

Prayer of the Church – 9.19 21– Pentecost 17

Leader – Pastor James (Outdoor) & Kirsten Bates (Indoor)

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

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake.

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

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal the environment you have fashioned for us. 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.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. 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 Afghanistan, Haiti, 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.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Safeguard and heal those caught amid the violence in our cities, random violence, or violence caused by mental illness. 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 Wiechmann, Alyce, Bob, Carolee, Chip, Ruth, Matt, Nemeh, Fabiana, Noor, Caroline, and June as well as our friends and family requesting our prayers.** Keep our children safe at school and in communities, especially during the pandemic. Surround them with your unwavering presence, protection, and friendship.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. We pray for the ministry of our preschool and ask for your discernment in the identification of a new director.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Dean, Walter, James, Kristin, Wil, Heidi, Doug, Susie, Amanda, Sharon, Ronda and Don.** 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.**