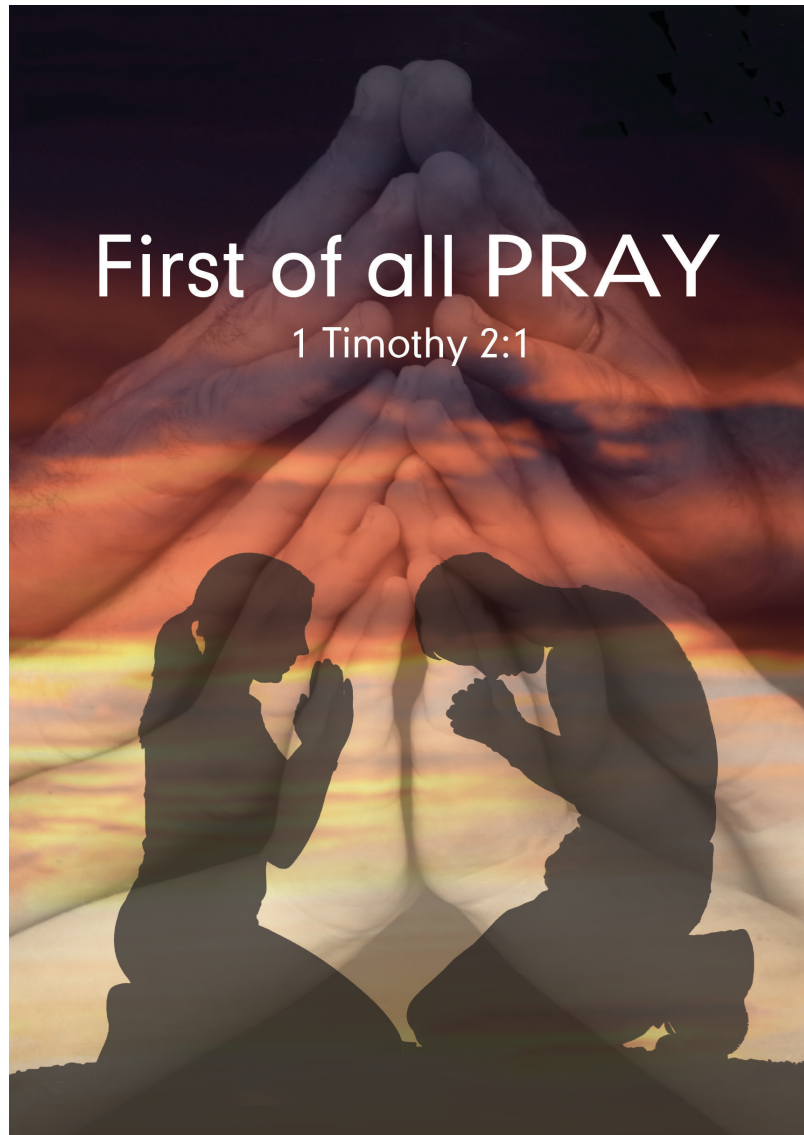


LUTHERAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION 2
2013 Convocation - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

PUT PRAYER INTO YOUR PLANS
Rev. Robert W Smith



“Rise and Shine”

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — (1Tim. 2:1).

PUT PRAYER INTO YOUR PLANS

Rev. Robert W Smith

Book: Keep Me and Keep All

Website: Keepmeandkeepall.com

INTRODUCTION:

World Prayer Assembly

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Parts of Prayer

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The World Prayer Assembly 2012, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, was a very timely event for Christian participants from all over the world. There is no doubt the world needs divine intervention. Only God's intervention can stop the current moral, spiritual and economic declines that face all people. The WPA 2012 was a "once-in-a-generation" experience for us. Over 9,000 delegates representing over 80 nations gathered not around great human personalities or important networks and organizations. We were gathering to seek the Lord of all the earth. It was emphasized that this was a World Prayer Assembly – not a World Teaching Assembly. Therefore for five days, prayer was a significant part of every plenary and sectional meeting. (WPA video)

Before making the trip to WPA 2012 we prayed that we would see what God sees, hear what God hears, and act the way God would want us to act. By God's grace and mercy and through the power of the Holy Spirit we were able to see, hear and encourage others who crossed our paths. Alice and I have seen the vision of sharing God's love, grace and mercy to the entire world.

Our experience at the World Prayer Assembly 2012 opened our hearts and minds to understand better how our heavenly Father is working in the world today. A NEW WAVE IS COMING. Barriers to this vision seem insurmountable. What looks impossible is possible and is happening with the help of God. We want to continue to be part of the NEW WAVE OF PRAYER HAPPENING ACROSS THE WORLD. We want all Christians to catch the wave, too. What a privilege for all of us to have Him bear fruit through us!

