

## 11 WAYS TO PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR - THOM RAINER

We all need prayer. We all need to pray. Pastors specifically need prayer. The Enemy will do whatever he can to destroy the ministry of your pastors. Will you consider praying for your pastors in these specific areas?

1. **Pray for wisdom for your pastor.** These leaders are often confronted with incredibly challenging situations and decisions. They need God's wisdom to continue to be the leader of the church God has called them to be.
2. **Pray for your pastor's protection.** Your pastor will be attacked in so many different ways. Your pastor will be tempted again and again. The Enemy seeks to destroy. The Enemy wants your pastor's ministry destroyed.
3. **Pray for your pastor's family.** They too are attacked, criticized, and sometimes bullied. They often feel isolated and alone. They need encouragement. They need prayer.
4. **Pray for your pastor to withstand the critics and bullies.** Some of the critics and bullies are overt and aggressive. Others are passive aggressive. All are painful. And every pastor has them.
5. **Pray against the temptation of comparison.** Before this week is over, a church member will likely tell your pastor to listen to a podcast by another pastor "to learn how to really preach" (actual words spoken to a pastor). Other pastors will hear numerous comments about the other great church in the community. The message is real and painful: You don't measure up, pastor.
6. **Pray against discouragement from members leaving.** It's hard for your pastor not to take it personally. It's really hard when the departing member tells your pastor to take it personally.
7. **Pray against discouragement from decline.** Two out of three congregations in North America are declining.

That is a painful reality for your pastor. That is a discouraging reality for your pastor.

8. **Pray against discouragement from disunity.** "I wish I had every minute back I had to spend refereeing church members." Those are the actual words of one of the Church Answers' pastors I serve. The Enemy loves it when church members fight one another.
9. **Pray for discernment for "yes" and "no."** Pastors are pulled in a multitude of directions. They are expected to be in so many meetings, so many social events, and so many pastoral situations. They are really expected to be omnipresent. Pray they will be able to say "no" more often. Pray for their families who often get the scanty leftovers of the pastor's time.
10. **Pray for financial pressures.** Many pastors are underpaid. They struggle day by day with financial challenges. Actual quote from a deacon: "I like for our pastor to be underpaid. It keeps him humble and dependent on God." That deacon is enjoying a life of leisure from inherited wealth.
11. **Pray for gospel opportunities.** Pastors are energized when they have the opportunity to share the gospel. Unfortunately, many of them are too busy to take time to do so. The demands of the church are just too great. These pastors live lives of inverted priorities and frustrating days.

Do we really want healthy churches? Do we really want to defeat the Enemy in these battles?

Pray for your pastor.

Start today. Take five minutes of each day to pray for your pastor.

It may be the greatest contribution you can make to your church.

## FEBRUARY SERIES

# Making Change

## JAN STATS

	SERVICE ATTND.	GG ATTND.	BUILDING OFFERING	SERVICE OFFERING
1/7	118	35	\$0.00	\$2,947.00
1/14	110	45	\$0.00	\$3,511.54
1/21	129	49	\$0.00	\$3,466.00
1/28	132	57	\$0.00	\$12,913.57

# KONNECT KIDS

## PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN: A TEST IN THE DESERT

In February, our Pre-K kids will be learning about how Sin makes your heart dirty! Eeew! Ask Jesus for His love and forgiveness. He will wash your heart pure and clean from sins. Stay pure by saying, "No!" to sins, like Jesus did when he was tested in the desert.

The Bible App for Kids Curriculum brings all the elements your preschoolers love best— songs, animated characters, and an interactive host—together in a curriculum designed to work in tandem with the stories in Bible App for Kids. Visit [www.bible.com/kids](http://www.bible.com/kids) to download the app.

## ELEMENTARY (1st-5th): 100% PURE

It doesn't matter how good you act, how great of an attitude you have, how smart you are, or how much you try to do for other people—Jesus is the only one who can make you pure. That means He can make you 100% clean from the sins you've done with a brand new, pure heart.

This series teaches your elementary kids that they can be pure and stay pure because of what Jesus did for them.

*If you would like to help with kids or teens, please talk to Ben about ways to partner together.*

# FEBRUARY CHURCH EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Feb 1 Leadership Mtg	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Illuminate	12	13	14	15	16 Directory photography sessions	17
18 Illuminate	19	20	21 Keenagers	22	23	24
25 Illuminate	26	27	28	Mar 1	2 CIY BELIEVE	3

## BIRTHDAYS

2-1	Becky Hale	2-18	Divea Winters
2-3	Bob Allen	2-19	Cindy Burger
2-8	Jill Scheller	2-19	Kylee Gordon
2-12	Linda Bee	2-22	Fran Mohler
2-14	Mary Brown	2-26	Fred Manship
2-17	Hannah Hawks	2-27	Julie Eason

## ANNIVERSARIES

2-8	Lloyd & Beulah Crouch
2-28	Ron & Coleen Orme

# HIGHLIGHTS

### LEADERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, February 1, at 7:00p. For all elders and deacons.

### CIY BELIEVE

A conference at the Springfield Convention Center for 6th-8th grade students, March 2-3. Cost is \$70 if paid before Feb 16. Register at: [www.loamicc.com/believe](http://www.loamicc.com/believe)

### ILLUMINATE

Sundays 6:30-8p at the church for 6th-12th grades. Not meeting Feb 4.

### DIRECTORY

We are putting together a new church directory. Our photography session dates are Feb 16th & 17th (at LoamiCC). You can go to: [loamicc.com/directory](http://loamicc.com/directory) to schedule a time that works for you!

### KEENAGERS

Feb. 21: Dining in New Berlin at 5:30pm. Contact Denise Cooper for more info.

### SUMMER CAMP

Registration opens for summer camp at LSCA for all ages on February 1! [Lscacamp.org](http://Lscacamp.org)

*Visit [loamicc.com](http://loamicc.com) to listen to sermons and find out more about what's going on at LoamiCC!*