

Mount Zion - Children's Church News

We are learning, loving and serving God together!

Welcome back after the lazy, hazy days of summer! We look forward to the coming year with the children. Our aim at *Children's Church* is to help them develop a strong faith in the Lord. To that end, we will start September's theme by reviewing the importance of prayer... Let's establish a wonderful habit of talking to God everyday! **Please join us for our annual Church BBQ on Sept. 13 at Pastor's and Liliane's home!**

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with me or email me (address below).

Rita Cardarelli (Children's Church Director)

Children's Church Workers:

Grace Castro-Nolet	Liliane Mingardi
Luisa Thuswaldner	Marguerite MacDonald
Radina Petrova	Maria Makuch
Cathy Harris	

Sept.'s Theme: Prayer

Underlying Concepts:

- Praying is talking with God. Sharing your life with Him.
- When we pray we are building a relationship with God.
- When praying there is a time to be still and listen.
- In prayer, have a grateful attitude in all circumstances. God is your friend.

Sept.'s Scripture Memory Verse:

1Thessalonians 5:17

"Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for it is God's will for you in Jesus."

Upcoming Dates/Events:

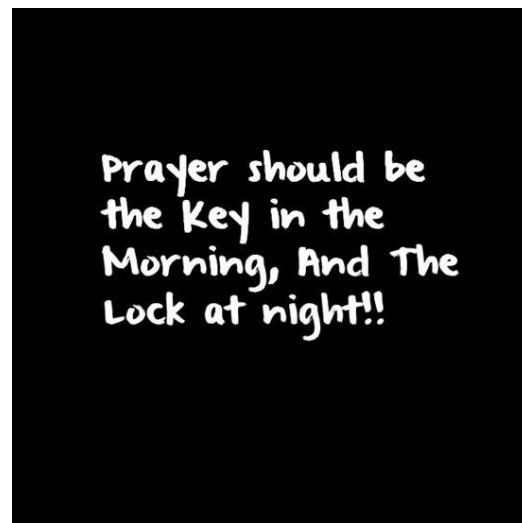
Sept. 13: Church BBQ

Oct. 12: Thanksgiving

Parents, encourage your children to bring a friend to church! What a wonderful way to reach out and share Jesus with others!

What Parents Can Do:

Our prayer life is such an important part of our walk with the Lord. When parents pray with their children, they teach them a valuable lesson: **God is our source for everything!**



See helpful hints: see next page!

Mount Zion - Children's Church News

We are learning, loving and serving God together!

Helpful Hints

A Life of Prayer

In the 2014 newsletters I wrote several articles on prayer. You can access them from our website ([http://mzchurch.net/children's ministry](http://mzchurch.net/children's%20ministry)). Since then, we have made it a habit to open and close our *Children's Church* with prayer. When we first started, the children were very shy to speak up, but as we **modeled** our prayers, they began to **follow** our lead. Now they freely want to pray for their needs and for each other! There is nothing sweeter than hearing a child pray!

We **keep a record** of what we pray for and we talk about it the following week. This enables the children to see that **God answers prayers** and to develop an **attitude of gratefulness**. This also gives us an opportunity to talk with them when they think that their prayers were not answered. Discussions on standing in faith, focusing on God rather than the need, and allowing God to work out the problem, help to strengthen their Christian beliefs.

We want our children to learn that:

- Prayer is not only a **listing of all our needs**.
- Prayer is a time to **thank God for all the blessings He gives us every day**.
- In prayer, we can **talk with God** and share our life with Him.
- We can fellowship with God anytime because He cares about every aspect of our lives.
- God is **bigger** than all our problems and **He has a solution for them**.

Children observe and learn from their parents all the time. When you pray, they see you giving importance to talking to God, trusting in God in difficult times and praising God for your blessings.

So, **look for opportunities to practice all kinds of prayer in their presence:**

- Establish "**prayer routines**" - e.g. morning blessings, thanksgiving for meals, and bedtime prayer.
- Encourage "**spontaneous prayers**" – e.g. thanking God for the beauty of nature as you take a walk, or praying for a neighbor.
- Find appropriate **Scriptures** and **incorporate them** in your prayers so your children can see how Scriptures can guide their thoughts.

Prayer is also about listening! Psalm 46:10 says, "**Be still and know that I am God.**" You can teach your children to be still and to hear the inner voice of God. This takes some practice. So, **teach your children by modeling this behavior**. Turn off all the distractions around you (phone, TV, music) and sit quietly with your eyes closed, aware of God's presence. Relax and breathe slowly. You may repeat a Scripture or praise Him softly. You can start to do this with your children for only a few minutes and work up to longer times.

Help your children see the benefit of speaking with God! A life of prayer changes us and draws us closer to God. There is mighty power in prayer.

Jeremiah 33:3 "**Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and wondrous things you do not know.**"

Rita (rita.cardarelli@mzchurch.net)