



Equip, Empower, Engage... Connecting People to JESUS

January 2021 PRAYER GUIDE

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Team Prayer Meeting – Zoom, First Wednesday of the month, 10am Eastern Time

God Speaks – Read Matthew 2.

Matthew 2:10-11: They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then, they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (MSG)

The season of Epiphany brings a shift in focus, or maybe a sharpening of our mission focus. For whom has The Child come? What is our first response to his arrival? How do we see him today? What is our first response upon seeing him?

Clearly, Epiphany announces that The Child has come for the Nations. The “wise men from the East” are Gentiles who come to worship the Messiah, the King. They are among the throng of non-Jewish believers for whom the Messiah has come. We join them, and acknowledge that there are many more ethnolinguistic groups near and far for whom He has come and who need to know that Good News! *Epiphany is all about missions.*

Epiphany is also all about discipleship. These scholars, wise men, or magi from the East searched for *someone* about whom they knew *something*. They knew had more to learn and so they went in search for him. When they found him, they could hardly contain themselves! Their response was worship. In the coming year, let us resolve to receive and learn more about and receive Jesus’ ministry **to us** personally, before performing His ministry **through us**. Let’s resolve to spend time **with God** in personal worship and prayer, so that our work **for Him** is marked by His presence. Our own discipleship is crucial because we can’t give away what we don’t first possess.

As we pray this month, may we come humbly to Jesus to worship Him. May Jesus give us the privilege to be overcome with joy in His presence, a joy that will overflow into our daily lives and relationships!

MONDAY

ADORATION (Read John 1)

- + Of God who has “moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14, MSG)
- + Ponder the manifestation of God’s glory, grace and truth in Jesus
- + Of the Christ Child, through whom we have received one blessing after another
- + Of the Light and Life that shines in the darkness

CONFESSION

- + For our meager response to God’s generosity in Christ Jesus
- + For our often “dimmed” witness to the Light of the World
- + For our quick judgment of others and our poor performance when it comes to showing justice and mercy to those different than ourselves
- + For our desires to follow our own way, making ourselves the “stars,” rather than to follow the star and the One to whom it points
- + For missed opportunities to speak of our Savior, whether intentional or unawares
- + For half-hearted worship and discipleship

THANKSGIVING

- + For the joy of our salvation – made full and complete in Jesus, the Savior and King.
- + For Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords who rules all things together for good for His church.
- + For the Light of the World who brings LIGHT and LIFE into this dark, dead world.
- + For the privilege and joy we have to come and worship our Messiah, and to share Him with the world.
- + For the humble privilege of being included as partners with God in His mission, His work of reconciling the world to Himself.
- + For the many opportunities to reach unreached people groups all around the world, and in our own communities.
- + For Jesus’ promise hear and answer our prayers, in particular for those who are not yet saved.
- + For God’s continued protection in the midst of the Pandemic, and for His healing hand on those afflicted with COVID-19, especially for those we know personally.
- + Give thanks for the special people God brings into your life with whom you can share the message of hope, renewal and life in Jesus.
- + For our Lutheran schools and Early Childhood Centers and their administrators and staff as they point children and families to the Savior.
- + For the many manifestations we see all around us of Jesus, the Light of the World.
- + For mission interest and engagement among the people and congregations throughout our District.
- + For fellow disciples and church members who want to grow as disciples – following Jesus, learning from Jesus, living/loving like Jesus, and making more disciples.
- + For our District leadership, for pastors and local church leaders who understand the purpose of the Church and who take mission seriously - “for such a time as this.”
- + For the amazing blessings which our Gracious God has in store for us in the coming year.
- + For fellow Intercessory Team Members (pray through the list at the beginning of this guide).

