

✠ St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Kenesaw, NE



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Pastor's Ponderings  
May, 2015

Beloved Children of God,

**YOU'RE NEVER ALONE!**

There are many times in life when we cherish these words of Jesus: *"I am with you always...I will never leave you or forsake you."*

This is the time of year when change is on the horizon. For instance, many have children graduating from high school. As these children likely will be leaving home, this otherwise exciting milestone is accompanied by feelings of sadness and emptiness. I once spoke to a father who felt as if his whole purpose disintegrated when his last child moved out.

Others are dealing with change as significant health issues that weigh heavily on the mind and body are now present, and it is realized how fragile life is.

Still, others are contending with the change related to problems with sin and feelings of separation from God and family because of a particular sin.

We all must take comfort in the truth that Christ will never leave us or forsake us. He promised. Through change, if we are saddened or burdened, He is with us. If we suffer from physical maladies, He is with us. If we struggle with sin, He is still with us. In our darkest moments He is with us, just as He is in our greatest moments of joy.

Don't let the devil fool you into believing you're on your own. You are not. And Jesus is constantly by your side to guide and direct your path, to lead you through change, to assure you that He loves you even though you have struggles with sin, and to provide His comfort to you, because He will never leave you! He is with you always (Matt. 28:20)!

**YOUR PASTOR IS A TRUSTED FRIEND**

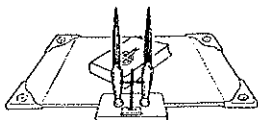
Nebraskans are a strong and independent bunch of folk; so much so, that it isn't often I'm approached

for spiritual guidance and counsel. But it is important for you to know that my ear is always available and my lips always ready to pray for and with you, and to share God's powerful Word with you for any problem. Remember, I won't be one bit surprised by your sins and weaknesses. I'm human, too, and believe me, I deal with the exact same issues you do. If it is your wish, nothing we speak will ever leave my office. It is between God, you, and me, and neither God, nor I will think any less of you.

**EVIL RISING**

With the diminishing influence of Christianity comes its spiritual counterfeit, the world of the occult. When God's truth is maligned and rejected, a spiritual vacuum is created and the soul craves some kind of spiritual reality beyond the world we know. It's how we human beings are designed; hence, the rise of interest in the occult. *Occult* means "hidden" or "secret" and it is the realm of the spiritual world we are to avoid because it is the world of counterfeit spirituality controlled by Satan. Any attempt to tap into this dark spiritual world is to play with fire. I'm finding it rather fascinating to follow what the Roman Catholic church has been up to regarding this issue. They have reported a massive increase in requests for priests to perform exorcisms on people (the driving out of demons), and they have embarked on a training program for that very purpose. When, in recent years the church has had just a handful of practicing exorcists, they now have over three-hundred, and the number is growing. This is all a result of the tragic and scary outcome that occurs when one dabbles in the devil's territory (Deut. 18:9-14); he or she opens a door over which they have no control. It's not a game and many people are now finding that out. But, remember, dear Christians, *greater is He (Christ) who is in me than he (satan) who is in the world* (I John 4:4).

See you in Church!



From the PASTOR'S DESK



## Workers for the Lord in May

**Acolytes:** Savannah Williams  
 (Sundays) Rhett Augustin  
 Jenna Jaeschke  
 Paige Morrow  
 Payton Morrow

**Ushers:** Zach Jacobitz  
 Glen Kuehn  
 Tony Greigo

**Counters:** Ken & Kathy Marble  
 Jack & Jean Powell

**Altar Guild:** Rosie Schroeder  
 Jean Powell

**Elder:** Leonard Schroeder



### Portrait of a Mother

A mother can be almost any size or age, but she won't admit to anything over thirty. She has soft hands and smells good. A mother likes new dresses, music, a clean house, her children's kisses, an automatic washer, and Daddy.

A mother doesn't like having her children sick, muddy feet, temper tantrums, loud noise, or bad report cards. She can read a thermometer (much to the amazement of Daddy) and like magic, can kiss a hurt away. She can also bake good cakes and pies, but likes to see her children eat vegetables.

