

## Monthly Prayer Letter - July 2026

Dear Church Family,

Earlier this afternoon, I was working on the **Downtown Prayer Walk** guide for this Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. I've mapped out half-mile, one-mile, and two-mile routes through downtown Bemidji. We'll meet up at Paul & Babe at 11:15 am Sunday after service, and then break into groups to walk and pray. If you've never been a part of a Prayer Walk, this should be a fun first experience. We'll hand out a guide with maps and prayer prompts for the journey. Don't forget your sunscreen, water bottle, and comfortable shoes!

This week, I've also been working on the final message of our sermon series, **Becoming People of Prayer**. If you missed the sermon on Hannah's, Jesus', Solomon's, or Moses' Prayers, you'll find them on our church website or YouTube page. This Sunday, we'll look at one of Paul's prayers. It's one of my favorites, so I can't wait to share this passage with you all!

But why an emphasis on prayer these last few weeks? Didn't we cover the topic sufficiently this past spring with the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)?

When I knew we would pause our Luke series for the summer, I prayed about what to cover in June. It didn't take long for me to land on one topic: **prayer**. Not just *how* to pray, or what kind of things should we pray about, but specifically, *what does it look like when God's people pray*.

We dug into Hannah's Prayers, seeing how she prayed through her pain and still found joy (1 Sam. 1-2). We considered Solomon's prayer of repentance and plea for mercy at the dedication of the temple (1 Kg. 8). We turned to the Psalms and found a prayer of Moses, teaching us to number our days, and seek a heart of wisdom (Psa. 90). We even looked at the Lord's Prayer (no, not that one) in John 17 where Jesus prayed for his disciples—including you and me.

Maybe you don't think you can pray like Hannah. Maybe your prayers can't match up with those of Paul, Solomon, or Moses—let alone, the Lord Jesus! Good. I don't want you to make comparisons. The goal isn't to pray *like* these biblical figures; the goal is to pray *with* them. These aren't just people's prayers preserved in Scripture. They *are* Scripture! They're God-breathed prayers preserved in the pages of the Bible for us to learn from and make our own.

When we pray these and other biblical prayers, and we let them shape our own prayers, we, too, are **becoming people of prayer** even as we are continually **becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together**.

So here's my only prayer request for this month's letter. Join me in praying that more and more, we as a church family would **become people of prayer**.

In Him, Pastor Eric