

# Prayer chains gain popularity

## Members pray for each other

By Lori McGinnis  
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**WAUKESHA** — Christians have long believed in the power of prayer. More and more these days they believe in the power of the prayer chain.

Many churches have prayer chains — a group of church members who commit to praying for a particular request daily.

Westbrook Church in Delafield has had a prayer chain for several years. Eagle United Methodist Church has recently formed one as has New Creation Lutheran Church in Waukesha.

"It came as an emerging need," said the Rev. Jim Schubert of New Creation. "Our community is at a place where we've been gathering prayer requests."

A prayer request usually is given to the leader of the prayer chain. The leader calls another member of the chain, who calls another member, who calls another member.

June Price, a member of New Creation, is the leader of the 12-member prayer chain. She says she decided to lead the group after attending a Bible study on

prayer and "felt the strength of prayer."

"There's power in prayer and there's strength in numbers," Price said. "We've had people say they felt like our prayers have helped."

The Rev. Christal Bindrich of Eagle United Methodist is the leader of an eight-member prayer chain.

"This is new for us," Bindrich said. "We had been doing it informally but now we're structuring it."

Bindrich has been involved in prayer chains at other churches and decided to form one at the Eagle church because "prayer is very important," she said. "The power of prayer is very significant to our faith."

Although the prayer chain is just starting, six to seven people submitted prayer requests this week, she said.

"It's comforting for them to know they can get some prayer support," she said.

Many of the prayer requests ask for physical healings. Some people seek prayer for finding jobs while others need help for personal or family troubles.

"Sometimes people just have a lot of turmoil in their lives and they want peace," Price said.

Prayer chain members need to be sensitive to those seeking help, the leaders said.

"It needs to be protected from being a gossip chain," Schubert said. "It needs to be



Lori McGinnis, FREEMAN STAFF

The Rev. Christal Bindrich prays at Eagle United Methodist Church, which has an eight-member prayer chain.

treated with respect. There is a trust involved in a prayer chain."

Gini Waltz, who leads the prayer chain at Westbrook, says 38 people volunteer to pray for those asking for it. All of

them believe in God's power to heal, she said.

"He hears them and acts upon them and blesses the prayers," Waltz said. "When we see results we know his power."