

My 2025 COMMITMENT

- **Pray at least twice a week using the Life Support Prayer Calendar.** We encourage at least once in the hearing of other Christians.
- **Encourage other individuals in your congregation to join in the Life Support Prayer ministry.** Notify PPL of those who are interested in making the commitment.
- **Encourage public prayers by the church for the efforts to protect preborn children** for the care of their mothers and families, as well as for the aged and those suffering with chronic disease or disability.
- As you are led, **renew your commitment** annually.

PPL is so grateful for your prayers! We know that the seasons of your life change. If you are unable to continue your commitment to PPL's prayer team, please contact us and we will remove you from these mailings.



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LIFE SUPPORT PRAYER CALENDAR

MARCH | APRIL
2025 | VOL. 37 | NO. 1B



Psalms 139:1-2, 4 ESV

***“O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ... Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it all together.”***

Are Our Prayers Predestined?

By Rev. Craig Kephart, PPL Board Member

OA seminary professor challenged his students to consider the impact of their prayers. If God is the sovereign author of all matters, then can “my” prayers ever be really mine? On the other hand, our interpersonal and interacting God has revealed His desire for engagement, a sort of divine give-and-take between the Ruler of the Universe and us, His beloved children. So perhaps we do play a part? Perhaps we do bring something distinctly of ourselves to the relationship?

Psalms 139 testifies to King David's acknowledgement of our Lord's overarching power: “Thou hast searched me and known me. Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou discernest my thoughts from afar.” And later, “Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.” We imagine the shepherd David in his adolescent years, alone with the flock, puzzling over the philosophical questions of a life lived before Jehovah God, plucking his instrument and setting his questions to a musical lyric.

Presbyterians Protecting Life takes up the task of prayerfully seeking the Lord's perfect will for a variety of people and situations. Often notable are the crises of unplanned pregnancies startling people's expectations for their days and years ahead. Other crises involve complicated pregnancies for which doctors have delivered discouraging news and parents are faced with agonizing decisions. Yet we champion life for all ages and a variety of situations – some of which you will sense in the prayer prompts offered here in this edition of our Life Support Prayer Calendar.

Please join us in seeking the very best for your nearby neighbors and for people you don't even know. We do not offer pat answers. Like David, we are committed to relationship with God while also filled with questions about how He wants to use us. We simply share ourselves in prayer, compelled by Christ's gospel, calling out to the One whose omniscience is too high, too wonderful for any of us to fully comprehend.

The Life Support Prayer Calendar prayer prompts (March-April) are authored by Rev. John Sheldon, PPL Board President. PPL's Life Support Prayer Calendar at ppl.org is updated weekly for online use. Downloads of a LS Prayer Calendar are available, also.

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March

Mar. 2-8: Care for Pregnant mothers

- *Almighty God, You inhabit eternity and are infinitely holy, and yet You are also with him who has a contrite and humble spirit. Please give women who are pregnant a willing spirit to carry to term and nurture their baby developing in the womb. (Isa 57:15)*
- Give women healthy pregnancies, safe deliveries, beloved babies, and considerate husbands.

Mar. 9-15: Giver of Salvation (Psalm 46:1; Jonah 2:9; Rom 10:13)

- *O God, our "refuge and strength and very present help in trouble," to you belongs salvation. We lift to You those men and women who are overwhelmed with problems in their life circumstances and filled with despair.*
- Help them to repent of their sins and call on You for mercy. Let them know your forgiving love and bring them to saving faith in Jesus. Comfort all who sorrow.

Mar. 16-22: Adoption (Gal 4:4-7; John 1:12; Rom 8:17)

- *Gracious Heavenly Father, we praise you for sending Jesus into the world as fully human, yet fully God, so that he by his substitutionary penal atonement allows us to be regenerated and adopted as your beloved children. Create in many a willingness to adopt orphaned and abandoned children, of all ages and races.*
- Give us all the necessary resources to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of our Lord Jesus.

Mar. 23-29: Long-Term Care Facilities (Lev 19:32; Ps 71:9; 1 Ti 5:4-8)

- *O God, you have stamped your image into every human person and called your people to care for everyone without regard to their age or abilities. We pray for those who live out their final years in skilled nursing and longterm care facilities.*
- Give them compassionate caregivers and visitors, who will share with them the Hope of the Risen Christ.

Mar. 30-Apr. 5: Bringing Good out of Evil (Gen 50:20; Heb 12:11; 1 John 1:9; 2 Cor 5:17)

- *O Sovereign Lord, Judge of all the Earth and Avenger of all injustice, we praise you for your victory over sin and evil as demonstrated powerfully in leading Jesus through the suffering of his crucifixion to glorious resurrection. Give those mothers whose babies may have been conceived in rape healing of that terrible trauma. (Continued)*

APRIL

Mar. 30-Apr. 5: Bringing Good out of Evil (Continued)

- Help such moms to understand their unborn child is an innocent human person worthy of protection and love.

Apr. 6-12: Pastors and Abortion/Euthanasia

(Gen 1:26-28; James 3:8-9; Matthew 5:21)

- *O God, Creator and Giver of life, thank you for uniquely making humankind in your image and highly valuing every person. Holy Spirit, help pastors preach and teach the biblical view of human life and your command not to shed innocent blood.*
- Lord, give pastors courage to call abortion/euthanasia grave sin and the wisdom to lift up the hope of Your complete forgiveness because of Jesus Christ.

Apr. 13-19: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (Mt 25:1-17; Philippians 2:5-11)

- *Almighty God, your Son our Lord came as a humble King who rightly received the praise of children--"All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer King//To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!"*
- Holy Spirit, may we gladly receive infants and children into our church worship services and teach them to praise our Lord and Savior Jesus in every season.

Apr. 20-26: Resurrection Life (Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Cor 15:19-26)

- *We worship You, Risen Christ, for You in truth have been raised from the dead! Help us to see that if Christ has been raised then there is no obstacle, problem, or trial for which God will not give us the strength to face and overcome.*
- Holy Spirit, encourage us by our Lord's resurrection as we face hostile opposition in our post-Christian, post-conservative, self-exalting culture to upholding and defending the right to life of all human persons.

Apr. 27-May 3: God's Justice (Isaiah 26:21; Matthew 25:31-46)

- *Praise you, O God, for you have fixed a day on which you will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom you have appointed; and of this you have given full assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)*
- Holy God, awaken people to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus in obedient faith. Thank you that ruthless oppression and murderous violence against your image-bearers will be judged and silenced forever.

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