

GPS for Ramona Lutheran Church and School
Finding God's Way in Your World

Over the last 2 to 3 months the GPS (Growing Personally and Spiritually) group has been meeting to develop a plan that will help all of us grow spiritually as a congregation. We believe that exciting things can happen for Ramona Lutheran Church and School as a result of an increased spiritual relationship with our heavenly Father. Our goal is to grow together as a congregation in our prayer life and scripture study. The hope is that our spirituality will burst forth and visitors to church will sense it and recognize the Spirit alive in us. In order to accomplish this we are proposing the following plan.

Many studies in human behavior say it takes 21 days to develop a new habit. We are proposing a 3 stage process of 21 days per stage beginning Ash Wednesday, February 6. The first 21 day stage involves daily prayer, the second 21 days is daily Bible verse study (suggested verses will be provided) added to the prayer, and the third stage will be to move from verse study to daily devotions. Our hope is that after 63 days, new habits will be in place and continue on into the future. We encourage families to do this together when possible. The plan outlined in the service is summarized below.

Prayer: Pray daily. We ask that you include in your prayers the fiscal and spiritual health of the church, church growth, and God's leading to help us become the church He wants us to be. Set aside a special place and posture to pray rather than lying in bed prior to sleep, or while doing something else like driving. The idea is to focus on what you are praying about. Pray together as a family or by yourself. If you have a prayer request, you may let the prayer chain know, e-mail Leah Cullen at leahsingz@aol.com, or write it on the prayer board posted in the hallway. Items to include in your prayers may be found on the prayer board, church web site, and Sunday bulletin. Another helpful idea is to write down your prayer requests and over the year, record answers to the prayers as they come. Matthew 6: 5-15 contains Christ's directions on how to pray. An acronym you can use to remember how we have been taught to pray is:

**Praise
Repent
Ask
Yield**

Verse Study: We will provide a list of verses to study at the February 24 service and March newsletter. These are verses that have been recommended for study and memorization by various Christian resources. To study the verse, look at it in context. Ask these questions: What is the context (read several verses before and after as well as read Bible study notes if your Bible has them)? Who is the audience? What is the message? Why did this audience need this message? How does this message apply to your life?

Daily devotions: Beginning the Wednesday after Easter, begin a practice of daily devotions. A list of devotion resources will be in the March newsletter and listed on the Ramona Lutheran Church and School web page.

This Lenten season rather than give up something like candy or meat why not give up some of your time and spend it with God? We truly believe exciting things can happen in our church and school if we are all united in prayer and the study of God's word. Why not give it a try?

I commit to pray and study God's word daily for the next 63 days. I will pray for the church's spiritual and financial health, the needs of fellow members, and the fulfillment of God's plan for this congregation.

Signature: _____

This commitment form is optional and personal. If you choose to sign it, post it somewhere you will see it so it can serve as a reminder of your commitment to participate in spiritual growth.