

Prayer of the Church – 10.3.21 – Pentecost 19

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.*

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel.

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

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created.

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

You desire for us not to be alone, but to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. 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 and Haiti**) 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.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith as we give thanks for our virtual, livestream, and podcast ministries, which are able to transcend physical distances, allowing us to connect with anyone, anywhere, at anytime. 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, Pastor Bill Flammann, Alyce, Bob, Carolee, Ruth, Matt, Nemeh, Fabiana, Noor, Caroline, June, Toby and Diane as well as our friends and family requesting our prayers.** Keep our children safe at school and in their pods, neighborhoods, and 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 and in-person worship and gatherings 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.**

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 Louann (Sue Stormoen's neighbor)*. 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: **Sandra, Gideon, Kiley, Margaret, Abby, Joshua, Luke, and Jim.** 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.**