

Prayer of the Church – 7.18.21 – Pentecost 8

Leader – Pastor Johann (Outdoor) & Pastor Johann (Indoor)

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Tend your church, O God. Encourage pastors, teachers, and leaders in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. We pray for countries experiencing violence, disease, hunger, and unrest (**especially many of the nations of Latin America, Africa, and South Asia**). Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to aid those in need. Sustain and keep safe all who work to defend, safeguard, and promote the common good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Scott, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Alex, Carson, Jackson, and Erica**. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of ventures, anoint us with the missionary zeal of the early church. Bless our missionaries: **Megan, Mark, Krista, and Joel in Africa, Bethania Kids in India, Jon and Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Braille Workers worldwide, Gustavo and Ruth in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico, and the many other missionaries** and relief workers we support financially and prayerfully. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on refugees, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lilli, Jim, Donna, Pastor Eric Peterson, Pastor Ralph Weichmann, Alyce, Pastor Bill Flammann and Bob Yingling as well as our**

friends and family requesting our prayers. Keep our children safe until they are vaccinated. Surround them with your unwavering presence.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungry spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and strengthen our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our staff members, board members, core ministry and support leaders, and elders. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their servant leadership you may be exalted in this assembly.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Jessica, Rhonda, Bev, Maddie, Lee, Wayne, Abigail, A.J., and Zach.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal the Holy Spirit's love, life, and light in the midst of disease, destruction, desperation, and despair.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.