LEADING ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASTORAL PRAYERS

THE PURPOSE

Eastside Community Church exists to know Jesus and make Him known. Our vision is to see every person – men, women, boys, and girls – increasingly and passionately following Jesus in every area of life, and leading others to do the same. We believe this happens as we teach God's word systematically and respond to it wholeheartedly.

Whilst announcements aren't the central focal point of our gatherings, they do serve an important role in welcoming, as well as communicating key events and pathways to help those in attendance to 'know Jesus and make him known.'

PRACTICAL POINTS

Content

The announcements for each week will be determined by the office staff and emailed out by Wednesday each week to the person leading announcements. This email will contain the announcements, key messaging and the order of announcements. It is important you stick to the key messaging and the order of the announcements.

Time

To ensure we give our best time to the most important elements of gathering on a Sunday, work hard to keep announcements concise and to the point. We do not want this part of the service to eat into the more important aspects of the service.

Preparation

- Preparation is important when it comes to leading announcements. You are communicating 3-5 items in a short period of time, which requires thoughtful preparation and planning. To do this well, we strongly encourage you to write out the announcements word for word and practise it before Sunday. This will help you both with your clarity of messaging and will give you a clear indication on how long you will take.
- On Sunday, make sure you are there 15 minutes before the first service to double check with the data team that the order of the PowerPoint slides corelates with the order you have.
- Also take the time to make sure you are sitting near the front of the auditorium and are aware of where the wireless microphone is.

Presentation

- When it comes to presentation, aim to be warm, welcoming and relaxed.
- Please print your notes out rather than using a device. This avoids any awkward tech dramas and conveys a better sense of connection with those listening than reading off a device does.
- Make sure you hold the microphone up close to your mouth and trust the sound team to control your volume through the system.

eastside community church

Pastoral Prayer

Unless instructed otherwise, we conclude announcements with a pastoral prayer before sending kids out to Kid's Church (during school terms).

Because this prayer is a public prayer done in the gathering of God's people, it is to be prepared and written out in advance, not done in an ad hoc fashion on the morning. The general structure and content of the prayer should generally consist of:

- A short reading from Scripture to fix our attention on the character of God, followed by 1-2 sentences reflecting on those verses and what they reveal about God, us and his mission.
- Local: 2-3 people, ministries and /or opportunities in the life of the church. Utilise the weekly prayer notes for this.
- National: In some cases, it will be right and appropriate to pray for various events taking place across the nation (e.g. upcoming elections, natural disasters etc).
- Global: Pray for one of the missionaries that we support. Utilise the missionary prayer notes from the weekly update to have up to date prayer and praise points. There will also be occasions where it is right to pray for various global events (e.g. wars, natural disasters etc).

Some practicals on the prayer:

- Aim to keep the prayer to around 400-500 words as a rough guide.
- When praying, we direct our prayers to God the Father as Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer.
- Consider the 'ACTS' acronym (Adoration, confession, Thanksgiving and supplication) as you work through the various elements of your prayer.

Resources for praying publicly.

- '**Praying in Public**' by Pat Quinn
- https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/four-principles-public-prayer/

Here's an example of a pastoral prayer:

Colossians 3:1-4 says,

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Father God we thank you that because of Jesus our sin, shame, guilt and rebellion have died with him. We thank you that like Christ was risen from the dead, we too because of Christ have been raised. That we are new creations, with new hearts and desires. New purpose and a new standing before you. You see us as righteous and blameless. These new lives are hidden, protected and covered by Jesus and his righteousness until we appear with him in glory forevermore. Oh how we thank you for King Jesus!

Help us Father to set our hearts on things above. To not be swayed and dismayed by the present trials and pressures. But to fix our eyes and hearts on the unchanging reality that we are yours forevermore because of Christ.

That your mercy is greater than our sin. That our lives are hidden in Christ. That he is our life…and that in him and because of him we have this unchanging certainty that we will appear with him in glory on that final day.

Help us to see our temporary challenges and trials in this light. As real and as hard as they are…they are but temporary. They are not outside of God's power or work. His mercy and kindness. For we are his forevermore.

We pray for Kids Club. We give you great thanks for the children coming along to have fun and hear about who Jesus is from the gospels. Draw them to yourself we pray Father!

Unify and encourage the team to keep making Jesus known in this space!

We pray for EC. Thanks for the guests who came and we pray that those who weren't able to make the first week would be back tomorrow. We pray that they would feel welcomed, that friendships are made and people come to salvation.

We give you thanks for the 200 people who have signed up for a growth group this year! This is so encouraging! Thank you God! Bless each of them we pray. Fill the leaders with joy as they lead. Deepen our unity in these groups and increase our faith as we study your Word and seek to live your way.

We pray for _____ who is in rehab after having a stroke. We pray that ____ would know your nearness to her and that she would make a full recovery.

We pray too for ____ who had a hip replacement last week. We pray that you would bless his recovery Lord God and that both ___ and ____ would know the peace and joy of the Lord through this season.

07 3823 4455
office@eastside.org.au
www.eastside.org.au
554 Wondall Road, Manly West, 4179, Brisbane