A mother can stuff a fat baby into a snowsuit in seconds and can kiss little faces and make them smile. She is underpaid, has long hours, and gets very little rest. She worries too much about her children. And no matter how old they are, she still likes to think of them as her little babies.

A mother is the guardian angel of the family, the queen, the tender hand of love. She is the best friend anyone ever has.

A mother is love.

—Author unknown

### The Simplicity of Prayer

Prayer is so simple,  
 It is like quietly opening the door  
 And slipping into the very  
 presence of God;  
 There in the stillness  
 To listen to His voice;  
 Perhaps to petition  
 Or only to listen.  
 It matters not;  
 Just to be there in His pres-  
 ence  
 Is prayer.

—Author unknown



## May Birthdays 2015

- 2 Bentley Olson  
Rosie Schroeder
- 3 Diane Kroll
- 4 Chris Shelton
- 7 Bricyn Jameson  
Jamie Porterfield
- 9 Carissa Chandler
- 10 Seth Campbell
- 14 Joe Bittfield  
Sarah Woodman
- 15 Bill Nabower
- 17 Dusty Augustin
- 23 Hailey Morrow
- 25 Tammy Thompson
- 27 Austin Mack
- 28 Blake Ehly

### Prayer

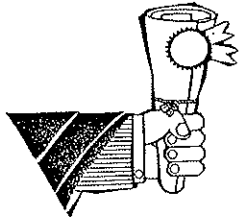
ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, We ask You, *for religious liberty*, that our rights to live, worship and care for others be upheld so that we may bear witness to Christ in all we do; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

# MAY COMING EVENTS



**May 3rd Honoring of our** †  
**(Sun.) 2015 Graduates**  
 10:00 AM

Class of 2015 graduates will be honored as part of our worship service. Join with the congregation to commit their future to God in prayer.



**2015 Graduates**  
 Courtney Kuehn  
 Brenna Schneider  
 Miranda Stade  
 Bailey Streff  
 Wyatt Woodman

**May 6th** † **Worship at Haven** †  
**(Wed.) Home 10:00 AM**



**May 7th Ladies Aid Spring**  
**(Thurs.) Salad Luncheon**  
 12 NOON

*Ladies of the congregation and guests are invited to attend . . . the salad luncheon and program.*

**Walt Miller**, from the Adams County Historical Society will present a program about the Navy Ammunition Depot (NAD) and will have information regarding dates on bus tours to the NAD. Please plan to come for an afternoon of good food, fellowship and an interesting program! Please sign the sign-up sheet in the vestibule by May 6<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

† **Sunday Mornings at St. Paul's**

**9:00 AM** Sunday School &  
 Adult Bible Class  
**10:00 AM** Worship Service with  
 Communion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

**May 7th National Day of Prayer**  
**(Thurs.) Service** † **7:00 PM**

The 64<sup>th</sup> annual **National Day of Prayer**, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord's healing and renewing power made manifest as we call citizens to humbly come before His throne. The theme for 2015 is **Lord, Hear Our Cry**, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to place their faith in the unfailing character of their creator, who is sovereign over all governments, authorities and men. **Join us for this special service to pray for our country, state, and community.**

*"Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day." 1 Kings 8:28*

**May 10th Happy Mother's Day**

Praise God for mothers! Children come as a result of God's blessing. They are a "heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him."  
 (Psalm 127:3)



**May 13th OGT Pack and Sort**  
**(Wed.) Day 10 AM - 2 PM**

St. Paul's monthly pack and sort day at the Grand Island warehouse. Pool rides from the church at 9:15 AM. Questions? Contact Bev Nixon.



**June Newsletter Deadline**  
 Monday, May 18th to be in  
 mailboxes Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

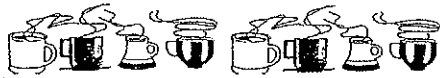
**May 25th Memorial Day**  
(Mon.) (observed)



Pray for the military past and present who have fought and died on behalf of the U.S. and its citizens.