TUESDAY

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- + While Satan wants to dull our sense of sight/vision, give us eyes to clearly see the mission opportunities before us, and give us the determination to advance as King Jesus leads.
- + Against the spiritual strongholds and idols in our communities, especially in **areas targeted for new starts or restarts**: In GA – Clarkston, Macon, Tifton, Dahlonega (Campus), Savannah, Valdosta, Swainsboro; In FL: Amelia Island/Yulee, the Villages, Clermont, Lake Nona, Four Corners, Port St. Lucie, S Florida – Ft. Lauderdale & Miami areas, Miramar, Port Charlotte, Babcock Ranch, Lehigh Acres, Naples, Lakewood Ranch, Venice; and Prison Ministry. Open eyes to identify idols and cast them down – *Bring light to the darkness, Jesus, Light of the World! Trample the opposition under Your feet, Lord Jesus! Release the captives – Free those who are held in Satan’s bondage!*
- + *Deliver us from the Evil One.* Deliver us from the many facets of spiritual warfare connected with the Pandemic and the ongoing polarization in our political system. Pray for King Jesus to protect our leaders and church members against the attacks of the Evil One.
- + Deliver us from the demon-inspired attitudes that say, “We can’t do anything right now; We can’t start new...” Pray for Holy Spirit-driven attitudes in 2021! Pray for God’s people to say, “We must join Jesus in His mission NOW! For His Kingdom’s sake!”
- + That the Counselor will guard us against impatience, misunderstandings, and conflict as decisions are made regarding worship gatherings.
- + To recognize and resist Satan’s attempts to use the COVID-19 pandemic to separate people from vital relationships, from the Body of Christ, from the mission of God
- + Pray against a “status quo” mentality, and the desire to return to a more comfortable condition, rather than doing the hard work of adapting to the current situation and needs of our communities
- + Against the darkness and every Satanic challenge and opposition. For church planters and mission leaders to remain intentionally focused on their mission – to make disciples of all peoples.
- + For courage to stand with / to partner with those who desire to plant and multiply
- + Against a spirit of powerlessness, hopelessness, discouragement and burnout for pastors, planters, and leaders
- + Against the spirit of comfortable consumerism in the church, and against preoccupation with self and love of the world – rather that we may consecrate ourselves as living sacrifices to God and His mission
- + That God would use each of us to provide everything needed for those on the front lines of mission work
- + Against every attack on church planters, missionaries, and their families – pray that they will have adequate exercise, sleep, and eat healthy, and that they will spend adequate time daily with Jesus
- + Pray for those missionaries, planters, pastors and leaders who battle with depression and self-doubt
- + Pray for protection against every form of the Enemy’s attacks – especially for President Walton and his staff, for Peter, and for our fellow intercessors

WEDNESDAY

DISTRICT MISSION / OUTREACH ACTION

For these Missions who receive District Mission Grants:

- + **LIVE! UCF** Orlando – Outreach Minister DCE Kalli Wied
 - Give thanks for God’s work through the Leadership Retreat in early December. Pray for follow through and results to action planning.
 - For Kalli as she develops relationships and builds awareness with students and staff on campus.
 - Thanksgiving for new Live UCF Board members. Ask God to bless their onboarding and participation in this ministry!
- + **Thrive** Campus Ministry, Estero – Pastor John Roth
 - For plans to go with a full worship band in January, while continue the hybrid Sunday service format (on line and in person).
 - For the Faculty/Staff Bible study on campus which John leads every Monday. Everyone attending is a new contact, so pray that these relationships mature nicely. Pray that this grows beyond the Business College and that opportunities open at other colleges.
- + **University Lutheran**, Tallahassee – Pastor Jay Winters
 - For God’s continued work of connections between believers.
 - For those who are questioning their faith.
 - For young men battling addictions to pornography.
- + **Christus Victor** Campus Ministry, Athens GA – Pastor Greg Michael
 - For the ongoing development of relationship among the students;
 - For attitudes and avenues of invitation and inclusion in the fellowship of the Gospel here at Christus Victor;
 - For the many students who are isolated and in need of the hope and community the Gospel brings.
- + **Messiah Latino**, Tampa; **Hope**, Plant City – Pastors John Cobos & Miquel Sanabria
 - That God will use the Facebook pages, updated with Christ-centered messages, to keep the attention of members and friends and to bless them in their daily lives
 - For the daily devotional messages designed to help understand the scope of God’s mercy in these difficult times for the whole world. There are now 175 users who in turn, broadcast them to their contacts!
 - For the Zoom Bible studies and prayer meetings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, and for the nightly Bible and Prayer group with extended family in the US and other countries.
 - For the increase in worship attendance, doubling since August
 - For those who have renewed marriage vows, and those who have had a Residence Blessing; pray that every home and family will know God’s presence with them
 - For the 8 cases who are being served by the Paralegal group
- + **Emmanuel Haitian**, Delray Beach – Pastor Daniel Bartley
 - For the sick and the unemployed in the Delray Beach community and an answer to the pandemic issue to facilitate growth of the ministry
 - For healing of those affected by COVID 19
- + **All Nations Mission**, Grace Atlanta; Rev Adam Ellsworth & Vicar Isaac Baroi
 - For outreach to new immigrants and families, especially to those who are Muslim
 - Pray that God will move the mission plan for Clarkston to reality.

