

[Prayer Ventures for June 2023]

1 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Central/Southern Illinois, Montana, Southwest California and Northeastern Pennsylvania synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

2 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the South Dakota, Nebraska, Greater Milwaukee, Upstate New York, Lower Susquehanna, North Carolina, Western North Dakota and Southeastern synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

3 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Eastern North Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, Central States, Metropolitan Chicago, Southern Ohio and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

4 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” (2 Corinthians 13:13). Pray that we will be quick to share with others the blessings and certainty of God’s love and forgiveness.

5 *LGBTQ+ Pride Month* Give thanks and praise to God for the rich diversity of humankind, especially for our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ. Pray for our church and society to exercise total inclusion, hospitality without bias or fear, and respect and advocacy for the LGBTQIA+ community.

6 Remember in prayer camp staff who are training to serve in our summer outdoor ministry programs across the country; pray that they will use their unique gifts to care for, affirm and stir the faith of campers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

7 Pray for communities recovering from severe weather and disasters here and around the world. Ask God to surround them with hope, strength and caring neighbors throughout their recovery, and give thanks for the generous support and volunteer assistance offered through Lutheran Disaster Response and ELCA World Hunger in partnership with companion churches and other relief organizations and ministries, which provide relief and build resiliency.

8 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Grand Canyon, South Carolina, Florida-Bahamas and Virginia synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in

need.

9 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the New England, Southwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Iowa, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Delaware-Maryland and La Crosse Area synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

10 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

11 Give thanks to God for new members, confirmands, newly baptized people and visitors in our congregations; pray that we will welcome and include them, affirm and use their gifts, and celebrate and encourage their faith journeys.

12 Pray for the summer ministries of congregations that serve children and youth in our communities, and give thanks for leaders and volunteers of all ages who share their faith, time, gifts and hope with young people.

13 Remember in prayer youth and young adults working summer jobs, that they will find safe and affirming environments, build new relationships, gain new skills, earn fair wages and renew their spirit and strength in our communities of faith.

14 What people in your neighborhood and community are most often overlooked? Ask the Spirit to help us recognize and attend to the needs of our neighbors and the diversity of gifts and insights they bring to the community and our congregations.

15 “Call on me in the day of trouble” (Psalm 50:15). Call on God if you’re encountering difficulties, and express your gratitude and joy to God if things are going well.

16 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northern Illinois, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Upper Susquehanna synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

17 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Allegheny Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

18 *Father’s Day* Remember in prayer fathers who strive to be loving, caring, wise and influential parents, including new fathers, single fathers, stepfathers and fathers who are

deployed in the military or incarcerated.

19 *Juneteenth* People of faith have long known the importance of recalling and learning from history. Pray for the courage to hear and tell the tragic and discomfiting history of American slavery and to call out the continuing threat of racism and injustice; ask the Spirit to help us learn from the past and present and to strive for humility, understanding, respect, justice and unity.

20 Remember in prayer those displaced from their communities and countries by sudden- and slow-onset climate disasters, including drought, flooding, pollution, severe weather, rising oceans and diminishing food resources.

21 Give thanks for the wonders of creation, especially for the beauty that stirs awe, the immensity that humbles us and the complexity and mystery that spark our curiosity and inspire us to explore, broaden our knowledge and praise God.

22 “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Romans 5:5). Ask for forgiveness when we take for granted or lose sight of the amazing gift of love that has been given to us by God, who is fully aware of our human nature, weaknesses and messiness.

23 Pray for those traveling this summer on vacation and sabbatical, that they will be safe, experience renewal and discover opportunities to serve others.

24 Sarah was amused and overjoyed at the birth of Isaac in her old age: “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me” (Genesis 21:6). Give praise and thanks to God for shaking up our lives and rewarding us when we least expect it.

25 Thank God for the work of the Spirit, which leads us to Christ, equips us to be faithful disciples and deepens our understanding of God’s wisdom and ways throughout our life.

26 Remember in prayer high school students gathering for the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Ask God to bless their time together as they further their knowledge and skills and prepare for future careers and vocations.

27 Pray for adult children who are caregivers for their parents, that they will have resources and support that help inform, guide and sustain their work of love.

28 Give thanks for our confessions of faith, which remind us that we are children of God and followers of Christ, rooted in Scripture and united by our beliefs with a diverse and global community of faith.

29 Ask God to help us bear compassion, joy and hope into a world yearning for peace, stability and meaningful connection.

30 Sharing our faith in Christ and serving our neighbors in need can be challenging, tiring and even intimidating. Ask the Spirit to reassure us that God is with us, giving us the wisdom, strength, courage and patience to do God's work in the world.