



Grace Bible Fellowship

August 2026

August @ Grace...

August 1

Men's Breakfast @ 8am

August 9

Elder Forum @ 4:30pm

Prayer Service @ 5pm

Leadership Mtg. @ 6pm

August 15

Women's Brunch @ 9am

August 21

Game Night @ 6:30pm

August 30

Mission's Giving (Peterson)

Elder Vote – Jason Lafferty

September @ Grace...

September 2

Bible Study Resumes
Every Wednesday @ 6:30pm

September 7

Offices Closed

September 13

Prayer Service @ 5pm

Leadership Mtg. @ 6pm

September 20

Church Cook-Out Fellowship Meal

September 27

Mission's Giving (Detwiler)

Pray the Bible: The Helpfulness of Written Prayers

Last month, we looked at tips for reading the gospel genre. Continuing in our key themes of 2026 of *Read the Bible*, *Pray the Bible*, and *Preach the Bible*, my continued goal is to encourage you in our mutual commitment to God and his words. This month, we will look at the theme of *Pray the Bible* by looking at the helpfulness of written prayers. As opposed to extemporaneous prayers, which are said with little to no preparation, written prayers function as a sort of script. One person has written a series of words which another uses to give adoration, confess sins, show thanks, or make supplication. Like an actor, one can read the lines, memorize them, or even go off script as fits the moment. However, unlike acting, we shouldn't think of using written prayers as something we fake or with which we pretend to show obeisance to the Lord. Rather, written prayers that are based on Scripture and given from the heart can be helpful for teaching us how to pray and for providing language for when we don't know what to say.

As in all prayers (extemporaneous or written), those penned by one and spoken by another should be founded upon the truths of God's word. The Lord cares about how we speak to him and has graciously provided special revelation in order to teach us. A written prayer is only as good as its adherence to those teachings. Written prayers can thus be distillations of words from the Bible or even contain direct quotes from several different passages. In fact, there are many prayers (sometimes written as songs) within the Bible that were written for us to consider, to promote worship, and to even pray with them (e.g. Ex. 15:1-18; Matt. 6:9-13; Ps. 1-150). Additionally, the fact that written prayers use or sometimes are Scripture, means that they should only be used with a heart given to the Lord and his worship. Some are hesitant to use written prayers because of the assumption that doing so is disingenuous. This can

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certainly happen. However, I would argue that the ditch on the other side of the ‘road’ is extemporaneous prayers unguarded by the boundary of Scripture. Those who pray such prayers could find themselves praying unbiblically and call it “spirit-led.”

Having touched on the importance of written prayers being biblically based and given from a genuine heart, I now want to briefly mention one way they can be helpful in the lives of believers and the church as a whole. Written prayers can help teach us how to pray. Consider children. They need to be taught even how to talk, to read, and make appropriate conversation with other human beings. We teach them the ABC’s, pronunciation, and even “please” and “thank you” through songs or books written by others from generations ago. We don’t tell them that “B” makes whatever sound feels right at the moment. We give them the tried-and-true principles and lessons passed down to us. Similarly, talking to God can be taught to children through written prayers. One example is what I’ve taught my children to pray at the dinner table, “We thank you, Lord, for this food. All good things come from you.” Interestingly, this prayer, which my 1-year-old is already trying to imitate, has enabled the older two (in addition to seeing the examples of their parents) to pray more extemporaneously. Given the foundation of written prayers and structure, they now are forming tools for more natural and proper speech to the Lord that, I pray, will serve them well in a lifetime of praying to him. Perhaps you, dear brother or sister, feel like a child when it comes to praying. If you feel ill-equipped to pray in front of others or even by yourself, use one found in the Bible or other books such as the *Valley of Vision* or *Every Moment Holy*. Could written prayers help you too?

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan

Praying for Our Family...

- Pray for Pastor Nathan, Eric Bjerkaas, Jeff Schenck, and Dan Kleinau as they continue in faithful leadership of the church.
- Pray for Pastor Nathan as he weekly prepares for the Sunday School, preaching the Word, and shepherding the body.
- Pray for Angie Faux, Lee McCullough, and Adler Schreur as they continue to recover from surgeries.
- Pray for all those sick in body in the congregation.
- Pray for Amanda as she continues to grieve the loss of her Dad.
- Pray for John & Mary as they press on in the battle with John’s pain. Pray for Mary as she cares for John.
- Praise God for his faithfulness in the CGN women’s retreat! May the seeds planted bear much fruit for Christ.
- Pray for the men’s retreat coming up in October. Pray the Lord would prepare those who will teach and preach and all who will hear the word.
- Pray that as we hear the Word preached, our hearts and lives will be changed. Pray that we would be desiring God’s Word, growing in our love for one another, and seeking to serve the Lord well in our church and community.

Our Missionary Partners...

Sillas & Wanger Campos, Brazil
Karl & Glynn Peterson, South Africa, Mozambique
Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, To Every Tribe

Praying for those who serve...

Leadership

Pastor – Nathan Miller
Elder – Eric Bjerkaas
Deacons – Dan Kleinau, & Jeff Schenck

Ministry Volunteers

Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, John & Mary, Dan & Christine, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff S., Adam & Jill, Don & Angie, Aaron, Yessie, Nathan & Rylee, Valerie, Kris, Kailee, Robena, Jake & Christiane, Jeff W., Caleb, Lydia, Marcos

Teachers

Pastor Nathan: Adult
Yessie Yanez: 3rd-6th grade
Rylee Miller: Pre-K – 2nd grade
Dan Kleinau & Renee Kim: Children’s Church

2026 Special Events & Dates

August:

1: Men's Breakfast
9: Prayer Service
15: Women's Brunch
21: Game Night

September

2: Bible Study Resumes
13: Prayer Service
20: Cookout
PADS: TBD

October

2-3: CGN Men's Retreat
11: Prayer Service
17: Women's Brunch
21: Bonfire After Study

November

8: Prayer Service
18: Last Bible Study
PADS: TBD
22: Christmas Luncheon/Décor
29: Advent Begins

December

13: Prayer Service
24: Candlelight Service

Kid's Corner...

2nd-4th Grade:

Ms. Yessie's class started sitting together in the adult study starting May 24, to learn about confessions, creeds, and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. They have begun the chapters of the London Baptist Confession of Faith.

Pre-K-1st Grade:

Mrs. Rylee's class continues in The Biggest story with lessons the History Books in Joshua through Esther.



August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						MEN'S 1 BREAKFAST 8-10AM
SUNDAY 2 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM	3	4 PASTOR @CGN	5	6	7	8
SUNDAY 9 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM ELDER FORUM @ 4:30PM PRAYER @ 5PM LEADERSHIP @6	10	11	12	13	14	15 WOMEN'S BRUNCH 9-11AM
SUNDAY 16 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM	17	18	19	20	21 GAME NIGHT @6:30PM	22
SUNDAY 23 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM	24	25	26	27	28	29
SUNDAY 30 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM MISSIONS GIVING (PETERSON) ELDER VOTE	31					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10TH - JAKE CHERNY
19TH - BENNETT HAYS
21ST - MARY LINDENMEYER
24TH - PATTY EICHELKRAUT
31ST - NATHAN MILLER

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

16TH - JEFF & JILL SCHENCK