**May 26th LWML**  
(Tues.) 7:30 PM

Final meeting before summer. Pastor will lead us in completing our Bible study from the Quarterly.



**May 31st Fellowship Coffee**  
(Sun.) 9:00 AM

**Honoring our Military Past and Present** - during coffee hour we would like to honor our servicemen and women past or present. Your help is needed! Please bring a picture and the address of any current soldier(s) in the military you wish to have acknowledged with cards, letters, etc. Do you have a spouse, parent, grandparent or sibling with military service which you would like to honor? Do YOU have military service in your past? We want to honor you also. Please bring pictures and include information where and when you served. Please have them in the fellowship hall by 8:45 a.m.



**Hymn Sing 9:45 AM**

Come a little early to sing your favorite hymn. Please place your request in the box between the mailboxes.

*My heart is steadfast, O God;  
I will sing and make music with  
all my soul. (Psalm 108:1)*

## June Upcoming Events

### Summer Schedule

Begins Sunday, June 7th

9:00 AM ✦ Worship Service ✦

Fellowship Coffee following the service. Any organization, group, or family may host a coffee. For best choice of dates sign up early! Signup sheet Education wing entryway.

### VBS

**Vacation Bible School**

**June 1 - 5 (Mon - Fri.)**

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Ages 4 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Welcome!**



*Come and join us for  
a fun-filled week!*

VBS Director: Shandra Uden

More information to follow.

### *Worship The Lord*

**June 13th All Church Picnic**

(Sat.)

**Potluck 6:00 PM**

Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendar and plan to attend an evening of fun and games, food and fellowship.





## Area Events



**Respect Life:** South Central NE Right to Life will again sponsor the **Annual Mother's Day and Father's Day Ads** in the Hastings Tribune to honor living or deceased mothers, grandmothers, aunts, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, etc. Print the name(s) of those that you would like to honor in the ads indicating whether living or deceased. (Form available on table in Education entry way.) A donation of \$3.00 per name listed is asked. Please place names and donations in an envelope and mail to South Central Right to Life, PO BOX 391, Hastings, NE 68902. **Deadline May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*Thank you for your witness to life.*



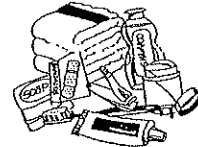
## Orphan Grain Train Fish Feed

LLL Area - Hastings June 13<sup>th</sup>  
Chautauqua Park

St. Paul - Shelton June 22<sup>nd</sup>

## LWML National Convention June 25-28, 2015

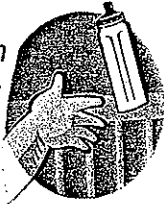
Pack your walking shoes so you can join us on the **LWML Mission Pledge Walk-Mission in Motion**. Stroll along the Principal River Walk Path before celebrating with your sisters at the **Bountiful Bash Block Party** on Friday evening. Involve your friends who can't attend the LWML Convention by asking them to support mites with a pledge. Go to [www.lwml.org/events/conventions](http://www.lwml.org/events/conventions) and download a pledge sheet today.



## AAA Pregnancy Resource Center Change for Changed Hearts

The AAAPRC's service include:

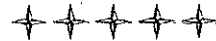
- Free pregnancy tests
- **CONFIDENTIAL** peer counseling
- Community referrals
- Parenting/Mentoring program
- Emergency clothing program
- Info on pregnancy, abortion, alternatives



The Pregnancy resource Center is a non-profit corporation staffed by caring and concerned volunteers from various churches and communities. We desire to offer help in a compassionate setting. We provide honest information and emotional support to anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy along with classes to help with prenatal, parenting and life skills. *Please return baby bottles with your donation May 10, 2015*

**1 Client Helped - Priceless!**

**The Sunday School children** wrapped up 47 "**Baskets of Hope**" which will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for your support of this mission project.



