

move forward in my tasks. I ask the Spirit to soften me, to make me aware of my resistance to him and to help me to be more open to his direction in both the Word of God and the opportunities that he presents to me.

If it would it easier for you to speak with God by using more common language, by all means do so. Private prayer does not sound like public prayers. You don't need to limit yourself to "styles", cadence or language set. The point is to connect to a relationship with a God who loves you as his own child.

Simplicity, openness, honesty, and sincerity are the key ingredients.

It certainly doesn't have to sound like the character in the cartoon below.



*Grace and Peace,*

*Carl*

St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
P. O. Box 241  
St John, KS 67576

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*



St John Church of Christ  
A Family of God

December 20, 2015

I pray for long periods of time, multiple hours at a time most days. For me, the longer I focus into my prayers, the more meaningful and powerful they are to my spiritual life. This is not to say that short pointed prayers about an immediate concern are shallow or unimportant, but for me, I tend to need time to focus and meditate. My intent is not to be critical of anyone else's prayer but I read this little cartoon, and it seems to capture one reason that it is difficult for some to develop the habit of prayer, based on listening to others praying.

It is very common for folks to use certain styles or language in prayer. It seems to arise from an effort to be respectful and reverent. The use of "King James" English with the "Thee's" and "Thou's" is one of these efforts. Others develop a cadence or rhythm to their prayers. Moving in melodic tones, with a sing song effect. I know that I tend to be habitual in addressing the Father in my public prayers, concluding asking for the return of Jesus.

In my private prayers I sometimes address Jesus directly or ask the Holy Spirit to assist me in communicating my words and meanings. I ask that he illumine my heart, granting me understanding and clarity as I

**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
Worship Service—10:45 am  
Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm  
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

**ELDERS:** Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,  
Terry Sallee, George Shelton

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Breensing

### WORSHIP ORDER FOR DECEMBER 20, 2015

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker

GATHERING SONG:

No. 264—O Come, Let Us Adore Him

WELCOME: Tom Turner

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20 (Richard Breensing)

SONGS: No. 995—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs 1)

No. 997—O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 1003—Silent Night! Holy Night!

No. 779—I Love You, Lord

PRAYER: Stan Aldrich

SONG: No. 324—Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (vs 1, 4)

COMMUNION: Tom Turner

Ned Marks

Fred Johnson

Orrin Feril

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril

SONGS: No. 999—The First Noel (vs 1)

No. 1001—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs 1)

LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)

SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)

PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(CCLI #2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! Please stay for lunch right after services.



### SOUP SUPPER AT THE FERIL'S

You are invited to the home of Carl & Janet Feril for a soup supper this evening—come anytime after 6:00 pm and stay as long as you like! This is being hosted by Carl, Janet, Tom, Pam, Orrin & Meagan.

### WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

- April 15-16; Hartman Arena, Wichita, KS
- Let Janet know if you want to be registered with the group who is going (we can get a discounted fee until January 31st)
- We have 9 women who have made this commitment so far

### OUR SYMPATHY

- **Donna Laudick** (Marla's sister) - passed away on Friday; arrangements pending at time of this printing
- **Alice Peden** (mother of Karla Mead, minister's wife at Eastwood Church of Christ in Hutchinson) passed away last week

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Chris Mansel**—not feeling well; torn rib cartilage  
**Brenda Staub**—surgery last week to remove her thyroid; home and doing well  
**Darlene Stimatze** (Amber Turner's mother) - recuperating from hip surgery; was scheduled to get out of the hospital yesterday  
**Dan Hampton**—recent surgery  
**Michelle Rose** (Vanessa Roger's aunt) - in a nursing home for rehab  
**Marilyn Thornburg**—recent knee surgery  
**Roger Dick**—ongoing cancer treatments  
**John Laudick** (Marla's brother-in-law)  
**Pam Herrenbruck**—cancer treatment  
**Jonathan Batten** – chemotherapy  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**Myron Breensing** (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic & Phyllis Staub** – Kenwood Plaza



*From Carl & Janet  
and  
Tom & Pam*