

Monthly Prayer Letter - September, 2025

Dear Church Family,

Has this ever happened to you? The other day, I woke up and realized that my lower back was sore. The funny thing was, I didn't remember injuring it. I tried to think of how I might have strained it the day before, but couldn't come up with an answer. My wife tells me it's because I'm getting older. I refuse to believe this. Still, I know that when one part of my body is hurting, the rest of me knows it.

In the Lord's goodness, he has given us a living illustration of how his church is to function. Our own physical bodies remind us daily that "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12, NIV). In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul provides us with such a vivid yet simple illustration of the body of Christ, even a child can understand it (sing with me, "Head, shoulders, knees, and toes! Knees and toes!").

It's a rich passage of Scripture, but as we pray together for one another and for our church this month, let me draw your attention to what we read in verse 26:

“ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)

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Since Kickoff Sunday, there has been a constant stream of activity in (and thanks to our roofers, on) our building. Take a look at the church calendar and you'll see the variety of ways we are *becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together*. However, many of us tend to only be aware of the ministries we participate in, the groups we belong to, or the activities we're a part of.

This month, let's not only pray for our part of the body, but let's pray for the *whole* body.

Gentlemen, let's take time to pray for our Women's Bible Study, Overflow, BSF, and our Women's Ministries. Ladies, praise God for a great Men's Breakfast this month, and pray for our Men's Bible Study, Men's Life Group, and Heart of a Man discipleship groups.

Students, would you pray for our senior adults, for Senior Connection, and for the members of our church family who are not able to join us on a Sunday morning? Senior Adults, would you pray for our students going to Fall Fling in late October, for Wednesday Night Youth Group, and for Pastor Shane as he continues to build relationships with our young people?

If you typically attend the 10:45 Service, praise God with me for the many new members in our Choir (and come at 8:30 the next time they're scheduled to sing). If you typically attend the 8:30 Service, would you join us in praying for additional musicians to help fill in our 10:45 worship teams? Let's praise

God together for our 9:30 Combined Services this past summer, and pray that regardless of style, that our worship music would remain gospel-centered and bring God the glory due his name.

Grief Share might not be a support group you need right now, but someday it may be. Would you pray for those who have started this new 13-week support session meeting on Sunday afternoons? Sunday School at 9:45 am might not be your thing, but would you pray for the three adult Sunday School classes being offered this fall, that we might be transformed by God's word, and grow in discipleship together?

You might not have kiddos at home, or maybe they're all grown up, but would you take some time this month to pray for kids and their families participating in Kids Sunday School, Beginners and Kids Church, and Wednesday night Kids Club? Would you pray for the many volunteers serving in Kids Ministry this fall, and for the volunteer needs that still need to be filled? And don't forget to pray for the little ones in the Nursery!

If you're in a Life Group, take time to pray for someone else's Life Group this week. Not in a Life Group? Would you take time to look over the Life Group schedule and pray for those who are attending?

Single? Engaged? Would you pray for Grace Marriage, a new marriage discipleship opportunity starting up Friday, October 3rd. Are you married? Join me in praying for our single adults, for newly engaged couples, for teens navigating dating in our culture, and for marriages that are strained or are breaking.

Haven't listened to The Deeply Devoted Podcast yet? No problem. But would you pray for this bi-weekly opportunity to disciple those who are listening.

Elders, let's each pray for each one of our Trustees by name, thanking God for the men and women overseeing our church's finances and building and grounds. Members of the Trustee Board, our Elders and Pastors invite your prayers as we shepherd our flock (1 Pet. 5:2). Pray for us!

If the above list doesn't give you enough prayer prompts for the month, take out Sunday's bulletin and pray over everything you see that does not pertain to you. (Okay, you can pray for your stuff too). In fact, the weekly bulletin is great resource for prompting ways to pray.

Remember, "God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be" (1 Cor 12:18, NIV). That means you're part of this body for a reason. That means he wants you to be interdependently connected with the rest of the body of Christ. Let's pray for this body, our church.

In Him,

Pastor Eric Nygren