

58th Annual National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7, 2009 Green Square Park – Cedar Rapids

Theme: “Prayer! America’s Hope”

“May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You.” Psalm 33:22

“Along with The Freedom Five – Church, Family, Government, Media, and Education.”

Sponsored by The Linn County Association of Evangelicals (LCAE)

in cooperation with the National Day of Prayer Task Force

Historical Roots of the National Day of Prayer:

The National Day of Prayer (NDP) was signed into law as an annual event by President Harry S. Truman in 1952. Former President Ronald Reagan signed an amendment to that law in 1988 which established the first Thursday of May each year as being the National Day of Prayer. However, days of prayer have been called for since 1775 when the Continental Congress mandated some time to be set aside for prayer for the forming of a new nation.

We, as Christians, are responding to the congressional call for a Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. This is an appeal to all citizens of the United States who believe in Christian prayer. Other religions may have their own response to the congressional call.

Our responsibility: We are serious about loving God and loving others. Part of loving God and others is that we pray to Him and for them. We have members of the media with us today and we welcome them! LCAE has designated three (3) individuals that will answer the media’s questions. You may defer to them if approached. We have representatives from The National Day of Reason with us and we bless them in Jesus Name. Today is not a day for debate but a day for prayer. We are gathered here with one express purpose – to pray for our nation. We are asking you to hold fast to that purpose.

Live music:

Pastor Zach Blickens, River of Life Ministries

Amazing Grace:

Together, led by Rev. Zach Blickens.

Presentation of the Flag (all stand please)

Ron Dirks, USAF Vet, First Assembly of God

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America:

Marion Livingston, Immanuel Baptist
Signing by: Ariana Meader, Immanuel Baptist

National Anthem:

Lori Owens, River Of Life Ministries

Presidential Proclamation

We probably will not have one to read.

Prayer For America:

Isie Vigil, Ellis Community

Written by Beth Moore - 2009 Honorary Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

Father in Heaven, We lift our eyes toward Your throne, where You reign in righteousness. Your word assures us that when your people cry out in sincerity and humility, You will never turn a deaf ear to us. We call upon you now, seeking Your forgiveness and favor. Look over this fevered landscape and heal us, Lord. Drop knees to the floor and raise eyes to the sky, for we know where our help comes from. Unite these states again in devotion to You, and blur every dividing line. Do not give us over to our sins. Give us, instead, over to passionate prayer that moves Your heart. “May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You.” In the name of our Lord and Savior, Amen

Personal Preparation - Attitude of Thanksgiving:

Pastor Caleb Plumb, Encounter Christian

II Chronicles 7:14 (Humbling our selves) and Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in

everything, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” God has been good to us!

Personal Prayer by each Attendee:

Families & Marriages:

Pastor Jackie Watkins, River Of Life Ministries

Ask God to bring about a day when hurting families experience healing and reconciliation.

Youth of America:

Pastor Terry Van Wyk, Hus Presbyterian

Ask God to bring about a day when children can live without fear, walk in hope, & lead future generations to Christ!

Education System:

Pastor Jim Coyle, Ellis Community

Ask God to bring about a day when our school systems nurture well-educated & upright youngsters!

Churches & Ministry Organizations:

Pastor Randy Scheil, Stonebridge Church

That the Church would rise up and BE The Church of Jesus Christ – extending grace, mercy, forgiveness and vision.

Ask God to guide/allow many ministry organizations opportunities to impact lives-develop partnerships w/local churches.

Business Sector – flood affected businesses & their families

Kreg Tjelmeland, Calvary Baptist

Ask God for His wisdom as together we rebuild our local businesses, their families and our economy.

Business Sector – Our Economy:

Ken Kolek, New Covenant Bible

Ask God for a return to the biblical principles that have blessed the business sector in the past and that the upright behavior of believers in business would so stand out that God would be glorified.

Media:

Pastor Brent Schulte, Antioch Christian

Ask God to bring a day when the media is an accurate reflection of ALL our culture and has the boldness to embrace uplifting messages that reflect the best of who we can be, not the worst of what we have been.

Government:

Pastor Tye Male, New Covenant Bible

Ask God to bring about a day when most government leaders and officials give priority to seeking His counsel! And that we as believers would make it a priority to pray for them.

Military:

Pastor James Leatherwood, Oakland Nazarene

We thank you Lord for the sacrifice they have made for us, for a way of life, for freedom.

Pray for all veterans that they might have safety and find any needed spiritual, emotional, or physical healing.

Closing Prayer of Dedication:

Pastor James Leatherwood, Oakland Nazarene

As we go, what would happen if we prayed five minutes a day for the focus topics we have just prayed for?

Sing this prayer as we leave: “Make Me A Prayer”

Pastor Zach Blickens, River of Life Ministries

We wish to thank the following:

- All who have led in prayer and River of Life Ministries for the live music.
- Sound provided by RGS Productions with Doug Johnson behind the controls
- First Assembly of God for the use of the stage platforms.
- St. Mark’s Lutheran, Eastview Christian & River of Life volunteers for helping transport the staging!

Upcoming Area Wide Events: Endorsed or co-sponsored by LCAE.

Global Day of Prayer – Sunday, May 31st 400 million in prayer – www.servethecity.org for more information.

Healing The Heartland Festival – June 12th – 13th & 14th!! www.servethecity.org for more information.

Friday night, June 12th Neighbors & Friends BBQ – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - check our web site for a neighborhood near you.

Saturday, June 13th Community Festival – Family Fun Zone, Sports Zone (Untitled Skateboards, Tanya Crevier, The Strength Team with Mike Hagen, Community Care (55 services) Tent, Food Tent and an evening concert with Dennis Swanberg, David Phelps, Barlow Girl, & the Newsboys! See www.servethecity.org for more info on the events page!

Sunday, June 14th 3rd Annual Serve The City Faith Night at the Kernel’s with a Big Band and The Strength Team!

Voices of Hope–7th annual Patriotic Concert – Veterans honored during the Freedom Festival, June 30th, July 1st & 2nd.

Why Pray?

Prayer is how we communicate with God and participate in His Works. It is grants us the privilege of experiencing God, keeps us humble before Him, strengthens the bonds between believers and can succeed where other means have failed.

Why Pray For Our Nation?

God answers the prayers of His people and in 2 Chronicles 7:14, He specifically emphasizes the importance of praying for our nation. Ask the Lord to bring about spiritual renewal across America. Pray that people will turn to Him and seek His will for our land.

Why Pray For Our Leaders?

The Bible instructs us to pray for “all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (I Timothy 2:2). Pray that our leaders will seek God and endeavor to serve Him in a manner that is worthy of their positions of influence.

Why Pray For Our Communities

Intercessory prayer has the power to change the place where you live. It is time that we took back our communities’ for the sake of God’s Kingdom and covered them with our humble petitions. Pray for your own city or town, asking God to bless your efforts to reclaim your neighborhood in His name.

Why Pray For Our Families

God designed the family to be a place of love, support, spiritual growth, and, of course, prayer. Now is the time to pray for this holy institution, which is currently under attack in our country. Ask the Lord to bring peace, guidance and healing to families that are struggling every day.

Why Pray For Our Youth

The youth of today will grow up to lead twenty-first-century America. Each day conflicting moral standards, violence, and the latest media scandals bombard them. In the midst of this turmoil, God is raising up an army of young people. Ask the Lord to make them bold and steadfast in their faith.