I have personally seen many cultures praying – Prayer is universal. Most other religions tend to privately repeat prayers by memory, and those praying usually have a fuzzy concept of who they are praying to or even why they pray. I do believe God created us to have a conversation with Him. In USA almost 90 percent of say they pray. Why do so many pray? It works – From experience - I know.

Therefore, I want to be sure we are on the same page with talking about subject of PRAYER. Therefore I want to present my definition and what I think are the parts of prayer.

Definition of Prayer: Prayer is the conversational part of a loving relationship with God. Let us be more specific. It is the conversational part of a loving relationship with the Triune God.

Parts of Prayer:

1. You speak 2. God Listens 3. God Speaks 4. You Listen

Our goal is to pray for kids, to pray with kids and teach kids how to pray.

Part I

Understand the Teacher's Role

Teacher's Personal Prayer Life - Prayer is something we often talk about, read about, teach our kids about and feel guilty about. Feeling guilty? – How you are doing with your prayer life? I am not here to put a guilt trip on you. I'm here to encourage you! You can't give away anything you have not received. Your Solution: An ordered and disciplined life. You are called to do God's work – to do the mission impossible – give – give and give some more – Burn yourself out. You are doomed to failure if you think you can do it on your own. Your emphases will be on performance instead of on reception. This is the way of the LAW. Performance is self promotion. We are tempted to cut back on our time with the Lord so we can get more done.

Turn it around: reception first – performance second. – Get energized by the Holy Spirit. Hudson Taylor was a British Protestant Christian missionary to China, and founder of the China Inland Mission (CIM) (now OMF - Overseas Mission Fellowship International). Taylor spent 51 years in China. The society that he began was responsible for bringing over 800 missionaries to the country. CIM began 125 schools and this directly resulted in over 18,000 Christian conversions. They also established more than 300 stations of work with more than 500 local helpers in all eighteen provinces.

Hudson Taylor's morale became very low in China during his first years. He began to question himself and he thought he was dogged with failure. He had constant conflict and failure instead of victory. How could he preach with sincerity to others when it was not in his own experience? His life was on an emotional rollercoaster ride between joy over being a saved sinner and sad over his sinning and failures. He was strong and yet weak. He prayed for faith but it seemed not to come. How could his barren branch become a portion of the fruitful stem? Hudson Taylor finally understood that One life reigns throughout the whole vine and branch to bear fruit. It was and is Christ's life; not his own faith but God's faithfulness. He was to abide-remain-connected to Him. Trusting Him for present power to bear fruit; trusting Him to subdue all inward corruption; resting in the love of an almighty Savior to bear fruit.

Jesus has promised never to leave us and to abide in us and never to fail us. Think through the vine and branch one more time (John 15). We do not need to make ourselves branches. The Lord Jesus tells us we ARE branches. We are part of Him. We just need to believe it. It is resting in Jesus now, and letting Him do the work – which makes all the difference! If you are clinging to Christ, the vine, you're guaranteed to bear His fruit. STOP AND REST AND RELAX RIGHT NOW.

Attend to yourself first before your class. Do your devotions and prayer first. (Act. 20:28; I Tim 4:16) Pray for the Holy Spirit. We pray to God the Father through His Son for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Learn to pray by praying – 90% of effective praying is just showing up to do it. Eloquence is not the issue. (Nike: Just Do It!) You have become teachers for two reasons: You love children and want to impact lives. Prayer is the greatest thing you can do for another person. Keep your eyes firmly focused on your relationship with God, and He will nurture your relationship with your students and parents. They will follow where you lead. Just make sure it is God who lights the way.

My experience of living in Muslim countries has taught me that theirs is a culture of prayer. Unfortunately, their prayer is done to earn salvation. You don't have to do everything right as a teacher, but there is one thing you cannot afford to get wrong. That one thing is prayer. Prayer is your highest privilege as a teacher. There is nothing you can do that will have a higher return on investment. The dividends are eternal. Our prayers never die. The best teaching of prayer is accomplished by one's example. You cannot give to others what you do not have yourself. I dabbled in prayer for years. I believe most Christians pray, but still simply dabble in it. It is beginning to change around the world. – World Prayer Assembly is an example. Good teachers are always learning. There is so much more to understand and grasp!

Receptive Spirituality - Rev. Dr. John W. Kleinig, head of biblical studies at Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide, wrote the book *Grace Upon Grace*. Dr. Kleinig rightfully reminds us that what you have is what you have received. *From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace* (John 1:16). We do not, as we follow Jesus, become increasingly self-sufficient. Rather, we learn, bit by bit, the art of begging from God the Father, until at our death we can do nothing but say, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me!" Spiritual life is not a process of self-development, but a process of reception from the triune God. This process of reception turns proud, self-sufficient individuals into humble beggars before God.

