

North Grenville *Community Church*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2018 – VOLUME 1, NO 2

A Call for Prayer from Pastor Thomas

As pastor of a Church I am always trying to evaluate what the Lord would have us do, to make sure that our actions as a body of believers line up with God's will. God's desire is for us to seek Him as the first step. We can then learn what His will is for ourselves personally and for our Church is instead of doing what seems right, and then asking God to bless our actions.

God's leading in our life must be our first priority (Matthew 6:33). Considering this command to seek first the Kingdom, I would like to invite our Church into a season of prayer that I believe Jesus is inviting us into.

Pray for everyone

Often our prayers can be very self-focused. As we seek the Lord, he moves our attention to others. This is often known as intercessory prayer, where we ask God to meet the needs of others. As we pray together as a church we don't want to focus only on our own personal issues. The Lord has called us to pray for all people.

1 Timothy 2: 1-4 and 8 Says "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.... Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.

Let us make time to practice loving our neighbours as ourselves as we pray together for others.

Continued on Page 2

Jesus Said

This month we begin a new series looking at the words of Jesus found in the Gospel of Luke.

The Gospel of Luke was written sometime between 60 and 80 A.D. by Luke, a Gentile physician and the missionary companion of Paul. This is the first of two volumes Luke wrote for Theophilus. The second is the Book of Acts. While Luke addresses his book to Theophilus, which means "one who loves God" it is intended for all believers.

The NIV Study Notes explain that, "The fact that the Gospel was initially directed to Theophilus does not narrow or limit its purpose. It was written to strengthen the faith of all believers and to answer the attacks of unbelievers. Luke wanted to show that the place of the Gentile Christian in God's Kingdom is based on the teaching of Jesus."

Continued on Page 4

From the Pastor—continued...

Don't Stop Praying

A lack of time is a major issue in today's world. How do I fit prayer into my schedule? I don't think I can make it to the prayer meeting. I want to pray but so many other things are keeping me busy. These are issues that everyone deals with, but let us remember these words from the Bible:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

God's will is that we never stop. You don't have to make it to every prayer meeting, you can still pray without giving up your job or time with others. Simply find ways to communicate to God throughout the day. Do you get a 15-minute break at work? Do you give thanks for your meals? What do you do when you are in the car? Can you afford to get up a few minutes early or go to sleep a few minutes later? There are many simple ways to pray. It is God's desire that we are in constant communication with Him. Pray before you start your next task, make your next phone call or when you have any moment to re-centre yourself on God.

Praying is a responsibility

We often think of sin as things that we do that make God upset with us, when, in reality sin is as simply being outside of God's will. God's

will is that we are in Him and He in us. God's will is that we talk to Him. Have you ever thought that when you fail to communicate with Him then you are neglecting your relationship with Him? The prophet Samuel understood this and took his responsibility so seriously that he thought that if he didn't pray then he would be in sin.

1 Samuel 12:23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

My intention is not to make you feel guilty if you have failed to pray but I desire that we see prayer as a part of our lives, which if neglected, can hurt our relationship with God. If we take this responsibility seriously, then prayer will not be a burden but a blessing.

Prayer brings healing

We live in a world filled with bad news. You can't turn on the radio, TV, computer or cell phone without seeing how broken the world is. The good news is that we have the answer, God has given us the ability to seek Him for healing. He has promised to answer when we call.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I

hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Our desire to see healing, to see a change in our world, should empower our desire to seek the face of God. The Lord has called us to His throne with boldness (Hebrews 4:16 Let us join together in unity to see God hear our cries for our family, our friends, our neighbours, our enemies and the world.

If you are interested in joining a prayer meeting there are several that are available, meeting in the Church Sanctuary.

Tuesday Mornings @ 11 AM – General Prayer

Every other Wednesday Night May 9th, 23rd, June 6th, 20th (when there is no Fuel night) @ 7 PM – Prayer for Canada

The last Sunday of the Month @ 6:30 PM – General Prayer (Please note that the May location will be at Pastor Thomas & Amy Beth's home 2518 County Rd 21 in Spencerville.)

Looking forward to see how God responds to our prayers,

Pastor Thomas Eng

Up Coming Events

Saturday, June 2nd –Annual Church Yard Sale

8:00am to 1:00pm. Rain or Shine. Clean out your closets and perhaps pick up a great find. Volunteers are also needed, sign up sheets will be in the Church foyer. Proceeds from the sale will support the Church.

Sunday June 3rd—Annual Society Meeting and Service of Celebration

Come and celebrate what God has been doing in this local Church over the past year. Members will be voting for elected positions and the budget as part of the worship service. Following the service there will be a BBQ.

Sunday June 24th –Guess Who's Coming to Lunch?

A twist on our traditional family Sunday lunch. Be a guest or host a family in your home from 5-7 PM. More information and sign up sheets in the foyer.