*Our family would like to thank everyone who helped or donated to Randy's benefit.*

*Your generosity was overwhelming!*

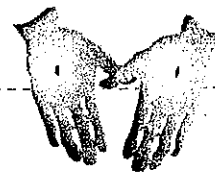
*God Bless,*

*Randy Landenberg & Family*

I am  
the  
Resurrection  
and the  
Life

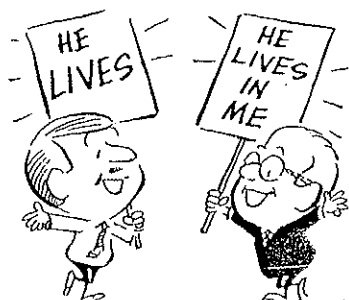
If God raised Jesus from the dead, why didn't God fix him up? Why scars? Why the print of nails that you could feel with your fingers? Can it be that the Gospel ... is saying to us in our waiting: "You will not see Jesus Christ unless you see the wounds"? Somehow we must understand that the resurrected Christ is forever the wounded Christ. Living, but never fixed up. Not bound by death, yet scarred for eternity.

## SCARRED FOR ETERNITY



The deaf have a sign for Jesus. Quickly they make this sign many times during their worship: the middle finger of each hand is placed into the palm of the other. Jesus, the one with wounded hands. And when they touch the place, they remember. They hear the name in their own flesh.

—John Vannorsdall



### He Lives Within

How do I know that Christ is risen?

What proof have I to give?  
He touched my life one blessed day  
And I began to live.

How do I know he left the tomb  
That morning long ago?  
I met him just this morning  
And my heart is still aglow.

How do I know that endless life  
He gained for me that day?  
His life within is proof enough  
Of immortality.

How do I know that Christ still lives  
Rich blessings to impart?  
He walks with me along the way  
And lives within my heart.

—Author unknown



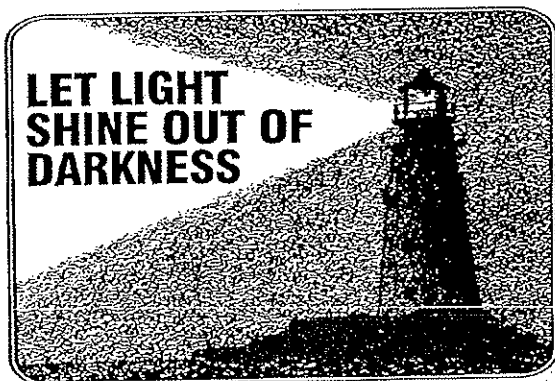
Remembering WAR before long-rang missiles. . .

### BLACKOUT 100% EFFECTIVE

DECEMBER 1942

The test blackout proved to be 100% effective in this community. Little difficulty was experienced by the local air raid wardens in seeing that all lights were out. The cooperation of businessmen and residents was splendid in helping to make it a success. The blowing of the fire whistle announced the beginning of the blackout and almost immediately the lights began to flicker out. The town was in almost sheer darkness for twenty minutes, when the siren again blew, announcing the all-clear signal. A cloudy sky with some fog, helped in making it inky black. The blackout proved to be quite successful all over the nine states. Everything was blacked out except defense plants, airports, and other important places which were exempted. The Air Raid Wardens and Mr. Weeks, General Director of this community, thanks everybody for his cooperation in making this 100% effective.

Submitted by Connie Bittfield



## THE GIVING CHRISTIAN #2

Last month, we began a little series of thoughts dealing with Stewardship. We began with the thought that the giving Christian gives faithfully. This month we are going to consider the fact that the giving Christian gives **compassionately**. Then, in the next three months, we will consider the fact that the giving Christian gives gracefully, proportionately, and globally.

We hear Jesus promise us again in Luke 6:38, *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* With that promise in mind, I would like to share with you the second thought in our series dealing first with the fact that the giving Christian gives **compassionately**.

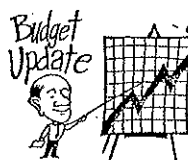
Our English word "compassion" comes from two Latin words which literally mean "to suffer with." To have compassion is "to suffer with" other people - to put yourself into their shoes, to feel what they feel, to endure what they endure. This is what Jesus did constantly. So great was His love and concern that He was often "moved to compassion." Some of the '77 Bible verses that deal with our God's compassion would be Exodus 33:19, 2 Kings 13:23, and Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 15:23, 20:34. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus gave help and healing to the poor, the diseased, and the needy.