As we mature in faith, we move away from pride in ourselves and our own achievements to a gradual awareness of our spiritual failure and Christ's work in us as we entrust ourselves to Him. The BIG obstacle is pride. Until we can practice humility, we will be solely dependent on our own abilities to solve the problems in our classrooms and schools. If we want to reach the hearts of children, we can only do that with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer is the difference between you fighting for God and God fighting for you. Develop a personal passion for prayer – grown out of a personal passion for Jesus. Appendix A is a partial prayer list and four prayers I have developed over the years to pray as a beggar for myself and others. It might have a few helpful ideas to incorporate into your prayer time.

Receptive Meditation - Reception of the Holy Spirit needs to be daily. It is not a lifetime possession. Concentrate on the reception of the Holy Spirit through meditation on God's Word. To me meditation is relaxed concentration on what God tells us in the Bible about the world from His perspective. My preference is to take short sections of Scripture (10-12 verses) and concentrate on them for several devotional periods. I believe less is more. The Holy Spirit speaks through God's words. I want to receive His thoughts and His vision with a focused attitude and heart.

Purpose of meditation:

- See what God sees

- Hear what God hears
- Feel what God feels
- Then act the way Jesus would act

I not only want to read, hear and unpack the words but I also want to picture them. – Imagine the scene I am reading – I want to put myself in the picture. Result of persistent meditation: fruitfulness. Remember Hudson Taylor!

The devil will do everything to cut off the Holy Spirit. Remember! Put on your armor and fight Satan with the Sword of the Word. So when we meditate, we hear God's Word as it is spoken personally to us. We do not use Scripture to make something of ourselves. Scripture remakes us in the likeness of Christ. Christian spirituality is quite simply following Jesus. Prayer is the gateway to a strong and loving relationship with the Triune God. Growing prayer comes through a growing relationship with God. Focus on the Lord rather than on answers to prayer. Also don't forget to combine your meditation with daily remembering your baptism and receiving the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ through regular attendance at the Lord's Supper.

Part II

Understand How and What to Teach

Teacher's Prayers for Students

Individual Prayers - You don't become a praying teacher for kids because you have a duty or responsibility. It is not a problem but a privilege. You do it by design, by desire, by discipline. It is to be intentional, specific and consistent. It takes sheer determination and AGAPE LOVE!

Praying for everything can become as natural as breathing. Once you become aware of what everything means, you'll be watching for prayer opportunities. You'll look at those around you differently. You'll listen more intently. You'll notice things you never noticed before. Prayer without ceasing is knowing that God is always with us. It is having a prayerful attitude at all times. It is never losing contact with God.

As a teacher what should I pray for my students? Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as to what to pray about. The purpose of prayer is not to outline our agenda for God; the purpose is to get into the presence of God and get God's agenda. Your prayers for your students must pass a twofold litmus test: your prayers must be in the will of God and for the glory of God. You can't choose Christ for your kids, but you can pray that they choose Christ.

I developed my own prayer list or journal. Take a look at Appendix A. It might provide some ideas for praying for your students. As the Chaplain of Seoul Foreign School, a Christian school in Seoul, South Korea, I prayed on a regular schedule with our Mom's In Touch group. They gave me a list created by Dick Eastman, President, Every Home For Christ. It gives "31 Ways to Pray For Our Youth." It is presented in Appendix B.

In the past when I had the opportunity to teach physical education I often said; “Play Hard – Play Fair – Nobody hurt.”– Today I’d like to say; “Pray Hard - Pray Bold - Pray as long as it takes (Pray through). Pray for the accomplishment of God’s design for each and every student.

Team Prayers - It is time to begin looking for others to join your prayer team. One of the first ways children learn the importance of prayer is by hearing their moms and dads pray. Parents and grandparents have great influence on their children! When they see them pray, receiving comfort and strength, they’ll soon realize they can have the same thing from the Lord when they pray. It also creates compassion and family unity.

Every teacher needs to find at least two or three others who desire to personally pray for his/her school, their teaching and their students. No matter where you start, others can and will become encouraged to participate as the prayer partner ministry grows. Maintaining a vital prayer partner ministry requires the sharing of periodic prayer concerns. Shared answers to prayers are also important. Be sure to give prayer partners special thanks. Your appreciation will make them want to continue. Success does motivate.