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		1 Prayer @ 11 AM	2 Fuel Night @ 5:30 PM	3	4	5
6 Church@ 10:30	7 Men's Group @ 7:30 PM	8 Prayer @ 11 AM	9 Prayer for Canada @ 7 PM	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day Church@ 10:30	14 Men's Group @ 7:30 PM	15 Prayer @ 11 AM	16 Fuel Night @ 5:30 PM	17	18	19
20 Church@ 10:30	21 Victoria Day @	22 Prayer @ 11 AM Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM	23 Prayer for Canada @ 7 PM	24	25	26
27 Church@ 10:30 Sunday Night Prayer @ 6:30 PM At Pastor Thomas & Amy Beth's home	28 Men's Group @ 7:30 PM	29 Prayer @ 11 AM	30 Fuel Night @ 5:30 PM	31		

Birthdays This Month

Amanda Boone (13th)
 Seth Reinhart (15th)
 Gerry Seguin (18th)
 Donna Seguin(19th)
 Greg Wall (21st)
 Sam Wilkinson (21st)
 Jim Baker (23rd)
 Sadie Carnegie (24th)
 Serena van Noppen (25th)
 Noah Timms (25th)
 Lia Wall (28th)
 Linda Schmidt (30th)
 Logan Brunet (31st)

If we missed mentioning your birthday or anniversary please let us know by calling the office at 258-4815

Groups & Studies

Monday: Monday Night Men's Group 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. The guys meet weekly as men, studying the word and sharing our lives in prayer and friendship. For more information contact Joe Kupecz, or the Church office at 613-258-4815 x 100.

Tuesday : Prayer 11AM in the Sanctuary. Join us for a time of prayer. Prayer time is informal and you can come and go as needed, but generally wraps up by 12 PM. If you have a prayer request you can fill in a Connect Card and put it in the prayer baskets at the front of the church or call the Church office at 613-258-4815 x 100 or email at office@ngccfm.ca.

Wednesday : Ladies Bible Study 10 AM @ Church Have questions about the sermon or want to dig deeper in to God's word? Facilitated by Debbie Stewart .

Wednesday : Fuel Night, @ Church. Dinner starts at 5:30 PM. Programming for Kids, Youth and Adults starts at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to join in. If you plan on coming for dinner please let us know by calling the Church office at 613-258-4815 x 100 so that we can have enough food for everyone.

For more info about our weekly activities and connection opportunities go to www.ngccfm.ca/small-groups

Jesus Said—continued...

Luke is one of the three Synoptic Gospels, meaning Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell many of the same events from Jesus' life. We find many similarities between their accounts. It is the differences that help us understand each author's emphasis. Luke is writing to a primarily Gentile audience. He wants them to understand the way to find salvation is in Jesus, that all people are welcomed into the Kingdom of God, and the importance of praising God.

He also has a focus on prayer, the poor and social justice, the role of women, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Luke includes more parables than any other gospel.

Pastor Liz

Karis Book Club

"Eating and reading are two pleasures that combine admirably." — C.S. Lewis

I completely agree with C.S. Lewis, my only addition is that both books and food are better when shared with friends. It is that reason that we are starting a book club, the Karis Book Club. Karis is from Greek, meaning grace. The books we look at are going to have themes of grace, redemption, and faith.

Karis Book Club is for women interested in reading and discussing Christian books. We plan to start meeting in May. Our first book will be the Lineage of Grace, a collection of novellas by Francine Rivers. Amy-Beth has 10 copies of the book that we can borrow, so you would not need to purchase a copy, unless you would prefer to.

More information about the book can be found at <https://francinerivers.com/series/lineage-of-grace-55/>

Our Reading Plan

May - Unveiled: The Story of Tamar

June - Unashamed: The story of Rahab

September - Unshaken, The story of Ruth

October - Unspoken, The story of Bathsheba

November - Unafraid, The story of Mary

Fill out an interest card today to join the club

-Pastor Liz



The prayer chain can be initiated by calling the Church at 613-258-4815 x 100 or emailing office@ngccfm.ca. The prayer team meets at the Church on Tuesdays at 11 AM.

- The Kerith Debt Freedom Centre as it ministers to our community. Please pray for our coaches as well as the clients they serve.
- Christian refugee families in the middle east who are being persecuted.
- That God would continue to provide for the needs of the Church.
- Those who struggle with addictions and their families.
- Those in our Church family, and community that struggle with health issues, especially our seniors.
- Those who are battling cancer; 14 year old Tanner, and Barbara, Marcie, Mark.
- Our country and its leadership, federally, provincially and at the municipal level, especially the family and friends of our MP Gord Brown who passed away suddenly on May 2nd.
- Those involved and affected by the bus crash involving the Humbolt Bronco's Hockey Team and the Toronto van attack.
- Please pray for our denomination the Free Methodist Church in Canada, that we can be united as a movement across Canada, and for those who lead us at Ministry Centre.
- The we as a Church and a nation would have a renewed desire to seek God's face in prayer.