you into His Father's presence in His skin and on His back give you all you need.

**"Jesus is praying with you and for you, carrying you into His Father's presence in His skin and on His back give you all you need."**

Pastor Braaten



### The Book of the Month Bible Handbook for Students

Anyone who wants to take an in-depth look at each book of the Bible and learn more about important people, significant places, customs and traditions, and life in Biblical times.

This handbook starts with an introduction to the Bible, looking at questions such as: Who wrote the Bible? How is the Bible organized? What's up with all those translations? Is the Bible reliable and trustworthy? How can I get the most out of the Bible reading I do?

The book then presents a survey of all 66 books of the Bible and the time between the Old and New Testaments. Readers will explore and discover the

who, what, when, where, why and how of: The Books of Moses, The Books of History, The Books of Wisdom, The Books of the Prophets, The Time Between the Testaments, The Gospels and Acts, The Pauline Epistles, The General Epistles and Revelation

In addition to summaries of major topics of the Bible, the handbook also includes articles, charts, diagrams, genealogies, illustrations, maps, outlines, overviews and timelines that provide additional detail for personal, group or class study.

Go to [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) to order or call toll free 1 (800) 325-3040.

## From the President Be Bold In Your Prayers

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

The Rev. Dr. John Kleinig, an old friend from Australia, recently gave a marvelous presentation at a Doxology retreat. Doxology ([www.doxology.us/](http://www.doxology.us/)) is an organization that assists pastors in the craft of caring for themselves, their families and their congregations. After a wild and wooly year of service, I thought it would be healthy for the president's staff to attend a retreat along with roughly 170 pastors and their spouses. It was so refreshing.

One presentation particularly struck me. Dr. Kleinig lectured on "Access to the Father's Grace: Finding Help for Ourselves and Others." As Christians, we have a sacred and priestly calling (Heb. 3:1). In the Old Testament, access to God's saving presence was strictly limited. Once a year, after thorough ritual washing, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies, the innermost sanctum of the temple, carrying blood for the sin offering. The blood was sprinkled liberally about the



"As Christians, we have a sacred and priestly calling (Heb. 3:1)."

Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

mercy seat, the Ark of the Covenant and the altar.

Jesus has rendered us all spiritual priests with access to the Father's saving presence in His blessed Word and Sacrament. "Therefore my brothers, since we have confidence for entry into the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great

high priest over the house of God, let us come near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:19-22).

The apostolic writer is telling us that in Holy Baptism we are freed from sin and given a clean conscience. Our hearts are purified by forgiveness in the Sacrament of the Altar, and we have access—

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unhindered and rendered holy by Jesus—to stand in the holy presence of God Almighty. In fact, Jesus is our high priest, interceding with the Father on our behalf. In Jesus, we know we have not only access to the Father but also the Father’s willing and ready approval!

What does this mean for us priests? Many things, but especially that we can approach God with boldness in our prayers (Heb. 4:14, 16). There are many verses in the New Testament where people bring others to Jesus for help (Matt. 4:24; 8:16; 9:2, 32; 12:22; 14:35; 15:30; 17:17; 19:13), and we can do that same thing through our prayers. Think of the paralytic let down through the roof. The healing of this man was done by Jesus because of the faith of his friends. (“And when Jesus saw their faith . . .” [Mark 2:5]). What a marvelous text for us spiritual priests!

Dr. Kleinig shared with us his own practice of writing down the names of a half-dozen individuals whose situations had come to his attention the previous week. During the service, the Prayer of the Church and Holy Communion, he prays for them. In the ancient church, the people who were prayed for weekly in the service were listed in the dyptich, a sort of hinged tablet. In addition to my daily morning prayer—where I pray for an ever-changing and growing list of people and churches—I’m taking my personal dyptich to church this Sunday.

We can be as bold and confident of the Lord’s concern and compassion for our needy loved one, unbaptized grandchild or wayward brother as those men who were so bold as to remove the roof tiles and lower their friend right in front of Jesus’ face. In fact, Jesus loves to have us do this. He delights in our supplication and is humbled to bring our needs before the Father. This is our great privilege as priests. We have access right into the Holy of Holies, and through prayer, we can even bring friends into God’s presence. Be bold in your prayers for your friends and loved ones. Tear out the roof!

Pastor Matthew Harrison

“Let’s go!” | Mark 1:38

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# Education Corner

## The Importance of Family Devotions

Finding time for family devotions may, up until now, not have been at the top of your to-do list. After all, there's soccer practice to get to, grocery lists to make, and a pile of unfolded towels getting wrinkly in the dryer. But Christian family devotions are important—in fact, vital—for each member of your family.

(1) Devotions bring your family together. In today's fast-paced world, families rarely eat together, let alone talk to one another, let alone spend time in God's Word. Taking time each day to read and meditate on God's Word draws your family together, creates an innate closeness, and offers parents and children alike time to talk about problems and answer questions.

(2) Devotions keep you connected to the Holy Trinity through God's Word and prayer. While some of your children might still be young, others are nearing the age when they will go off to college on their own. You won't be there to make sure they say their prayers or get to church. Uniting your family around God's Word each day teaches your children about Jesus Christ, about the Lutheran faith, and about how to defend what they believe. This is

why our Lord say: "My words are Spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). Devotions are your link to the Holy Spirit and true life.