Teaching Students to Pray

School - Continue to cry out to the Father, through Jesus Christ to send the Holy Spirit to guide your school, classroom and students to an understanding of how and what to pray. Create a prayer culture of understanding and participation within your school community. Try these vision and mission statements for prayer.

Vision – All students attending _____ Lutheran School will have the ability to understand what and how to have a conversation with God which will lead to a strong relationship with Him.

Mission – Through the mentoring of parents, teachers and congregational members, students will be provided models, instruction, and practical personal experience in learning what and how to pray.

If we want students to know God and not just know about Him, we need to teach them to pray and pray with them. Children can do all kinds of worksheets about God and hear stories about Him, but it is when they talk and listen to God they begin to know His heart. One of the greatest responsibilities of teachers is praying for students but an even greater responsibility is teaching your kids to pray. Don’t just pray for them; pray with them. Praying for kids is like taking them for a ride; praying with kids is like teaching them to drive. You have to practice with them. Use Scripture as your driving manual. Help them to know the Bible and everything it says about prayer. Every lesson that is taught can be applied to prayer. Help kids to pray from God’s perspective rather than from their perspective. They need to know that God is real, He listens and answers prayer.

Classroom - Approach the teaching of prayer in the classroom with excitement: It is a privilege, not a dreadful duty. Make Prayer Time a source of comfort - God is not a policeman. Do it out of love and trust in Him.

My first and foremost suggestion is to show them by example how to pray! Let them see you pray, hear you pray, and learn when to pray! That alone will teach them volumes! Teach relationship first and form will follow. Prayer works because of the volume of faith – not the volume of prayer. Where Scripture speaks – You speak. Make prayer a joyful time.

Do you know what KISS means when it refers to prayer? **K**ee**P** **I**t **S**imple and **S**incere - Prayers with children need to be simple and to the point. They should not exceed their understanding of what they are saying.

Children fear prayer for two reasons: praying out loud and not knowing what to pray. A way to overcome shyness is to simply have them repeat your prayers, but in their own words. For example, thank God for keeping people safe during a storm and ask Him to help people who have lost their homes. Then, have your child pray for the same thing, but not parroting your words.

Show children that there is no prescribed length to prayer. Quick prayers such as asking for help, for blessings on a birthday party or for protection and safe travels before going on a trip are ways to show kids that God is interested in all aspects of our lives. Another type of quick prayer to model is as simple as saying something like, "Lord help me" or "Thank you, Father." One of the most important prayers we can teach our children is to ask God to teach them to pray.

The next time your child comes to you with a problem or worry, instead of saying, "I will pray for you," do it right then. Pray on the spot. Even if it is a short prayer, you will be demonstrating the important principle that God wants us to cast the care of all our concerns on Him and pray about everything. (1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:6-7.)

Student - Remember each student's rate of growth will differ. God deals with us as we are and works differently in each person. There is no uniformity in spiritual experience and in the practice of spirituality, but rather an amazing diversity in how God's manifold grace is received. There is plenty of room for individual style. It's important not to confuse style with substance, or with spirituality. The fact that a student desires to communicate with Him matters more than how it is done. Hand your students the keys to driving through life successfully. When we don't, they possess a beautiful car designed to take them practically, conveniently, and enjoyably on life's journey, yet they are forced to walk because they don't have the keys.

Twelve questions on the topic of the teaching of prayer were recently given to a random number of students at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, Michigan. Exactly 100 survey sheets were returned. My intention was to see if students going through the Lutheran School system would be able to make any positive suggestion for the teaching of prayer. A few samples of the many answers are given in Appendix C. They are well worth the time to look at. Below is my summary of their responses.

- Most young people do not make prayer a priority in their life. They tend to approach it from the aspect of Law or a “have to” task.
- Young people want to know how to connect with God and what to pray. They want a biblical analysis of prayer along with personal examples and stories given from the heart of the teacher.
- Students seem to be divided on the use of technology. They need to be shown ways for its positive use as a resource for prayer.
- Young people do not mention “prayer closets” directly, but do connect with God when praying alone.
- The strength of Lutheran education is that we can provide teaching and praying time in our schools.
- The weakness seems to be the lack of variety in teaching methods for the concept of prayer.
- Nearly all of the students providing answers indicated a desire to improve their relationship with God through prayer.
- When asked; “What questions do you still have about praying?” most students did not have any. I’m convinced that many students do not know what they do not know.
- Young people think they do not have enough time for a planned period of prayer.
- The biggest challenge for teachers in instructing kids on how and what to pray is to make it interesting and do it with genuine enthusiasm.

Plans - I have led prayer seminars and retreats with groups of all ages, from young children through adults. Many topics and questions have popped up during these classes. Even kids in lower grades have fired questions at me about prayer when I have been put on the hot seat in their classrooms.