- + **Pelican Golden Gate**, Naples – Pastor Mark Eisold
 - For the missionary team of Pastor Mark, Pastor Mike Duchene, Saint Luc Charelus, Rochenel Jean-Jaques, Ricardo Mendez, and Pastor Keith.
 - For the people from 12 different Spanish speaking nations who are being reached by The Pelican’s Spanish ministry
 - For Missionaries Rochenel Jean-Jaques and Ricardo Mendez (both at Peace, Naples), who are engaged in distance learning from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Rochenel is beginning a Hatian ministry and Ricardo is working to establish a Spanish speaking ministry.
 - For the Family Night on Fridays and free English as Second Language classes. Pray for Mark and his team of volunteers

THURSDAY

DISTRICT MISSION / OUTREACH ACTION *(continued)*

We continue to bring these locations to God’s throne, asking for clarity and discernment – and engagement – as new mission opportunities develop:

- + **Miramar** – Missionary Jeff Johnson, working with Miramar Lutheran’s Child Learning Center to help children who are not in “in person” learning situations in their schools, but are in the CLC’s classrooms with a certified teacher
- + **The Villages, Trinity Summerfield** – that the purchase of land for a future site on the southernmost development of The Villages will bear kingdom fruit. Pray for clarity in their mission planning.
- + **Jacksonville area** – for mission vision and development
- + **Amelia Island / Yulee** –for God to clarify direction for Amelia Island and the Yulee area; pray that God will raise up leadership to gather a group and start new work
- + **Ft. Lauderdale/Miami** area – St. Paul’s Boca Raton is considering options for several new starts/restarts in the Ft. Lauderdale /Miami community. Pray for God to prepare the harvest field and to identify leaders. Pray that God will bless strategic mission planning for South Florida.
- + **Atlanta** – Vicar Jay & Julie Dass, recently returned safely from Pakistan; praise God for their mission work and pray for Vicar Jay as he completes his seminary training.
- + **Clarkston** – All Nations Society Atlanta – Vicar Isaac Baroi, working with Immigrant families & children; pray for planning of a community garden and spiritual connections that will be made there; pray for Vicar Isaac’s completion of his seminary studies through Concordia Seminary.
- + **Macon** area, Darron & Valerie Counselman, Pr Dave Brighton (Mt. Calvary, Warner Robbins). Pray for their development of and action on their mission plan. Pray for leadership at Mt. Calvary to embrace the plan, and for the Holy Spirit to raise up persons of peace in the Macon area.
- + **Babcock Ranch, Lakewood Ranch** - Mike & Debbie Mast & Will Murphey (Hope, Bonita Springs). Ask God to bless the growing group of disciples!
- + **Deltona, DeLand, DeBarry** communities – that God would open eyes to opportunities and mission partnerships
- + **Lake Nona** – pray for new micro-groups and disciples which will begin in the New Year; that neighboring congregations would be open to a planting partnership, that God would prepare community members who may be persons of peace, that God would pierce the spiritual darkness with the light of Christ, that the Holy Spirit will let His power be seen
- + **Tifton, GA** – For Peace Lutheran Church, working on a re-start plan which will invite circuit participation; pray for provision of every needed resource
- + **Prison / Jail Ministry** – Dr. Tim Furnish, Woodstock GA