The giving Christian gives compassionately.

God is pleased when we, through faith, do what Jesus did, giving compassionately to those who are less fortunate. James 1:27 says, *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."* Giving to those who can give nothing back is a spiritually beautiful thing and it honors God. In Acts 10 we have the account of the Roman Centurion by the name of Cornelius. The Bible tells us that *"He gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly"* (Acts 10:2). In a vision from God an angel said to him, *"Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God"* (Acts 10:4).

When a Christian gives compassionately to and for others, it is the same as giving directly to God. *"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'"* (Matthew 25:40).

Rev. John Heckmann  
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor



### 2015 Budget Analysis

|                                 | Amount Proposed<br>For the Year 2015 | Amount Received<br>as of 3/31/15 | Percent of Budget<br>Met To Date | Amount Needed<br>To Meet Budget |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Missions</b>                 | \$ 20,000.00                         | \$ 2,871.21                      | 14%                              | \$ 17,128.79                    |
| <b>Current</b>                  | \$ 166,040.00                        | \$ 36,138.62                     | 22%                              | \$ 129,901.38                   |
| <b>Commodities and Assets</b>   | \$ -                                 | \$ -                             |                                  |                                 |
| <b>Sharon Owens, Missionary</b> | \$ -                                 | \$ -                             |                                  |                                 |

# May 2015

## PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for St. Paul Community Lutheran Church - Pontiac, MI

### PRAYER #1

Gracious God, we thank You for the ongoing work of Rev. and Mrs. Dietrick Gladden in their ministry to the community and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac, Michigan. We ask that with the help of this mission grant new doors and hearts will be opened to hearing and receiving the Good News of the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. As some of their physical needs are met, may their spiritual needs be nourished by coming together with congregational members and volunteers in this church to give them hope in their desperate surroundings. Amen.

### PRAYER #2

Heavenly Father, be with Pastor Dietrick and Becky Gladden in their mission to reach the people of the Pontiac area with Christ's Good News wherever they are in life. Their surrounding community is of a depressed nature and a great deal of staff time and material resources are required. There are urgent needs for human care -- food, medical needs, shelter, homeless and addiction intervention, and spiritual encouragement. In Christ we pray. Amen.

### PRAYER #3

Lord God, let the community of Pontiac open up their hearts to You and learn the Good News through Pastor and Becky Gladden as they and their church members help provide for the daily human care needs of the people. Thank You that local homeless people are attending worship and Bible study. Hundreds have attended the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter events. To You we give all glory for those seeking to learn more about You. In Your son's name we pray, Amen.

### PRAYER #4

Thank You Lord for the continuing growth of the ministry at St. Paul Community Lutheran Church. May this LWML grant help to rehab a church building to create a community youth center. The youth ministry at the center can be a great catalyst for the mission and offer hope to the families. This has the potential to lift youth and their families above the day to day crisis so they can have hope in Jesus and for their future. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

[www.lwml.org/missions](http://www.lwml.org/missions)

PLEASE FOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE,  
AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES  
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

## MISSION GRANT STORY

### ST. PAUL COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - PONTIAC, MI

Pastor Dietrick Gladden and his wife, Becky, are building a vibrant ministry in the city center of Pontiac, Michigan that connects with homeless neighbors, people held captive by addiction and dysfunction, families in need, and children who need a safe place to learn and grow. St. Paul Community Lutheran Church is in the midst of a community just discovering Jesus, and not yet able to form a core of believers or members to help support ministry.

While worship attendance averages around 70 people, it's not unusual for church events to attract far more. Most events provide food for a hungry community, including Wednesday night family dinner and Bible study, Friday youth nights, and Vacation Bible School family breakfast and lunch. Because the need is so great, clothing, furniture, school supplies, and other needs are also met where donations can be found. As newcomers grow exponentially, it becomes more urgent to develop means to connect them to worship and other parts of ministry.

The grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League would make it possible for this ministry to continue in three areas: (1) hiring of a part-time music leader to develop a quality of worship that will draw and connect people to Jesus in a deeper way and part-time office staffing to provide vital quality communications with supporters and the church community; (2) refurbishing and bringing the existing community youth center up to code so the youth and their families can find shelter and hope in Jesus from the day-to-day crises in their lives; and (3) funds would provide an electronic church sign to communicate their outreach resources and events.





## National Day of Prayer May 7, 2015



The National Day of Prayer is an annual event inviting all faiths to pray for this nation. Created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress, founded on the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. The first Thursday in May was officially designated as the annual observance in 1988 with President Reagan's signature. Ten years later, President Clinton signed into law, the yearly presidential proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.

The Mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is to mobilize prayer in America and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture. For the observances, Dr. Jack Graham, the 2015 Honorary Chairman, wrote a special prayer to be simultaneously read throughout the nation at noon (EDT). This recitation will create a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other, illustrating the unity of God's people and acknowledging His dominion over the circumstances facing us. At this crucial time in our nation we can do nothing more important than pray. Thank you in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and for standing with us as we encourage others to incorporate prayer in their lives. We look forward to seeing His hand move across our land in exciting ways in response to our petitions!  
<http://nationaldayofprayer.org>

*Lord Hear Our Cry.*



## National Prayer

By Jack Graham

*Heavenly Father,*

*We come to You in the Name that is above every name - Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our hearts cry out to You.*

*Knowing that You are a prayer-answering, faithful God the One we trust in times like these - we ask that You renew our spirits, revive our churches, and heal our land.*

*We repent of our sins and ask for Your grace and power to save us. Hear our cry, oh God, and pour out Your Spirit upon us that we may walk in obedience to Your Word.*

*We are desperate for Your tender mercies. We are broken and humbled before You.*

*Forgive us, and in the power of Your great love, lift us up to live in Your righteousness.*

*We pray for our beloved nation. May we repent and return to You and be a light to the nations. And we pray for our leaders and ask that You give them wisdom and faith to follow You.*

*Preserve and protect us, for You are our refuge and only hope.*

*Deliver us from all fears except to fear You, and may we courageously stand in the Truth that sets us free. We pray with expectant faith and grateful hearts.*

*In Jesus' name, our Savior.*

*Amen.*



# Pray For Us Calendar

LUTHERAN  
CHURCH-  
SYNOD

These prayer requests were submitted by coworkers in the Lord's mission. Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at [lcms.org/prayforus](http://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

**FREE TO BE FAITHFUL - MAY 1-15.** In 2012, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) launched "Free to be Faithful," an initiative that educates and raises awareness about the increasing intrusions by the government and culture into the realm of the Church. The initiative focuses on three issues: the sanctity of life, traditional marriage and religious liberty. Join the LCMS this month and always in standing up for our Lutheran views in the public square.



*Remember God's work through the Synod's Free to be Faithful initiative as you pray.*

*Remember God's work through LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces as you pray.*