In response I have designed a curriculum guide to assist teachers as they put prayer into their teaching plans. This guide is located in Appendix D. It consists of plans for 52 lessons on prayer. Each lesson focuses on a Scripture verse about prayer which is connected to a topical devotion from my book. Each lesson also includes a question pertaining to prayer that also comes from my book, and one or two group activities that can be used. The resources explaining the activities are available through the Internet.

I invite you to explore these and adapt them to your own classroom plans. You can creatively expand or simplify according your personal situation.

Kids are important to God and important to us. Teaching kids to pray does not need to be difficult but a simple way of letting them know why and how to communicate with God. May God abundantly bless your effort to pray for, pray with and teach children to pray.

In His service,

Rev. Robert W. Smith

Resources

PRAYER BOOKS

Concordia Publishing House

| Item | Author | Title | Publisher | Date | Pgs |
|------|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | Concordia Publishing House Ed. | <i>My Prayer Book</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 1980 | 235 |
| 2. | Groth, Jeanette | <i>Prayer-Learning How to Talk to God</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 1986 | 23 |
| 3. | Grube, Edward | <i>Teens Pray</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2002 | 93 |
| 4. | Hiller, Robert M. | <i>5 things You Can Do To Have a Faithful Prayer Life</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2013 | 96 |
| 5. | Kinnaman, Scott Ed. | <i>Lutheran Book of Prayer</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | Revised 2005 | 264 |
| 6. | Kinnaman, Scott Ed. | <i>Treasury of Daily Prayer</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2008 | 1495 |
| 7. | Kleinig, John W. | <i>Grace Upon Grace</i> | St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House | 2008 | 287 |
| 8. | Kleinig, John W. | <i>Prayer-We Speak to God</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2006 | 64 |
| 9. | Leigh, Susan | <i>On-the-Go Prayers</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2013 | 93 |
| 10. | Lieske, Richard | <i>Ask, Seek, Knock Take It to the Lord in Prayer</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2011 | 62 |
| 11. | LCMS | <i>Theology and Practice of Prayer</i> | St. Louis, MO The Lutheran Church – Missouri | 2011 | 63 |

| | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--|--|------|------------|
| | | | Synod | | |
| 12. | Luther, Martin | <i>A Simple Way to Pray</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2012 | 32 |
| 13. | Pfotenhauer, Patra | <i>Daily Prayer: The Lutheran Difference</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2002 | 62 |
| 14. | Rottmann, Erik | <i>Prayer</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2011 | 32 |
| 15. | Rudnick, Milton L. | <i>Journey into Prayer</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2010 | 94 |
| 16. | Steinmann, Andrew | <i>Is God Listening?</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2004 | 187 |
| 17. | Witt, Elmer N. | <i>Time to Pray</i> | St. Louis, MO Concordia Publishing House | 2011 | 109 |

PRAYER BOOKS

Adult

| Item | Author | Title | Publisher | Date | Pgs |
|------|-----------------------------|--|--|------|-----|
| 1. | Bounds, E.M. | <i>The Complete Works of E. M. Bounds on Prayer</i> | Grand Rapids, Michigan Baker Books | 2005 | 568 |
| 2. | DeVries, John F | <i>Why Pray?</i> | Grand Rapids, Michigan: Honor Books | 2005 | 254 |
| 3. | Foster, Richard J. | <i>Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home</i> | San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins Publishers | 1992 | 276 |
| 4. | Hallesby, O. | <i>Prayer</i> | Minneapolis MN: Augsburg Publishing House | 1959 | 176 |
| 5. | Hartley, Fred A. III. | <i>Prayer on Fire</i> | Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress | 2006 | 179 |
| 6. | Jeremiah, David | <i>Prayer the Great Adventure</i> | Sisters, OR Multnomah Pub. Inc. | 1997 | 261 |
| 7. | Long, Brad and Doug McMurry | <i>Prayer That Shapes the Future: How to Pray with Power and Authority</i> | Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House | 1999 | 225 |
| 8. | Mueller, George | Answers To Prayer | Chicago, IL: Moody Press, N.D. | | 126 |
| 9. | Smith, Robert | Keep Me and Keep All | USA, Xulon Press | 2011 | 337 |
| 10. | Teykl, Terry | <i>How To Pray After You've Kicked the Dog</i> | Prayer Point Press | | 326 |
| 11. | Torrey, R. A. | <i>The Power of Prayer</i> | Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House | 1971 | 189 |
| 12. | Wangerin, Walter Jr. | <i>Whole Prayer: Speaking and Listening to God</i> | Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House | 1998 | 206 |
| 13. | Willard, Dallas | <i>Hearing God</i> | Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press | 1999 | 228 |
| 14. | Yancey, Philip | <i>Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?</i> | Grand Rapids, MI Zondervan | 2006 | 351 |

