

A GUIDE TO PRAYER: Rooted in Christ, Lifting Up Our Community

A Scripturally-Based Prayer Resource
Including the Lord's Prayer, Prayer Models,
School Intercessions, and the Serenity Prayer.

*"Continue steadfastly in prayer,
being watchful in it with thanksgiving."*

Colossians 4:2



FAITH
Lutheran Church

WELCOME TO YOUR PRAYER GUIDE

This booklet is created to help you deepen your prayer life and connect more closely with God. Inside, you'll find a variety of prayer tools and topics to guide and inspire you.

(Please note: The list below is not in the order of appearance in the booklet and is not intended to serve as an index.)

- The Lord's Prayer, broken down with Martin Luther's explanations for each petition
- Two prayer models, P.R.A.Y. and A.C.T.S., presented by Pastor Galligar
- A list of all public and private schools in Citrus County with guidance on how to pray for students, teachers, staff, and families
- The Serenity Prayer to encourage peace and trust in God

Use this guide as a resource to pray thoughtfully for yourself, your community, and beyond.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (with Martin Luther's explanation of each petition)

Introduction - *Our Father, who art in heaven.*

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

1st Petition - *Hallowed be Thy name.*

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

2nd Petition - *Thy kingdom come.*

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

3rd Petition - *Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

4th Petition - *Give us this day our daily bread.*

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

5th Petition - *And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So, we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

6th Petition - *And lead us not into temptation.*

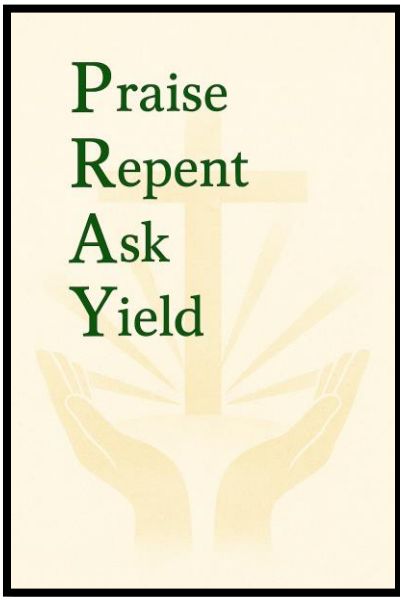
God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

7th Petition - *But deliver us from evil.*

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

Conclusion - *For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."



THE P.R.A.Y. MODEL:

a simple framework for prayer

Sometimes we complicate things that God has made very simple. Easy examples of how to communicate with God are found in the first pages of our Bible in Genesis, and in most of the pages of the first four books of the New Testament, called the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In Genesis, we find God speaking to Adam and Eve just as a father might

talk with his son. Simple conversations, easy words, nothing complicated about it. In the gospels, the disciples are always talking to Jesus, and when they do, they ask Him questions, just like you would ask a friend, a teacher, or someone you thought would have an answer to something you wanted to know. And their questions are asked in plain language, simple words, nothing fancy, just straightforward speaking to Jesus, who is God.

All of this is called "prayer". It is our Vertical Connection to God. To help us strengthen this connection, here is a simple framework to use as a starting point, the P.R.A.Y. Model.

Praise - God is worthy to be praised. Prayer should begin with genuine praise towards God. Prayers of praise involve thanking God for who He is and what He's done. As you spend time praising God, reflect on His character and the good gifts that He has given you.

Repent - Repentance is the act of turning away from sin and turning toward God. Since we as humans have a sinful, fallen nature, we should have a continuous attitude of repentance. During this portion of your prayer time, confess specific sins that you can think of to God and repent of them. He already knows about all this stuff but still calls you to confess.

Ask - Spend the next portion of your prayer time asking God to work. God wants us to humbly ask Him for what we need and want. Asking Him means admitting we can't do these things on our own.

Yield - The final portion of your prayer time when you're following the P.R.A.Y. model will be spent sitting quietly before God and listening to what He tells you. As you listen to what He tells you, commit to being obedient to whatever next step he may call you to take. Those who have committed to following Jesus through repenting of their sin and placing their trust in Jesus have been given the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. He gives us both the desire and the power to yield to Jesus' calling even when it is uncomfortable.

