

Prayer of the Church – 10.10.21– Pentecost 20

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.*

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more.

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

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe.

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

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Sustain first responders to help meet the complicated needs of many. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. We pray for those experiencing violence, disease, hunger, and unrest. 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.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live, such as those fleeing from violence and persecution in Haiti and Afghanistan. Sustain worldwide ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind, like the ones we support: Lutheran World Relief and Bethania Kids, as well as local ones, like Cornerstones and our own food pantry.

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.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. 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, Nemeah, 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 lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Rhoda, Branden, Mary, Dale, Kirsten, June, Steve, 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.**