- + **Dahlonega GA**, Pr. Gerhard Michael, campus ministry; and for the calling of a full-time pastor
- + **Port St. Lucie** – For Redeemer Stuart, and a dream to start new through children’s ministry
- + **Clermont** – for God’s blessing on an innovative vision for community development, Indigo Villages, by Ms. Myrna Mojica from Woodlands Lutheran in Monteverde
- + **Potential** new Brazilian, Spanish-speaking ministries – Where do you want these, Lord?
- + **Development of new faith communities**, Bible study groups, worshiping communities
- + For our Lutheran Schools, that God will use them as mission equipping centers, forming and deploying disciples on His mission
- + Pray boldly that God will bless the vision of nearly 20% of our congregations who want to start some new type of faith community in the next 12-15 months
- + For your personal witness – for more opportunities, for boldness, for creativity, for caring relationships

PEOPLE IN MISSION

- + For 2021 to be a year of discipleship and mission action in every congregation, every neighborhood. Pray for those who God is using to lead those efforts to connect people to Jesus.
- + That God will raise up more faithful pray-ers for the harvest in every congregation
- + For every-day disciples, that they may see and learn to love their personal mission fields, and so to engage as the priesthood of all believers
- + For pastors to lead their congregations to see the mission opportunities to reach all nations in their neighborhoods even in these pandemic days
- + For Lutheran School Administrators and Early Childhood Directors as they lead their staffs, children and families to follow Jesus
- + For President Walton and the FLGA staff: Mark Brink, Laura Zirbel, Jay Wendland, Peter, Kathy Keene, Cindy Hammerstrom, Lynda Voss, Debbie Arrington.
- + For FLGA Area Mission Facilitators: Victor Belton (Georgia), Mike Mast (Southwest FL), and Scott Gress (Southeast FL)
- + For Pastor Oslet Maccenat, Mt. Gerazim (Ft. Lauderdale) and his efforts to lead his congregation to a deeper spirituality, and to find a permanent location for worship. Pray that God will provide him with the means and opportunity to purchase equipment to being his own business and that this business may be used as a means of introducing people to Jesus.
- + Megan Miessler & Rick Armstrong, Lutheran Counseling Services
- + Mike Nowicki, New Start Director for FiveTwo
- + Bob Scudieri, Mission Nation Publishing
- + Pastor Joseph Song, Stepping Stones Mission, Duluth GA
- + Vicar Jay and Julie Das, Living Faith, Cumming GA, currently in Pakistan
- + For those engaged in missions listed in Wednesday’s prayers – please pray for them by name
- + For those in your own congregation who are actively engaged in outreach and evangelism
- + For LCMS International Missionaries known to you
- + For other missionaries you/your congregation know and support in your Jerusalem... Judea... Samaria... Ends of the earth

FRIDAY

MISSIONS IN THE CHURCH AT LARGE

- + That this Epiphany and the entire New Year will be seized by churches and church leaders to share Jesus who is our Perfect Peace, our Joy of Salvation and the Light of the World
- + For the congregations of our 35 Districts of the LCMS who are voting on whether to “pause” the convention cycle, delaying District and Synod conventions due to the Pandemic
- + For the Presidents of our 35 LCMS Districts that they will be filled with mission zeal, inspiring and igniting a growing mission/evangelistic passion and focus within their districts
- + That Christians all around the world will adopt a warfare mentality to sacrifice, endure hardship, and even to suffer for the sake of Kingdom Advance; that every denomination will mobilize to fulfill the Great Commission
- + That God would provide hope and vision for churches who are struggling and facing decline, for those who are worried about how they will survive post-pandemic
- + Pray that every believer will feel a burden for the lost, will pray for open doors, open hearts, and boldness in witness and service
- + Pray that God will give needed vision to think and plan for how the church will meet the deep spiritual needs of our communities and nation through starting new faith communities
- + That the Holy Spirit will direct leaders to plan and prepare for the post-COVID-19 world, for the church to recover and re-emerge in the strength of the Lord
- + For courage to truly be a “sending” church, training and deploying God’s people on God’s mission
- + That the technology we have used during these times will continue to offer creative ways and open doors to reach new people
- + That pastors and church leaders will get adequate sleep and rest to keep physically, emotionally and socially healthy
- + That pastors and members will bear up under the shadow of death, pain, and suffering; that they will see these as opportunities for witness and service in their communities
- + That as pastors and leaders prepare themselves for Sunday worship, they will keep focused on God’s mission and His purpose for gathering and sending His Church

