



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

## February 2021 PRAYER GUIDE

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

### **God Speaks – Read Micah 6:1-8.**

*Micah 6:8 – Mankind, He has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Mark Twain famously said, “It ain’t the parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it’s the parts that I do understand.” In Micah 6.6-8, the Lord says something similar to his people. In the face of difficulty and defeat, God’s people cry out, “What do you want from us? What can we do to satisfy you? Do you want us to grovel? To give you thousands of animals and gallons of wine? How about if I sacrifice my firstborn?” The Lord responds simply, “Your problem is not a failure to understand. It is a failure to obey. I have been clear and you know what you need to do. Pursue justice, kindness, and humility.”

There may be confusing parts of the Bible, but that does not release us from the clear instruction of the Lord. He has shown us what is good. He sent his Prophets to declare His will, and sent Son as an example that we might follow in his steps. If you’re like me (and every other human being), your following is more like stumbling along and falling down. We know what God expects, but we struggle to live up to it.

That’s why, in His amazing grace, He sent His Son, Jesus, to keep His instructions to the letter *and the spirit of the law* – and then to die the cruel death on the cross that we deserved as payment for our sins. Lent brings us face to face with our unrighteousness and Jesus’ perfect righteousness – He acted justly in our place. He lived faithfulness in our place. He walked humbly in our place. And then, in pure love, God gave His firstborn for my transgressions, His own Son for my own sin (read v7).

What is our response to this? We know His will, and seek His help to do His will... to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with our God. As we do this, even imperfectly, we bear witness to the world of our God’s character. What opportunities for witness does Lent present to you? What will you do with them?

# MONDAY

## **ADORATION** (Te Deum Laudamus)

You are God: we praise you; you are the Lord; we acclaim you; you are the eternal Father: All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you; Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free you did not shun the Virgin's womb. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at God's right hand in glory. We believe that you will come and be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

## **CONFESSION**

- + For our failure to live up to God's expectations, namely that we act justly, love faithfully, and walk humbly with our God.
- + For our failure to see and take advantage of the many opportunities we have daily to give bold and courageous witness to the loving kindness of our God
- + For the times we have taken advantage of God's love without acknowledging grace as His gift
- + For being motivated by fear, rather than by the perfect love of God
- + For our failures to be the hands, feet, and mouth of God
- + For failing to bear and live the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control
- + For not keeping in step with the Spirit, following His life-giving leading

## **THANKSGIVING**

- + For the height, breadth, and depth of God's love in Christ Jesus
- + For Jesus perfect, substitutionary life of justice, faithfulness, humbleness
- + For the privilege and joy we have to share Jesus' faithfulness and love with our neighbor
- + For the many opportunities God gives us to partner with Him in His global and local mission
- + For the season of Lent, to focus on God's amazing grace for the world
- + For God's ongoing protection from the Pandemic, for His healing hand on those afflicted with the Pandemic, especially those we know personally
- + For the life and example of loved ones and family members who are now with Jesus, especially for those who shared the story of Jesus with us
- + For the people God brings into our lives with whom we can share the story of Jesus and His love
- + For our Lutheran Schools and Early Childhood Centers and their administrators and staff as they point children and their families to Jesus
- + For the mission interest and engagement among the people and congregations in our District
- + For fellow church members and disciples who want to grow as disciples – following Jesus, learning from Jesus, living and loving like Jesus, and sharing Jesus – 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 in these times
- + For Intercessory Team Members (pray through the list at the beginning of this guide), and all who join them as Florida-Georgia Prayer Partners. Pray that the number of praying partners grows!

# TUESDAY

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- + Pray that God would give us courage to call out injustice wherever it is found; to strive in the Spirit to act justly, to love faithfully and to walk humbly with our God
- + 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 Jesus leads.
- + Against every spiritual stronghold and idol in our communities—Lord, give us discernment to recognize them and boldness to stand against them... 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. *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 every attack of the Evil One.
- + Deliver us from the demon-inspired attitude that says, “We can’t do mission work right now; We can’t start new; Now is not the time to go...” 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!”
- + To recognize and resist Satan’s attempts to use the COVID-19 pandemic to isolate 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 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 Campus Ministries:

