

Sermon  
Rev. Lang Yang

### “Prayer for All of You”

Third Sunday in Advent  
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church – Richville, MI  
December 13, 2015

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Phillipians 1:4** *“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.”* This is the Word of God  
(Cross Reference – Mark 5:5, Romans 1:9)

Illustration “Prayer” (Show prayer using ACTS)



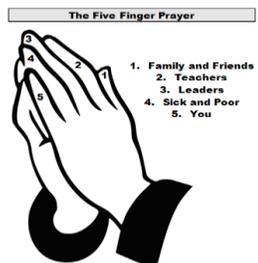
Prayer is a conversation with God, not a formula. Yet sometimes we might need to use a “method” to freshen up our prayer time. We can pray the Psalms or other Scriptures (such as The Lord’s Prayer), or use the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication).

A – **Adoration:** To praise God for His glory, power, majesty, and love.

C – **Confession:** We are sinful and unworthy to approach a holy, righteous God.

T – **Thanksgiving:** We express our gratitude for all the blessings God has given us.

S – **Supplicaton:** We ask God for specific things (health, safety of family, success of the Gospel. (Show The Five Finger Prayer)



Ann Cetas use the “Five-Finger Prayer” as a guide when praying for others:

When you fold your hands, the **Thumb** is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you—your loved ones (Philippians 1:3-5).

The **Index finger** is the pointer. Pray for those who teach—Bible teachers and preachers, and those who teach children (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

The **Middle finger** is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you—national and local leaders, and your supervisor at work (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

The fourth finger is the (**ring finger**) usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering (James 5:13-16).

Then comes your little finger (**pinky**). It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God’s greatness. Ask Him to supply your needs (Philippians 4:6,19).

“Whatever method you use, just talk with your Father. He wants to hear what’s on your heart.

Our prayers ascend to heaven's throne Regardless of the form we use; Our Father always hears His own Regardless of the words we choose. (D. De Haan) It's not the words we pray that matter, it's the condition of our heart. (Our Daily Bread, By Anne Cetas on June 2, 2005)

I. The Apostle Paul letter to the Phillipians said, *“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.”* (Phillipians 1:4) (Show map of Paul journey)



The Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Phillipians because when Paul started his missionary he had planted the church in Philipi. Paul praise the Christians in

Phillipians because they continue to do God's work that bring honor and glory to God. Because of their diligent work in expansion of Christ's Kingdom, each time the Apostle Paul pray he remember the Phillipians that brought joy to him. (Show Pastor Lang Yang - Prayer)



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, did you know that I continue to keep you and our congregation in prayer so that you are able to be active in service, nurturing your faith, giving glory to God (attending worship), encourage each others and leading other to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I was commission as Deacon in 2004, complete my seminary education in 2008 and was ordain in 2009 and it has been 11 years since I've been in the ministry. When I look back, members of St. Michaels continue to be strong in the faith and continue to do the Lord's work. We came through three building phases for our childcare, new gym and

cafteria and update the worship sanctuary. Instead of becoming weak and weary, St. Michaels continue God's ministry and in September 2015, we just celebrate 164 years of doing God' work and will continue far to the future. (Show picture of Lou Gehrig)



The story of Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankee was named outstanding baseball player of the year? He play more consecutive game than any other man in the history of sport. He never missed a game! This is why Lou Gehrig was name the "Iron Horse." Lou was voted as the greatest first basemen of all time by the Baseball Writers' Association in 1969. He never missed a practice or a game. He never use excused that he didn't have time. In 1939, he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame and was the first MLB player to have his uniform number retired. The word "He never missed a game!" is that Lou his faithful to

his sport, to his teammates and always play the game. Ask yourself, "Have I missed church or haven't I attending church regularly? (Show who would God Chose)



If God were to choose one of you because you have been faithful, who do you think God will choose? God will choose those that are faithful, believe and trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. God will give His rewards to the one that are faithful to do His works and to the one that said, "Send Me" whenever task need to be done for His honor and glory. God will choose the one that know and stand firm to the end even being persecute. Jesus said, "...Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10) Paul

Write, "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy" that you will remain faithful until you receive the crown of life.

