

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
September 15, 2021

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!"

"Pray continually." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

There is something amazing going on around here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida as it relates to our *"Building to Serve Christ and Community"* campaign. What's happening is not targeted directly at raising money to put up a new and larger church building, but rather to building up this congregation's life of faith and knowledge in Christ, our love, our fellowship, our ministry, and our outreach. We have put together a team of prayer warriors who meet regularly together to pray and communicate their prayers for us online. I want to give you an example of what I'm talking about.

Father, You can do all things. Nothing is impossible for you. Your Word tells us if we ask anything according to Your will, You will hear our prayers. So, we ask You to move in our lives. Move us from a place of worry and concern to a place of courage and boldness. Move us from a place of contentment and indifference to a place of purpose and mission. And move us from a place of discouragement and defeat to a place of joy and triumph. Father, there is much to be done for You in the world. Please help us be a part of Your plan. Move us toward promise. Move us toward hope. Move us toward victory. In Jesus name. Amen.

That's one of many prayers already offered before our God's throne of grace. As our campaign kicks into "high gear" beginning with our Oktoberfest event (details below) on October 1st I will be regularly posting the prayers of our Prayer Team on the TLC Facebook page. As you read them our heavenly Father will be listening to it as your prayer as well. That's why we say "Amen" at the end of our prayers...it's as if we are proclaiming "Yes! This is MY heartfelt prayer". If you'd like to get them automatically delivered you can go to that page and hit "Like" which will bring our services, Bible studies and prayers right to your email box. As this capital campaign moves forward, coming to a climax in November into December, there will be many of us who are deeply involved in making it a success. More volunteers are going to be needed along the way. One way that we want, and even expect, everyone to participate in is prayer. It's something we all can do. It's something that we are all called to do. The Apostle Paul writes to the Church in Ephesus, *"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."* (Ephesians 6:18) Pray for the Church, all the believers in Christ in the world. Pray for THIS CHURCH, TLC, that we will be faithful to God's call and will for us, being built up in our faith and trust in Christ for all things. Pray for me, your pastor (I've heard it said many times, "if you want a better pastor pray for the one you've got!), and for all the leaders of this wonderful family that our God has put together and placed us in. Pray for our nation, our state, and our local communities. Pray for those who are sick and suffering, the ones that we know very well, and all that we don't, even those that we might never know this side of heaven. Pray for the lost, those who live out their lives in darkness! Imagine having to deal with all the trouble that's around us today not knowing of the loving presence of Christ with us at all times. That's a lot to pray for, but it's well worth the time and effort, for God hears every prayer that comes before Him. He takes them all seriously, and ultimately answers every one, not always in the way we might expect and according to the timetable that we put on them. Our heavenly Father wants us to come boldly into His presence. He wants us to burst through the doors and pour out our hearts to Him. *"Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."* (Hebrews 4:16) For the sake of Jesus, because of His sacrifice for us and victory over sin death and hell, God the Father has to let us in, He has to hear us, He has to act on our prayers according to our best interests...according to His perfect will for us. Pray continually, in your words, in your thought, even in your actions. Prayer is an ongoing conversation with our God and Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. Be confident, be bold, and even when you are so broken that you can't put words to your prayers be assured that the Holy Spirit prays for us.