FOR THE NATION

- + For peace and national unity, for the blessing of wisdom and direction for elected leaders, that our fellow Citizens will be able to work together for healing
- + That as a nation, we would humble ourselves before the Lord and seek His forgiveness and mercy for our selfishness, our lack of self-control, for our desire to be our own gods
- + For a time of National re-awakening to the Gospel and our need for God
- + That God would guide and bless the leaders of our Nation and State; for President Donald Trump, for Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, for Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and their staffs, for National and State legislators, and Judges, that they would make godly decisions for the common good
- + For businesses who are struggling to retain employees, to remain open, to provide needed services in their communities
- + That fear would not be the driving emotion in the lives our countrymen, but that as a nation, we would humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand and look to Him for healing and strength.
- + That all people in our nation, beginning with our leaders, would respect life as a gift from God, seeking to protect all life from the unborn to the elderly and vulnerable



Pray for Our District Churches & Mission Work in 2021

Adapted from "6 Prayer Requests Every Church Should Have in 2021" by Juan Sanchez, Facts & Trends, Dec 16, 2020.

The year 2020 was not what anyone expected. As we enter this new year, lasting effects and lingering doubts continue. How will we prepare ourselves and our churches for 2021? Let's begin with prayer. God has invited us to pray and we know that He delights in answering His people's prayers. Invite your church to join you in prayer with boldness, making big requests of God that bring Him glory and advance His kingdom purposes.

Consider using these two big prayer guides: (1) **Your church directory**. Pray through the directory, one page each day, working through the list of members over and over again. (2) **Your church budget**. Use the budget as a guide because it shows how your congregation supports Gospel work and workers at home and abroad. Ask God to provide generously for His work to be accomplished and His name confessed and praised.

Here are six petitions for yourself and for your church in 2021:

1. **A CULTURE OF EVANGELISM.** Pray that you and the members of your church will grow in having Gospel conversation with not-yet-believers. Encourage them to share those conversations for encouragement and prayer.
2. **A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP.** Pray that you and each member will seek meaningful relationships with a few others for mutual edification through reading the Bible together, praying for one another, and speaking the Gospel into one another's lives.
3. **MISSIONS: FIVE MILE RADIUS.** Pray that you and your church will make inroads to reach unchurched and unbelieving neighbors within a 5 mile radius of your church building. Pray for an outreach focus on your immediate neighborhood. Pray for specific events, people, schools, businesses, etc.
4. **MISSIONS: INTERNATIONAL.** Ask God to show you and your church specific fruitful Gospel partnerships for the
5. spread of the Gospel. Pray for involvement with these missions as they reach people who you cannot personally reach with the Gospel.
6. **MISSIONS: RESOURCES.** Pray that the Lord will provide you personally, and your church, with all the necessary resources (financial, people, materials) needed to accomplish His mission, including reaching and surpassing your church's and our District's projected budget income for 2021.
7. **MISSIONS: HARVEST.** Pray that God will give you the blessing of seeing the fruit of your prayers, your evangelistic work and outreach over the next twelve months.

Dear Lord God, give us Your grace and the encouragement of seeing Your work through us and through our District in 2021 because we are praying boldly, according to Your will, trusting in Your Spirit, and for the salvation of those whom Jesus has purchased by His blood, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!