

PRAYER LETTER FOR GRACE OF CHRIST CHURCH | Week of September 14, 2026

Ephesians 6.17-18 NIV *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

Praying for others... how does that statement make you feel? What does it make you think of? I used to tense up and feel my voice disappear when I heard those words. I'd stop making eye contact with whoever was leading the discussion. *Please, don't pick me.* I'd try to shrink out of view, maybe even slip out of the room. I did **not** want to pray out loud. I definitely did not want to pray for someone.

The Lord had other plans for me.

He surrounded me with opportunities to pray out loud and to pray for other people. He placed gentle, kind, Spirit-led people in my life who showed me how to pray. Who encouraged me to approach God with confidence. People who prayed over me. And I tried it. I practiced. I took a step, a big step, out of my comfort zone and offered to pray for other people. I fumbled. I tripped over my words. But it got better.

It is still something I need to push myself to do – to offer to pray for someone right in the moment. A reminder that Jesus is with us, right in the moment. Let's talk to Him. Let's share our heart and our need. He already knows...He's waiting for us to come to Him, lean on Him, look to Him... And what I've come to understand, and hope for, is the Spirit intercedes. I won't get the words right, I will fumble, but He is working in the Heavenly realms, on our behalf, for our eternal salvation and relationship with Father God. The Lord knows best what we need and the moment we need it.

Thank you for being willing to pray. At home, in your car, at the store, in the Garden Room, over the phone, sharing Scripture in a note card. You are stepping towards God, in faithful obedience, with courage each and every time. Prayer Matters.

Ericka

PRAISES

- Praises for our Choir, glad they are back!
- We have seen God at work in our lives through His provision.
- O give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His steadfast love endures forever.
- Praise Jesus for J and J's healings.
- Praise for our marriage on our 18th anniversary.
- Praises and thanks for all God's gifts in my life.
- Praise God for His word and "yes" we are ambassadors.
- We are grateful for our church family, Pastor and staff.
- Thanks to God for all the selfless first responders and ordinary people during 9/11 and after.
- Thank the good Lord for the rain we are getting, it is so needed.
- Thank You for all the unexpected blessings I have received, only possible through God and His loving care given to me by others.
- Thank You for all the ladies who were a part of Sisters in Faith. This helps us become a family at church.
- Praise for Caroline and Craig's 50th wedding anniversary.

- Great to have the choir back. Thanks to all who jumped in and helped with the fall kick-off. We appreciate your efforts. Loved all the anthems.
- Praise for the rain today!
- Praise Jesus, my cousin's cancer hasn't continued to spread.

PRAYERS

- Praying God's comfort and peace for the Paulson family as they mourn the loss of Jean.
- We, D & L, need solutions for everyday challenges and learn to surrender more fully to the Lord.
- Father God, please be with J as he says goodbye to his dad.
- Please pray for my husband who is home sick.
- Prayers for confidence in walking and my eyes.
- Pray for me. I have developed arthritis in my hips and legs.
- Praying for grandchildren being drawn to Jesus and receiving Him.
- Praying for safety and protection over our valley.
- Prayers for J's surgery to be successful and lift her pain.
- Prayers for a new position for J.
- Prayers for my sister that her attitude is good and for my brother and sister-in-law.
- Lord we ask for guidance for David and Noni Graves in Indonesia.
- Lord, we ask for Your hand in our local and national leaders, that justice and truth be upheld. We ask that for ourselves as well.
- Healing for our friend's back.
- I pray for unification, to come together looking to Jesus Christ for answers. Only He has all the answers.
- Lord, continue to do all the works through me that need to happen. Thank you for new spaces and opportunities.
- Be with our nation as we remember the horrific act 25 years ago, as people don't trust one another.
- Continue to pray for my house to sell.
- Prayers for my sister-in-law for her knee and back health issues. Surgeries to come.
- Lift up my cousin's wife, J, as she is having a kidney removed Thursday and has a new cancer diagnosis.

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH OFFICERS:

ELDERS: John Adkison, Aaron Dalan, Bruce Drollinger, Michele Elledge, Ana Lucas-Garcia, Eric Gustafson, Larry Hasen, Janet Krieger, Todd Lincoln, Rich Millet (Clerk), and Joe Park.

DEACONS: Brian and Stephanie Ahlgren, Patty Arkills, Todd and Terri Buchanan, Siegie Daniel, Dave Geho, Nancy Gustafson, Larry Handy, Todd Hunziker, Cal Jansen, Randy & Robbie Johnson, Ginger McIlvanie, Jean McKitrick, Kathy Mathison, Matt Miles, Mike Ojanen, Deb Russell, Jean Schiewe, Becky St. John, Dorothy Stotz, Bruce Whitmore, and Diane Williams.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Cathy Campbell, Janet Doty, Cal Jansen, Carla Kupp, and Keith & Linda Mathews.