

Prayer of the Church – 9.12 21– Pentecost 16

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet the varied, complicated needs of many. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. We pray for countries experiencing violence, disease, hunger, and unrest (**especially Haiti and Afghanistan, and many of the nations of Latin America, 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, Gustavo and Ruth in Puerto Rico, Bethania Kids in India, Jon and Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Braille Workers worldwide, and the many other missionaries** and relief workers we support financially and prayerfully.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed, including those who are persecuted for their trust in you. Safeguard and heal those caught amid the violence in our cities, random violence, or violence caused by mental illness. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill, **especially**

our own especially our own Lesley, Donna, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lilli, Jim, Donna, Pastor Eric Peterson, Pastor Ralph Wiechmann, Alyce, Bob, Carolee, Chip, Ruth, Matt, Nemeh, Fabiana, and Noor as well as our friends and family requesting our prayers. Keep our children safe in the pandemic. Surround them with your unwavering presence, protection, and friendship, especially as they begin a new school year. Bless our preschool community which has kicked off its new year of ministry. Bless our interim director Kathy Otterbacher and open doors so that we can secure our new director.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering 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.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace *especially Clark Davis (Myra Niemeier's brother-in-law)*. Envelop them and us in your love, that with all your saints, we may be reunited with one another in the last days.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Jeannie, Cheryl, Riker, Jerry, Jim, Kirsten, Michael, Tonia, Tom, and David.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal the Holy Spirit's love, life, and light in the midst of disease, destruction, and despair.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**