PRAYER BOOKS

Children

| Item | Author | Title | Publisher | Date | Pgs |
|------|--|---|---|------------------|-----|
| 18. | Almquist, Jenny | <i>Kids Gap- Teaching Children to Be Kingdom Intercessors</i> | Terre Haute, IN PrayerShop Publishing | 2007 | 85 |
| 19. | Barbee, Katie | <i>Helping Kids Pray</i> | Cincinnati, Ohio Standard Publishing | 2011 | 77 |
| 20. | Batterson, Mark | Praying Circles around Your Children | Grand Rapids, MI Zondervan Publishing House | 2012 | 103 |
| 21. | Caruana, Vicki | <i>When Teachers Pray</i> | Nashville, TN Broadman & Holman Publishers | 2004 | 134 |
| 22. | Clark, Angie | <i>7 Essentials of Kids Prayer</i> | Self-Published | 2012 | 236 |
| 23. | Higgs, Mike | <i>Youth Ministry on Your Knees</i> | Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress Publishing Group | 2004 | 165 |
| 24. | Lucas, Daryl; ed., | <i>107 Questions Children Ask about Prayer</i> | Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers | 1998 | 214 |
| 25. | Nappa, Mike and Amy | <i>Creative Family Prayer Times</i> | Colorado Springs, CO NavPress Pub. | 2007 | 126 |
| 26. | Omartian, Stormie | <i>The Power of a Praying Kid</i> | Eugene, OR Harvest House Pub. | 2005 | 100 |
| 27. | Osborne, Rick | <i>Teaching Your Child How to Pray</i> | Chicago, IL: Moody | 1997 | 221 |
| 28. | Sacks, Cheryl, Arlyn Lawrence | <i>Prayer Saturated Kids</i> | Colorado Springs, CO NavPress | 2007 | 183 |
| 29. | Smith, Timothy | <i>52 Creative Family time Experiences</i> | Nashville, TN Randall House | 2012 | 188 |
| | | | | | |
| 30. | PrayKids! Sample Pack | | www.prayersop.org | \$17.99 | |
| 31. | Prayerconnect Mag. | | Prayerconnect.net. | \$24.99 Print | |
| 32. | Presidential Prayer Team <small>Largest Fulltime Prayer Movement for our Nation</small> | | http://www.presidentialprayerteam.com/ | Free | |
| 33. | List of Prayer Websites given | | http://www.keepmeandkeepall.com/web-links.html | Free | |

Appendix B
MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL
31 Ways to Pray For Our Youth*

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Pray for a spirit of | Reverence | The fear of the Lord | Proverbs 9:10 |
| 2 | Pray for a spirit of | Humility | The willingness to submit | James 4:10 |
| 3 | Pray for a spirit of | Purity | A desire to be clean | Matthew 5:8 |
| 4 | Pray for a spirit of | Purpose | The wisdom to set goals | Proverbs 4:25 |
| 5 | Pray for a spirit of | Simplicity | A life-style uncluttered | Romans 12:8 |
| 6 | Pray for a spirit of | Commitment | A dedication to “the cause” | Joshua 24:15 |
| 7 | Pray for a spirit of | Diligence | The willingness to work hard | II Peter 1:5 |
| 8 | Pray for a spirit of | Servanthood | The ministry of “helps” | Galatians 6:9,10 |
| 9 | Pray for a spirit of | Consistency | The quality of faithfulness | James 1:8 |
| 10 | Pray for a spirit of | Assurance | A depth of faith | Hebrews 10::22 |
| 11 | Pray for a spirit of | Availability | A readiness to go | Isaiah 6:8 |
| 12 | Pray for a spirit of | Loyalty | A zeal for fidelity | Ruth 1:16 |
| 13 | Pray for a spirit of | Sensitivity | Openness of heart | Luke 10:30-37 |
| 14 | Pray for a spirit of | Compassion | Love in action | Mark 8:1,2 |
| 15 | Pray for a spirit of | Tenderness | A willingness to weep | II Kings 22:19 |
| 16 | Pray for a spirit of | Maturity | The capacity to grow | Hebrews 5:12-14 |
| 17 | Pray for a spirit of | Holiness | Christ- like behavior | I Peter 1:16 |
| 18 | Pray for a spirit of | Reliability | A depth of dependability | I Corinthians 4:2 |
| 19 | Pray for a spirit of | Revelation | Learning to listen | Ephesians 1:15-18 |
| 20 | Pray for a spirit of | Denial | A sacrifice of surrender | Luke 9:23 |
| 21 | Pray for a spirit of | Confidence | A baptism of boldness | Philippians 4:13 |
| 22 | Pray for a spirit of | Integrity | The quality of truthfulness | Romans 12:17 |
| 23 | Pray for a spirit of | Repentance | A willingness to change | Luke 3:8 |
| 24 | Pray for a spirit of | Trust | A fearless reliance | Psalms 125:1 |
| 25 | Pray for a spirit of | Submission | Choosing to yield | Ephesians 5:21 |
| 26 | Pray for a spirit of | Teachability | A quality of meekness | Titus 3:2 |
| 27 | Pray for a spirit of | Prayer | A longing to wait | Isaiah 40:30 |
| 28 | Pray for a spirit of | Unity | A respect for others | I Corinthians 1:10 |
| 29 | Pray for a spirit of | Restoration | A ministry of healing | Isaiah 61:1,2 |
| 30 | Pray for a spirit of | Authority | A capacity to command | Matthew 16:19 |
| 31 | Pray for a spirit of | Generosity | The desire to give | Matthew 10:8 |