- II. *My prayer is for all of you that our congregation and ministry continue to pleases God that this congregation continue to expand and more services opportunity for His kingdom. Many say that he/she want to do God's work but had not taken the step to volunteer for any committee instead of letting the same people move from board to board or committee to others committees and always the same people that carry out the function of the church. God's word said, "Go and make disciples of all nations...." (Matthew 28:19) but most of us doesn't want to make any disciples. People always said that, "I don't have time."* (Show standing in the Gap)



You don't have time to do God's work but spend more time for your personal wanted. You don't have time to attend church but you have more time to attend others function or

organization activities. God's word said, *"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."* (Ezekiel 22:30) We must put Christ first in our lives. Be the one that stand up to His Gospel so that others may come to be save through His name. **(Show picture of Oh No! Not Evangelism)**



When you look at others denomination or others ministry even the LCMS ministry. Members stop coming to church and stop supporting God's ministry. Soon the church and or school was close. When you heard such story, have you ever thought that the church or school was close do to the lack of its members not saying, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) If you don't go and help proclaim the Good News and continue to do God's work while it is still day, many ministry will close its door. One of the reason many congregation and ministry closed its door because the members of the congregation and ministry refuse to go and

and tell others about Jesus. This tell me that the congregation or ministry is either hot nor cold. God's word said, *"because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."* (Revelation 3:16). Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, *My prayer is for all of you* that we don't become luke worm neither hot nor cold but always ready to do God's work so that He may find us favor and said to us, *"well done good and faithful servant ... come and share your master happiness."* (Mathew 25:23) **(Show picture of John 15:5 and Phillipians 4:13)**



Leaders and members of St. Michaels, *My prayer is for all of you* that God continue to grant you the wisdom co carry out His important work. It is not something that you have to hold a position in the church to do God's work. Most comments that I have heard about not doing God's work, *"I'm too old and let the younger do God's work, I don't have the time or energy, I don't have the experience or wisdom like others, I'm working, I don't know how, I can't*

*speak like others, and the list goes on and on."* People only thinking about what they can't do because they are not remaining in God and let God rule his/her life. Jesus said, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5) When you give your life to Christ and let Him guide and lead you, you will be able to do all thing through him. Paul write, *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."* (Phillipians 4:13)

III. God Word said, *"My prayer is for all of you."* Some of you probably feel guilty or embarrassed because you haven't done God's work. Eventhough you haven't done any of His work, don't loose heart. We are human and we have a sinful nature that continue to lead us astray. In order to do His work, we a lone cannot unless He guide and lead us. Instead of punishing us, He want us to put our faith and trust in His Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John write that Jesus pray for us. **(Show Jesus pray)**



Jesus pray for His disciples, His enemies, and for Himself. Jesus said, *"...I pray also for those who will believe in me..."* (John 17:20) Jesus pray to the Father for you and I. Jesus pray that you may believe in Him to have eternal life. Let Jesus be your Lord and Savior. Let Jesus rule your life so that you may do good work through the Holy Spirit that will bring honor and glory to God.

(Show praying hand)



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Do you truly believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior or are you one of those that claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ from the outside but from the inside, you are not sure if you are truly believe in Him? Are you willing to do His work or you will say “Let’s send someone else.” Are you a lukewarm neither hot nor cold or you will say, “Here am I. Send me! (Isaiah 6:8) Dr. Martin Luther said, “Pray as if everything depends on God, then work as if everything depends on you.” *“My prayer is for all of you”* that you are able to do His work. Joshua wrote, *“No one will be able to stand up against you*

*all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* (Joshua 1:5) God is faithful and *“My prayer is for all of you”* that you will stand firm of your faith and all that you do will bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen