

A plea for public prayers

Thoughts on a missing part of church worship, with some possibilities for a reinstatement

It is not that a worship time for a church does not work without a planned worship and request prayer. Many churches do very well without it. And no one complains. But...

...All of us who follow God's ways are clearly commanded to pray. And Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

...Spontaneous prayers by a guitarist are not very worshipful, and they do not model prayer for families or individuals, though they are often good examples of praise and heartfelt love. (Sometimes they are just indicators that the leader liked the previous song:-).

...There are strong worship prayers in Old and New Testaments, with many in the Psalms, causing all of us to consider if there should be careful praying when the church gathers.

...The pastor should model what a pastoral worshipful personal prayer can be, some of us think.

...The reaction to boring, long unplanned prayers that made minds drift in the church service should not mean total cancellation, this pastor thinks.

...Many individuals and families do not know how to pray and never hear a model.

...A pastor would seem to be responsible for shepherding and modeling strong praying.

So...

Would it be good for the pastor and friends-fellow leaders to decide to lead the gathering of worshippers to praise and honor our Creator-Savior, to admit our sins (why should Lutherans and Presbyterians and others be the only ones who repent?), and to ask His favor, which we surely do need?

Such a prayer can be meaningful and can be planned and can be 90-160 seconds of the service. And it can bring listeners in to the prayer and in to the spirit of worship as much as the songs and hymns.

A careful prayer can be (should be?) built right into the flow of the service and not an interruption of the flow or theme, and certainly not a diversion from God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Who happens to be the One, Three in One, who is to be the focus of this meeting.