VERSES TO LIFT YOUR PRAYER LIFE			
Praise	Repent	Ask	Yield
Psalm 150:6	1 John 1:9	Matthew 7:7-8	Romans 12:1-2
Psalm 145:3	Acts 3:19	Philippians 4:6	Luke 22:42
Revelation 4:11	Psalm 51:10	John 16:24	John 10:27
Philippians 4:4	Proverbs 28:13	James 1:5	Psalm 46:10

"Not my will, but Yours be done."

Luke 22:42

CITRUS COUNTY SCHOOLS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Citrus District Office
College of Central Florida
Academy Of Environmental Science
Camp E-Nini Hassee
Citrus High School
Crystal River High School
Lecanto High School
Pace Center for Girls
Citrus Springs Middle School
Crystal River Middle School
Inverness Middle School
Lecanto Middle School
Central Ridge Elementary School
Citrus Springs Elementary School
Crystal River Primary School
Floral City Elementary School
Forest Ridge Elementary School
Hernando Elementary School
Homosassa Elementary School
Inverness Primary School
Lecanto Primary School
Pleasant Grove Elementary School
Rock Crusher Elementary School

Citrus E-school
Citrus Virtual
Citrus Virtual Instruction Program
Crest School
SRMI @ Renaissance Center
Withlacoochee Technical College
Family Empowerment Scholarship Program
Migrant Title I Part C Home Education
Personalized Education Program
Private School Students, Title I, Part C
Inverness Christian Academy
Pope John Paul II Catholic School Lecanto
Seven Rivers Christian School Lecanto
Solid Rock Christian Academy Inverness
St Paul's Lutheran School Beverly Hills
West Coast Christian School Crystal River

"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;"

Psalm 78:4, 6-7

COVERING OUR COUNTY IN PRAYER

A prayerful call to lift up every corner of the community.

LET US PRAY: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. As followers of Christ, we are called to lift up every corner of our community - especially those shaping the lives of our children and guiding them in faith. The following prayers are crafted to help you intercede for students, parents, teachers, staff, school leaders, and faith leaders across Citrus County. In a world where trouble seems to rage on every side, we ask You, Lord, to protect the littlest ones among us and the families striving to raise them well. Let homes be places of safety and love, where Your grace is shared freely. Make Citrus County a community known for the love of Christ - within families, throughout churches and businesses, and especially in the schools, where our future rests securely in Your hands.

WE PRAY - FOR STUDENTS: Grant students a love for learning, a spirit of curiosity, and the determination to succeed in their studies. Help them understand and retain information, apply themselves diligently, and recognize the value of education. Surround them with positive, supportive friends and mentors who encourage and uplift them. Protect students from harm, violence, and negative influences. May they find peace and security in their learning environments. Give them endurance and strength in times of difficulty or suffering. Through all their experiences, help them grow in faith and trust in You, O Lord.

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS: Provide parents and guardians the strength, wisdom, and compassion they need to support their children's educational and social needs. Help them find peace and comfort amid concerns and worries related to school, and remind them that their children are held in Your loving care, O God.

FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF: Grant teachers and staff wisdom and clarity as they make decisions that shape education and guide students. Help them to be fair, patient, and supportive.

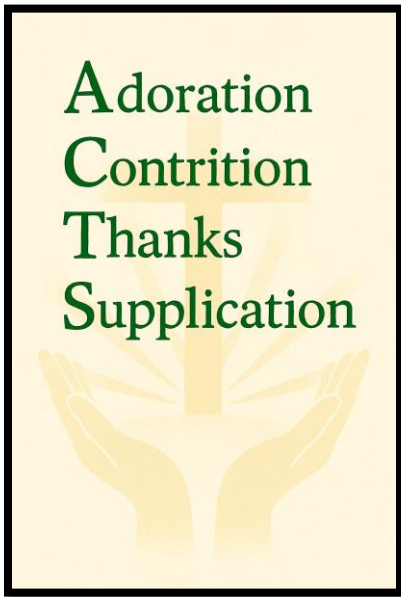
Equip them with the strength and perseverance needed to navigate the challenges of their profession. May they find joy in their calling and renewed energy in their daily tasks. Let their interactions reflect God's love and truth, inspiring students and fostering a positive school environment. Grant them peace and relief from the stress of heavy workloads, deadlines, and daily challenges.

FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION: Guide school administrators with wisdom and discernment as they make decisions that impact students, teachers, and the entire school community. Help them create a safe and welcoming environment where learning and kindness can flourish.

FOR THE CITRUS COUNTY SCHOOL COMMUNITY: May all Your schools be places of unity and peace, where people accept and respect one another, treating others as they themselves wish to be treated. May every school in Citrus County be a place where children feel safe, learn of the love of Christ, and are welcomed to be fully present within its walls. May all those connected to schools be beacons of God's love, peace, grace, and mercy in every interaction.

FOR OUR COUNTY'S FAITH LEADERS: Bless the pastors, ministers, and church leaders throughout Citrus County. Grant them wisdom in their teaching, compassion in their shepherding, and strength in their service. Fill them with the Holy Spirit as they proclaim Your Word, care for their congregations, and support families, schools, and the wider community. Protect them from burnout and discouragement. Surround them with encouragement, rest, and faithful support. May their lives reflect Christ's love and truth, and may their ministries bear lasting fruit for Your Kingdom.

IN THE STRONG AND MIGHTY NAME OF JESUS, YOUR SON, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, AMEN.



THE A.C.T.S. MODEL: **an uncomplicated framework for prayer**

Vertical Connections with God don't need to be complicated. Throughout Scripture, God shows us that prayer can be clear, intentional, and deeply personal.

From Genesis to the Gospels, we see God inviting people into honest, heartfelt conversation - without the need for perfect words or complicated rituals. The disciples

didn't always know what to say, but they came to Jesus with open hearts and real questions.

That's what prayer is: our Vertical Connection to God. To help keep it clear and focused, many Christians have found the A.C.T.S. model helpful. It gives us a balanced rhythm of prayer - Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication - that leads us deeper into God's presence.

Adoration - God is worthy to be praised. Prayer should begin with genuine adoration of God. Prayers of adoration involve acknowledging God for who He is and what He's done. As you spend time praising God, reflect on His character and the good gifts that He has given you.

Contrition - Contrition is the act of being sorrowful for and turning away from sin and turning toward God. Since we as humans have a sinful, fallen nature, we should have a continuous attitude of repentance. During this portion of your prayer time, confess specific

sins that you can think of to God and repent of them. He already knows about all this stuff but still calls you to confess.

Thanks – all that we have has been given to us by God. For every single thing He has blessed us with, He deserves our praise and thanksgiving. Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the things He has given you each day.

Supplication - The final portion of your prayer time when you're following the ACTS model is when you ask God to work in your life or the lives of others. There is nothing in your life that is too big to ask Him to accomplish, nor is there anything too small for you to bring before His throne. His love for you makes everything that is important to you, important to Him as well.

When you have finished speaking your prayers to God, it is also important to spend some time listening for His response, to, "be still and know that He is God..." You might consider Samuel's experience in 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

VERSES TO LIFT YOUR PRAYER LIFE			
Adoration	Contrition	Thanks	Supplication
Psalm 95:6-7	Psalm 51:1-4	1 Thessalonians 5:18	Psalm 46:10
Revelation 4:11	1 John 1:9	Colossians 3:17	1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 100:4	Isaiah 57:15	Psalm 107:1	John 10:27
Psalm 29:2	Luke 18:13	Psalm 118:1	Isaiah 30:21

"Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:9

THE SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time,
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it,
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will,
so that I may be reasonably
happy in this life and supremely
happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.

935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 527-3325 | faithlecano.org | connect@faithlecano.org
Facebook ~ Instagram ~ YouTube: @faithlecano
Organist: Sharron Royalty
Pastor Galligar | Cell: (812) 350-7820 | pastor.galligar@faithlecano.org