- + **LIVE! UCF Orlando** – Outreach Minister DCE Kalli Wied
  - God’s direction as LIVE seeks to build Christ-centered relationships with students for a life-long relationship with Jesus.
  - For Kalli as she develops relationships and builds awareness with students and staff on campus.
  - For efforts to build relationships with local congregations and to partner with a local non-profit
  - For an eye on the big picture of God’s work on campus and through LIVE
- + **Thrive Campus Ministry, Florida Gulf Coast University, Estero** – Pastor John Roth
  - Increase our Campus Ministry to 50 active students in six home disciple groups and monthly large gatherings by the end of 2021
  - Restart our Thrive Kids ministry on Sundays (starting in February) and growing the Sunday attendance of that ministry to 12 by the end of 2021
  - Increase attendance in the Faculty/Staff Bible study to 20 by end of 2021 (just started in Dec 2020 and currently there are 10 people) at FGCU
  - Start a Prayer/Vision team to explore the possibility of developing a first phase facility on the 9.2 acres near FGCU on Ben Hill Griffin Blvd. This process begins the end of January.
- + **University Lutheran, FSU, Tallahassee** – Pastor Jay Winters
  - Outreach/Evangelism – Connect with 250 individual students via email, social media, in person events, and/or hosted online events.
  - Leadership development – Equip and train 5 student leaders through the “Missional Leader” program including weekly meetings, personal coaching, and other events.
  - Discipleship – Each of the 5 student leaders will engage with at least one other student and one other student or non-student mentor in a discipling relationship triad.
  - Worship – Encourage faithful worship attendance from students with the goal of the average student not missing more than 3 Sundays in a semester.
  - Other – Continue to engage with achievement oriented students that are not currently engaged with University Lutheran through *The Brilliant*, a digital and analog connection point for students who want to achieve great things.
- + **Christus Victor Campus Ministry, Athens GA** – Pastor Greg Michael
  - To foster relationships with current students, create a welcoming environment for new students, and to encourage invitation of friends and others to events, studies, etc
  - God’s blessing as we utilize students for making decisions, implementation, etc., so that students are a true part of the congregation, serving here and prepared to serve as they graduate and move to new locations.
  - That students grow as God’s people through worship, study of Scriptures, service and fellowship, and that this growth will be sustainable when they leave
  - That students would engage in regular worship for their own spiritual health and for the health of all the brothers and sisters who worship with them.
  - That students will recognize their identity in Christ and how that penetrates every area of their lives and decisions.
- + **Messiah Latino, Tampa; Hope, Plant City** – Pastors John Cobos & Miquel Sanabria
  - For follow up with those who are absent

- For organization of daily prayer groups
  - That members will exhibit a Christ-centered character
  - For monthly stewardship workshops by Zoom
  - For blessing on the six people working towards Citizenship, and the immigration process for five families
- + **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, Rochanel Jean-Jaques, Ricardo Mendez, and Pastor Keith.
  - For Missionaries Rochanel Jean-Jaques and Ricardo Mendez (both at Peace, Naples), who are engaged in distance learning from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Rochanel is beginning a Haitian ministry and Ricardo is working to establish a Spanish speaking ministry.

## 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; pray for efforts to engage more children and families; also that God would raise up a “cultural insider” from the community as a new leader in the congregation
- + **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 of God’s vision
- + **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 as Peter visits with pastors in the S Florida area this month and next.
- + **Atlanta** – Vicar Jay & Julie Dass, 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 Vicar Isaac’s completion of his seminary studies through Concordia Seminary. Also pray for plans to develop a Community Garden as a means of gathering, connecting with and building relationships with the immigrant community.
- + **Macon** area, Darron & Valerie Counselman, with the untimely death of Pr Dave Brighton (Mt. Calvary, Warner Robbins), pray for clarity for the future. Pray for the leadership at Mt. Calvary, for Marcia Brighton, and for God’s mission to move forward as He directs.

- + **Babcock Ranch, Lakewood Ranch** - Mike & Debbie Mast & Will Murphey (Hope, Bonita Springs). Ask God to bless the growing group of disciples! Pray for the gatherings of women in the Word, for youth and for growing interest in regular gatherings.
- + **Deltona, DeLand, DeBarry** communities – that God would open eyes to opportunities and mission partnerships
- + **Lake Nona** – pray for new micro-groups and disciples which have begun in January; 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
- + **Dalhousie 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
- + That we would begin to see Partnerships, working together with other congregations and circuits as the norm, in order to connect people to Jesus and be discipled
- + 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**

- + That our congregations and members will “reflect the SON in 2021”
- + 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 each person in the FLGA District will be Jesus’ instrument to bring healing, peace, and comfort to those who are fearful
- + 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 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.
- + For Lutheran School Administrators and Early Childhood Directors, leading staff, 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)
- + Megan Miessler & Rick Armstrong, Lutheran Counseling Services
- + 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**

- + 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 our leaders, and 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 Joe Biden, 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; and for all who have lost jobs in recent months that their needs will be met
- + 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 to “Reflect the SON in 2021!”

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

Let 2021 be a year of prayer for God’s work in our lives and churches – that we will reflect the SON in 2021! 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 spread of the Gospel. Pray for involvement with these missions as they reach people who you cannot personally reach with the Gospel.
5. **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.
6. **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!*