1. for the U.S. Supreme Court as it deliberates the very definition of marriage in our society. Help our justices to recognize Your will for families as the lifelong union of one man and one woman and to reflect that in the decision they render this summer.
2. for those who struggle with same-sex attraction. Help them — and all of us — to find in Your unflinching love the grace to deny all desires that are against Your will.
3. that we might have the spirit of wisdom and compassion, so that we may rightly speak Your words of judgment and mercy to all who will hear.
4. for the planned Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. Pray God's blessing on this new endeavor of our Synod in our nation's capital to defend religious liberties and to support Lutherans working in government.
5. with thanksgiving for the many freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States. Please pray that God would preserve these freedoms here and around the world.
6. for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith. Strengthen them with Your Spirit and make them bold to confess Your saving name.
7. for life, that children would once again be welcomed and loved and that abortion would be overturned in America today.
8. for college students and military personnel, two groups who are profoundly affected by the government's intrusion into the realm of the Church. Keep them faithful to You, their Lord and Savior.
9. with thanksgiving for our military chaplains, who are under increasing pressure to remain silent about the faith, but who continue to preach Christ.
10. for marriage, that the historic definition of marriage would be upheld and that husbands and wives would find in Christ's unflinching love for His bride the Church and her devotion and submission to Him, the pattern and power of their married life.
11. for our LCMS congressmen and representatives, that they would be courageous in their defense of the truth and that they would faithfully serve in the vocation in which God has placed them.
12. for President Barack Obama, that he would lead the country with wisdom and uphold the rights — especially of freedom of religion — afforded in the U.S. Constitution.
13. for religious liberty, that our rights to live, work, play and care for others be upheld so that we may bear witness to Christ in all we do.
14. for all the citizens of the United States, that we would once again place value on the lives of all people, on marriage between a man and woman, and on the freedom to worship.
15. for LCMS staffers in Washington, D.C., that they would remain faithful to God's Word, even when their jobs conflict with their beliefs.
16. that God would bless and guide Chaplain Craig Muehleir, who was installed as the new director of MAF in September 2014.
17. for all active duty LCMS pastors who serve as military chaplains for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, that by Your grace and Holy Word, they might nurture, strengthen and comfort those who have been committed to their care.
18. for Chaplain Mike Moreno, project manager of Operation Barnabas. Ask God to guide his work to care for congregations, veterans and military families.
19. for our LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, especially those who have been mobilized stateside or overseas and taken from their parishes to extended active duty assignments. Pray for them, their families and their home parishes.
20. for Operation Barnabas, which is designed to meet the needs of congregations in the event their pastor/chaplain is mobilized, that they may seek to assist veterans and military families during and after deployment.
21. for those who suffer from battle stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pray that God would bring healing and renewal to them.
22. for increasing opportunities for LCMS chaplains to spread Christ's message of salvation, hope and restoration to those they serve.
23. for all military chaplains upon their return, that they would be reunited with their families, find gainful employment, and receive all the care they need to heal their minds, bodies and souls. Grant that they would always look to You, O Christ, as their rock and their redeemer.
24. for all chaplains in harm's way, that You would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them.
25. for all chaplains in harm's way, that You would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them.
26. for all members of the military who were mobilized during their duty, that our heavenly Father would mercifully guide, aid and strengthen all those with physical disabilities, enabling them to find fulfillment in their lives and encouragement for all their endeavors.
27. with thanksgiving to God for providing LCMS chaplains to serve members of the armed forces. Please pray that military chaplains would have every opportunity to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with members of the military.
28. for all chaplains returning home, that they would receive a hero's welcome for their sacrifice to this country so that in freedom we can continue to openly worship the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
29. for all congregations that reach out to members of our military through Operation Barnabas, that they would uphold them in prayer, as they help to meet their physical, psychological and spiritual needs through the training they have received and the Lord's provision.
30. for those who minister to the armed forces, that by Your gracious working, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

### INVOLVEMENT IDEAS

- Visit [lcms.org/freetobeforthful](http://lcms.org/freetobeforthful) to download free resources that help you bear witness to Christ as you speak about and support life, marriage and religious freedom.
- In the "Religious Freedom Toolkit" at [lcms.org/freetobeforthful](http://lcms.org/freetobeforthful), you'll also find a free, downloadable essay booklet that features three essays and accompanying Bible studies by the Rev. Peter Speckhard, the Rev. Philip H. Young and the Rev. Richard C. Eyer.
- Does your congregation pray for members of the military, honor veterans and seek to minister to people connected to the military? If so, you are already an Operation Barnabas congregational! Email [lcmshaps@lcms.org](mailto:lcmshaps@lcms.org) to connect your congregation with the Operation Barnabas network.
- Visit [lcms.org/armedforces](http://lcms.org/armedforces) to learn more about LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, including how you can get involved with supporting U.S. servicemen and women.

**MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES — MAY 16-30.** Since the Civil War, LCMS pastors have served as military chaplains. Today, the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) supports 168 active Reserve, National Guard and Civil Air Patrol chaplains. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains and continues to support them throughout their entire careers. MAF also provides a network of care for our nation's military members, families and veterans through Operation Barnabas.