* By Dick Eastman, President, Every Home For Christ

Appendix C

Prayer Survey Responses From Valley Lutheran High School

Twelve questions on the topic of the teaching of prayer were presented to a random number of students at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, Michigan. Exactly 100 survey sheets were returned. Not every question was answered by every student. My intention was to see if students going through the Lutheran School system would be able to make any positive suggestion for the teaching of prayer. The answers presented here are a few samples of the many given.

What attitude do you think most young people have towards praying?

- It is not important.
- Most young people think that prayer does not relate to them.
- It's not necessary. They will be just fine without it.
- I think that most people don't think that prayer is necessary in everyday life.
- It takes up too much time.
- They pray only when they need too.
- Some take prayer very seriously, and others act like it's nothing.
- I think most young people don't like to pray and when they do they just want to get it over with.
- Young people think of prayer as a checklist, and just another bullet point in your plan for the day.
- They don't take it seriously.
- They think they are too cool and don't have enough time for it.
- They think prayer is boring.
- That it doesn't matter.
- I think most seem to have a negative bored attitude.
- It is something we should do but don't.
- I think they probably feel like it's an obligation, like something I "gotta" do, instead of "gitta" do.
- It is just something you do in church or Bible study.
- Most young people honestly only seem to pray when they want something.
- They probably think it is a waste of time, it is pointless, God doesn't listen to anything I say.
- We think it's not that important and we are afraid of being judged by others.
- I think most people don't think much of praying.
- They probably think it's un-cool...I'm childish for talking to God.
- Most young people think that prayer is something you have to do or forced to do.
- It's a chore. Something that you have to do not what you want to do.
- I think that people are worried about what others will think about them if they are caught praying.
- They don't think it is a part of their life.

What do you want teachers to teach about prayer?

- Not just who they are, and how they pray, I want the teacher to teach about why they pray and what mind they have when they pray.
- I want them to teach how to pray properly.
- How will God listen under all circumstances?
- Why do we pray?
- How can we connect with God?
- Teachers should teach the power of prayer and how it can change your life.
- Teach how important it really is.
- Tell us what to pray about when there is nothing to pray about.
- Give us tips on how to do it without nerves.
- Good methods for praying and life stories about how prayer changed their lives.
- Give how to organize your thoughts when you go into prayer.
- Present how to structure prayer.
- Teach that it is a huge way to connect with God.
- I want them to teach the importance of prayer.
- They should encourage and talk about its power and importance.
- I want teachers to teach students that prayer is their personal time with God.
- Teachers should emphasize the positives not negatives.
- He's always listening and He always answers our prayers.
- Teach how to pray and what to pray about.
- Teachers should teach to pray continually every day.
- Teach how to concentrate and stay focused on God.
- I want to hear about their honest prayer life.
- Teach how to keep it going and focus on it.
- I want teachers to encourage it.
- I want teachers to teach it is a conversation and there is no set way to pray.
- Teach us to do it ourselves.
- Teach us the guidelines.
- Even though you don't think so God is actually listening and acting upon it.
- Explain what makes up prayer.

What methods should teachers use to teach prayer?

- They should lead with examples of themselves.
- Use the Bible.
- They should make students comfortable with praying.
- They should use examples.
- Pray with us.
- Biblical analysis of prayer
- Pray with us in class.
- Use examples and actual prayer to learn more about it.
- Memorize different prayers.
- Give a student a disaster to pray for.
- Have a student assigned for a specific reason.
- Base prayers on the Bible.