(3) Devotions don't have to be difficult. They don't have to last an hour. In fact, the church has a huge supply of resources already in place for you to use. Concordia Publishing House sells all sorts of helpful stuff in this regard, such as *The Treasury of Daily Prayer*, which has a Bible reading, a hymn, a Psalm, and a prayer already all laid out for you, one for each day.

Finding time to be in God's Word may be difficult, but it is necessary, and it is good. It will have a profound and lasting impact on your children, searing into their brains the precious, life-giving Word of God. Find time. Make time. You won't be disappointed.

**"It will have a profound and lasting impact on your children, searing into their brains the precious, life-giving Word of God."**





**“This class serves as Immanuel’s new members and inquirers class. Contact Pastor Braaten either by phone or e-mail if interested.”**

## In the News

# Answers Adult Information and New Members Class To Begin Sunday, October 16.

Tom Bodett may leave the light on for you, and for everything else, there may be Mastercard, but if residents of Tuscola, Ill., and the surrounding area are looking for answers to real questions, Immanuel Lutheran Church has them.

Starting on Sunday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m., Rev. Jason Braaten will be offering an adult information course entitled, “Answers,” which takes a hard look at life’s big questions and responds to them. The free, six-week course—which will run for roughly an hour each Sunday until November 20—discusses such topics as “Does God exist?” and “Are people basically good?” and “What is the difference between faith and reason?”

“The class is for everyone,” Braaten says, “because everyone has these questions.” “The point,” he continued, “is to provide answers to the questions in the back of our minds. The questions that come up in conversations with friends, relatives, and in the news. The questions that can gnaw at us when we can’t sleep.”

Rev. Braaten will lead the discussion, but participants are encouraged to bring questions of their own and to join in the conversation. For further information, please see <http://immanueltuscola.org> and click on “Answers Class.”

This class serves as Immanuel’s new members and inquirers class. So, if you’re interested in becoming a member, contact Pastor Braaten either by phone or e-mail.

# Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

## Greeters List

2 Oct	Jim Dyer – West Joan Vukelich – East
9 Oct	Ruth Sims – West Laverl Byers – East
16 Oct	Becky Kappes - West Tim & Teri Pollock – East
23 Oct	Harold & Irene Wattjes – West Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East
30 Oct	Jim Dyer – West Joan Vukelich – East
6 Nov	Ruth Sims – West Laverl Byers – East
13 Nov	Becky Kappes – West Tim & Teri Pollock – East
20 Nov	Harold & Irene Wattjes – West Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East
27 Nov	Jim Dyer – West Joan Vukelich – East

## Coffee Committee

Aug	Pastor & Lauren Braaten
Sep	Laverl Byers
Oct	Harold & Irene Wattjes
Nov	Jerry & Joyce Alexander
Dec	Pastor & Lauren Braaten

## Altar Committee

Oct	Theresa Fields & Sharon Allen
Nov	Ann Hilgendorf & Carol Munson
Dec	Ann Carroll, Holly Wikoff, Sherrie Hoel & Tonia Timlin

## Bi-Monthly Missions

2 Oct	LWML
4 Dec	Christmas Bureau

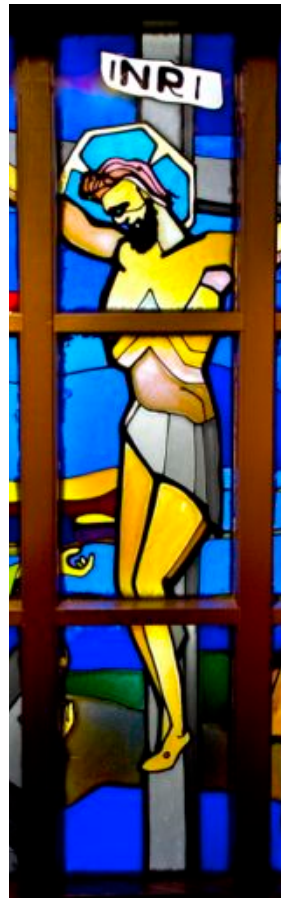
## Elder On Duty – Communion

3 Jul	Dave Slaughter
17 Jul	Greg Nau
31 Jul	Greg Nau
7 Aug	Greg Nau
21 Aug	Geof Danielson
4 Sep	Geof Danielson
18 Sep	Geof Danielson
2 Oct	Jack Appleby
16 Oct	Jack Appleby
30 Oct	Jack Appleby
6 Nov	Dave Slaughter
20 Nov	Dave Slaughter
23 Nov	Dave Slaughter
4 Dec	Greg Nau
11 Dec	Greg Nau
18 Dec	Greg Nau
24 Dec	Geof Danielson
25 Dec	Geof Danielson
31 Dec	Geof Danielson

ATTENDANCE			OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	General	Missions	Building
4 September	21	79	\$2,083.10	\$0.00	\$0.00
11 September	22	75	\$1,805.05	\$10.00	\$10.00
18 September	24	81	\$2,059.50	\$0.00	\$165.00
25 September	24	77	\$2,176.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	91	312	\$8,124.15	\$10.00	\$175.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>		<b>\$8,124.15</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>

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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.