

Prayer of the Church – 9.26 21– Pentecost 18

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.*

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized, like Lily Duvieilh, baptized among us last Sunday and Colin Poberezny, baptized today, and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship.

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

We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided.

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

We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Sustain first responders to help meet the complicated needs of many. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. We pray for countries (**especially Afghanistan, Haiti, and many of the nations of Latin America, and South Asia**) experiencing violence, disease, hunger, and unrest. Keep safe all who work to defend, safeguard, and promote the common good in those countries and 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 passion 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.**

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. 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, 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. We also 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 pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, pastors, ushers, those who make our virtual ministries happen, and many other worship assistants. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service.

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

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Chris, Donna, Mark, Jack, Timothy, Will, Debbie, and Amy.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal the Holy Spirit's love, life, and light, even 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.**