



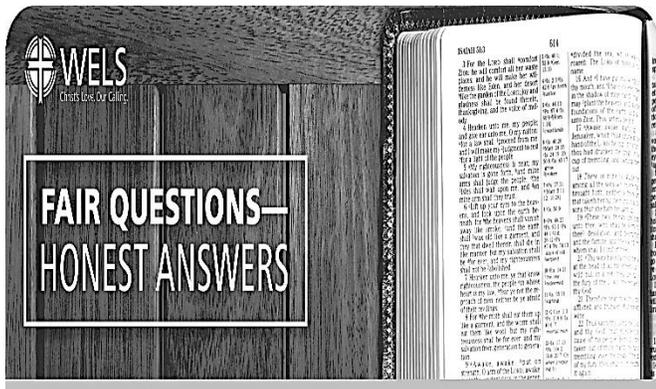
NEWSLETTER

November
2015

God doesn't always answer my prayers. Why?

"Ask, and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7).

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives" (James 4:3).



In grappling with this fair question, we first need to remember that prayer is a privilege. Because of our sin, God has every right not to listen to a single word we speak to him. However, because his Son, Jesus Christ, died for us and rose again, God forgives our sins. He has made us his children by faith in Jesus, and has given us the privilege of speaking to him in prayer. Through Jesus we may come to God the Father *"with freedom and confidence"* (Ephesians 3:12).

Our Father in heaven promises to hear and answer our prayers. Jesus says, *"Ask, and it will be given to you"* (Matthew 7:7). God's ears are always attentive to our prayers. He is listening, and answering.

So why does it seem like God does not answer (at least sometimes). Since he promises to answer all our prayers—and he keeps all his promises—the problem might be with us. We need to evaluate ourselves.

Are we praying in faith? We might be approaching God on the basis of our goodness or the deeds we think will lead him to listen. Prayers not offered by faith in Jesus Christ are not answered.

Are we praying with improper motives? If we pray so that we might get something to merely spend on our selfish pleasures, the Lord will not answer. The Bible teaches, *"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives"* (James 4:3).

Are we praying according to his will? If our requests are contrary to his will expressed in the Bible, then we will not receive an answer. So with every prayer, we have in mind the petition in the Lord's Prayer, "Your will be done."

If we are following what God tells us in the Bible, yet our prayers seem like they are not being answered, then what should we think? We humble ourselves before God with the confidence that he still is listening and will answer. When he does not seem to answer, he still is—probably in ways that we do not yet realize. He is our loving Father, who will bless us in the ways he knows are best. We have that guarantee because he already gave his Son to claim us as his very own. How greatly our heavenly Father loves us to call us his children and give us the privilege to speak to him in prayer!

For more Questions & Answers, go to
www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then
Questioning God.

CHURCH NEWS

Gathering For Fellowship & Spiritual

Discussion: We have planned our first gathering and for now, we will call it: "*Grace Circle*" until we come up with a better name. All are invited to the Schwartz home on Monday, November 9th beginning at 6:30pm. Come casual. You may bring a treat to share IF you desire to do so (this is not required).

Our Jesus Cares Program: We have had a great start to our Jesus Cares Ministry program this fall. Our theme for the year is: "*The Lord Is My Shepherd*" focusing on the 23rd Psalm. Our next meeting is November 12th and we will learn about his refreshing work in our lives. Our annual Christmas program is on December 10th. This will be a program where all St. John's members are invited as well as all parents and guardians.

Everyone is welcome and we continue to look for more volunteers for this community outreach ministry. If you are willing to spend about 2 ½ hours every third Thursday, please speak to Arvid & Judy Schwartz, Joyce Koepp, Mavis Graupmann, or Pastor Reichow. There is a guarantee that you will go home feeling better than when you arrived.

Special Thanksgiving Worship: Join with us in giving thanks to our God on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26th at 9:00 AM. As our gracious Lord has blessed us with many good things, so we worship him in thanksgiving.

Advent by Candlelight: We will have a unique Advent program on Sunday, November 29th at 6:30pm. Instead of a Christmas Carol sing-along, we will have an intimate candlelight program entitled, "*A Mother Remembers*" with piano music and singing.

Through narrations, readings, music, songs and prayer, we will reflect on the birth of Jesus and the meaning of his life for us and all people. We will close out the evening by enjoying Christmas treats and refreshments. Plan to attend and invite your friends to this one-of-a-kind event! Flyers are available for you to use in the church entryway.

* * * * *

THANK YOU: Thank you to all who helped in any way to maintain and mow the lawn here at St. John's. Also, to Earl Schuth for spraying for weeds. To all-- your time and ability has kept the

Lord's house in proper care, Thank You. With winter fast approaching, if you can help with snow removal, shoveling etc. please let a council member know.

* * * * *

ORGAN UPDATE: As of this writing, Mike Rider is planning to start rebuilding our organ on November 23rd. We will have 2 - 3 weeks without the use of the organ. Pray that all things go well so we can enjoy new sounds for the Christmas season.

* * * * *

LADIES AID

St. John's Ladies Aid will have Christmas Cards available for purchase before Thanksgiving. Watch for a display set out in the narthex. The Ladies Aid is also hosting its annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 6th at 12:30pm. An invitation is extended to the entire congregation to celebrate the joy of Christmas at this event. You are welcome to invite family and friends. More information will be posted in the Sunday bulletins.

* * * * *

YOUTH NEWS

We are working on planning meetings/events for our high school age youth group members. Watch for email notices and bulletin announcements for the latest information. Occasionally, we will also have activities for the 5-8 grade youth members.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 st	Joyce Koepp
5 th	Denise Ortloff
6 th	Trenton Bratsch
7 th	Daniel Schultz
9 th	Herbert Schuth
11 th	Rachel Schuth
14 th	Brian and Laurie Litzau (17 th Anniversary) Micah Scherer
16 th	Cordelia Milbrand
18 th	Michael Siewert
20 th	Joel and Elynn Lepel (34 th Anniversary)
21 st	Earl Stuedemann and Zachary Reichow
23 rd	Richard and Betty Gorr (47 th Anniversary)
24 th	Keith and Pauline Schmidt (25 th Anniversary)
25 th	Donald Dammann
27 th	Joshua Raddatz, and Blake Ortloff
28 th	Donald and Carol Dammann (40 th Anniversary)
30 th	Alexandra Siewert