- Pray from the heart.
- Give more time to prayer.
- Speak with passion.
- Show prayer from the Bible.
- Use prayer journals.

How can technology be used to teach prayer?

- I don't think it can.
- I feel like everyone tries to push use of technology when, frankly, we don't constantly need it. So I don't think it's necessary for prayer.
- Use it for research of other religions prayer practices.
- Use it for online prayers.
- Get a devotion app.
- Use to look up passages on prayer.
- You could look up problems over the world that could need some prayer.
- Find good examples of prayer.
- Use cell phones for texting prayers.
- Have a prayer group online where you can pray together.
- Use videos showing prayer presentations.
- Use Christian websites for praying.
- Technology isn't that useful, the Bible is more important.
- People can pray together over Skype.
- Use technology to set an alarm for a prayer time.
- Honestly, I would stay away from technology while praying because it can cause distraction.
- Use for daily reminders of prayer.
- Text a prayer and that you are praying for another person.

How can prayer times be made special times?

- Be by yourself, alone with God.
- Have a special place or certain person to pray with.
- Pray for special things.
- By really connecting with God
- Be quiet and focus on what you are doing.
- Teachers could give students private prayer time right before class starts.
- Do it your closest friends and holding hands.
- Pray as a family and have fun with it.
- Have it as a quiet calm time.
- Do it in a special place.
- Not do it every single day at one specific time. Change prayer time on different days.

What are the major beliefs you want taught about prayer?

- God is always there and willing to listen.
- Prayer strengthens your life with God.

- Prayer isn't asking but talking.
- Just praying once a day could change somebody's life, big time.
- Prayer is communication with God.
- God is always listening.
- God will answer, but it might not always be the answer we want, but we still need to trust what is best.
- God answers prayer.
- Prayer can be done anywhere at anytime.
- How to properly pray
- Prayer can change lives.
- Clarify that you don't have to use a formal setting with God.
- Prayer works.

What do you consider to be strengths in Lutheran schools in teaching prayer?

- It teaches kids how and why to pray.
- Lutheran Schools have the right to pray.
- They teach us that prayers are necessary.
- We have time to pray in school.
- We can pray a lot.
- A prayer can be said anytime and is allowed in class.
- We get in the habit of praying.
- We can pray openly.
- We learn how to pray and connect with God.
- We can pray unlike public schools.
- We pray together.
- We are taught at a young age.
- We can do it daily.
- We teach by example.
- Chapel and religion classes

What are weaknesses in teaching prayer?

- We often learn and keep repeating the same prayer and after a while it doesn't mean anything to us.
- They don't teach us how to pray. They only teach you should pray.
- Some students are just forced to pray.
- Not everyone understands why we do this.
- Prayer is made uniform, not unique.
- Similar prayers get monotonous.
- Teachers don't make it personal enough. It is not a relationship.
- Some think they have to do it a certain way.
- Having people take it as an "I want prayer."
- Students pray so much in school they won't do it on their own time.
- Kids don't pay attention.

- We always ask for things in prayer, but we don't thank and give adoration to God.
- We are not praying enough.
- Not explaining prayer enough.
- How to say prayers
- It's not personal.

What do you personally and passionately want to happen in your prayer life?

- Become closer with God.
- To talk with God daily
- Pray more often (Many students put this down.)
- Know how to pray correctly for a long duration.
- To improve my relationship with God
- Prayers answered
- I want to be able to pray all the time and want to pray.
- For me to pray a lot each and every day
- I want to establish closer communication with God.
- To go to prayer in everything
- To pray more often in different ways... both spur of the moment and formal.

What questions do you still have about prayers?

- How does God listen to so many people at the same time?
- How do you stop yourself from only praying when you need something?
- How come sometimes answers take so long to happen?
- Can you teach prayer?
- Can one teach prayer? There isn't a certain way to pray.
- Can you pray too much?
- Why pray when God already knows what we're going to say?
- Does prayer always work?
- How are you suppose to hold your hands?
- If two people pray for opposite things whose pray gets unanswered?
- Why do we pray, other than getting close to God?
- How can people pray deeply?
- Who started prayer?
- Is prayer ever not heard?
- How powerful are prayers?

What hinders young people's prayer life?

- Procrastination
- Poor time management
- Embarrassment
- They don't think it is cool.
- Sports and friends
- Technology
- Putting prayers on the back burner instead of other things

- They think they are too good for it or too busy.
- We're afraid what people will say about us, being judged.
- The busyness of daily life
- It's not too cool around friends
- Insecurity

Is there anything else you would like to suggest?

- Make it interesting
- Have students do the explaining. We can take it better from them.