



# “THE STARTER”

July 2020

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## Billy Graham's Prayer for Our Nation

*This is a few years old, but still very valid, on this week that we celebrate our country. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called 'One Nation, Under God.'*

*"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good;', but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called choice. We have shot abortionist and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, O God and know our hearts today. Cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"*



## ♪ Summer Music ♪

*Can you provide a musical number for one of our summer worship services? Vocal or instrumental is welcomed. Please sign up on the Welcome Table.*

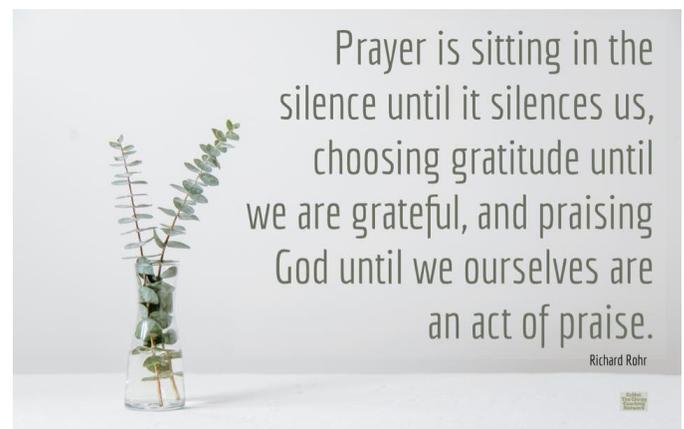


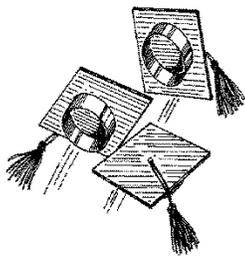
## Thank You, So Much

*Dear Family in Christ,  
We sit down to write a heartfelt Thank You to our Church family in Peru for our beautiful send-off you gave us when we left through your kind and thoughtful words of encouragement and loving support. So many of you came for the open house. Thank you for sharing of yourselves – through the face masks we all wrestled through. So kind of you to come!*

*Later that day, as we opened and read the beautiful cards, and reflected on the gifts and gift cards we had received, we were overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness. You spoke God's supportive and encouraging love to us in profound ways. Gratitude fills our hearts and souls for that love you poured out to us, love that will live always, treasured in our memories of our sharing life together with our beloved church family in Peru.*

*Yours always in Christ,  
Pastor Carl and Mary Beth Hammer*





Congratulations to Vicki Tedeschi and Tesha Sebastian for completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Lincoln Junior High School. They will be attending LPHS this fall.



Watching Sermons Online

We're still recording our Sunday worship service for those who can't attend in person. The only difference from past weeks is that the service won't post to the website until after 1:30. Let's still worship as a church by going to [firstcongregationalperu.net](http://firstcongregationalperu.net). Click on "Sermons" to find all of our past Sunday services.



**All-Church Picnic**



August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Following worship  
Save the Date!



Sunday Parking

Those who are able-bodied are asked to refrain from using the parking spaces in front of the church. We have several who need to be close and not enough spaces that are marked solely as handicapped.



Landscaping

Summer is in full swing and so are the growing weeds. If you have adopted a section of our landscaping, remember to stop and attend to that area to keep us looking good. There are also some sections of our yard that have not been adopted. If you're able to help out, please let us know.



A Pencil Maker Told the Pencil

Five important lessons just before putting it in the box.

1. Everything you do will leave a mark.
2. You can correct the mistakes you make.
3. What is important is what is inside of you.
4. In life, you will undergo painful sharpenings which will only make you better.
5. To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

We all need to be sharpened. May this parable encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside you.



*The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.*

Wanda's Address

Wanda Fusinato is staying with her daughter while she receives treatment at Northwestern Hospital. Let's surround Wanda with cards of love. She'd love to hear from her church family.

Wanda Fusinato  
23561 S. Acorn Ct.  
Crete, IL 60417



Prayer List

\*\*Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Sonny Whittington, Roger Gabrielse, Ruth Martin, Bernene Dahl, Sandy Starr, Marilyn Cobb, Linda Hoadley & Wanda Funinato

\*\* Pray that Ruth Martin can quickly get her hip replaced and be able to go home.

\*\*Please pray for daily grace for our shut-ins:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Myrle Sapienza  | Beth Flaherty     |
| Carol Edgcomb   | Don Walker        |
| Jane McClintock | Daryl & Lin Stuhr |

\*\* Pray for Pastor Roy Jacob & Peace Mission in India caring for children and widows

\*\* Pray for Ed & Jane Skowron

\*\* Pray for Jews for Jesus

\*\* Pray for the Surbers and Supply & Multiply

\*\* Pray for Abigail Women's Clinic

\*\* Pray for Berean Prison Ministry

\*\* Pray for Transport for Christ

\*\* Pray for PADS providing shelter to the Homeless

\*\* Pray for Our Neighborhood - Lord, I lift up our community, especially the surrounding neighborhood. Let us love these people as we love ourselves. May our concern for their needs override other things that take our time and focus. Rebuild and restore areas that have been devastated. Renew our community – send Your peace and prosperity into this place where You've planted us. Watch over our city.

A group of women were at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with their husband. The women were asked, "How many of you love your husband?" All of the women raised their hands.

Then they were asked "When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?" Some women answered today, a few yesterday and some couldn't remember.

The women were then told to take out their cell phone and text to their husband "I love you, sweetheart". The women then were instructed to exchange phones with another person and to read aloud the text message they received in response.

Here are a few of the replies;

- Who is this?
- Are you sick or what?
- Yes, I love you, too. What's wrong?
- Did you scratch the car again?
- I don't understand. What do you mean?
- Don't' beat around the bush, just tell me how much do you need.
- Your mother is coming to stay with us, isn't she?
- Am I dreaming?

