



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

# October 2021 PRAYER GUIDE

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

## **God Speaks: Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-16**

**Indeed, everything is for your benefit so that, as grace extends through more and more people, it may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God (v15, CSB).**

Paul quotes Psalm 116:10 and sort of spins it in a New Testament way. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the apostle teaches that faith which clings to Jesus, receives the forgiveness he bought, and hungers for grace to imitate him: such faith will find a voice. The devil's strategy is to try to mute that voice. Our strategy starts with a prayer that his strategy will fail miserably.

And here I go, out on a limb. I know of some folks who think "Pass It On" (the song about sharing one's joy in Jesus) is rubbish. To them I say, "I would agree with you: but then we'd both be wrong." The song does leave out some key references (it never mentions the name "Jesus," for example). But the referents of the pronouns are not difficult to identify.

One verse says, "I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found; you can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the mountain top! I want the world to know: the Lord of love has come to me; I want to pass it on." My brain struggles to find the problem some people have with those words. And all my heart can say to those words is, "Amen."

"But I don't know how," some will say. They may be over-thinking things. The director of an LCMS mission school in Iowa shared, on video long ago, that a little girl at their day school went home and said to her parents, "Mom and Dad, I want us to go to church as a family." They replied, "Sweetie, what brought this up?" She said, "Well, I learned today in school that I have forgiveness and life thanks to Jesus, and so I'll be going to Heaven to live forever. And I'd really like it if you two were there also." Out of the mouths of babes. Still want to claim you don't know how?

"O Holy Ghost, our souls inspire: ignite them with celestial fire!" May the Lord fortify our faith, our courage, and our fervor for sharing Jesus, his Gospel, and the hope of life that lasts forever. So many souls thirst for the living water that Jesus supplies, whether they realize it or not. Guided by God, let us meet people where they are and lead them to where they need to be. *(Thanks to Pastor Frank Kinast, Messiah Valdosta, for the above devotional thoughts)*

# **MONDAY**

## **ADORATION** *Psalm 150 (CSB)*

Hallelujah!

Praise God in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty expanse.

Praise Him for His powerful acts; praise Him for His abundant greatness.

Praise Him with trumpet blast; praise Him with the harp and lyre.

Praise Him with the tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and flute.

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with crashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Hallelujah!

## **CONFESSION**

- + For our failure to observe God's great works among us
- + For our weak and hesitant praises of God's great work among us
- + For our forgetfulness when it comes to God's grace and daily mercies
- + For our inadequate and inconsistent devotion to the Lord our God, and our poor response to His powerful acts on our behalf
- + For our lack of imagination and failure to use all the resources at hand when it comes to daily praise and worship
- + For failure to depend on God's strength, wisdom and creativity as we plan our outreach, as we develop relationships, and engage in the activities of our congregations
- + For asking God to bless our plans and efforts, rather than asking Him to show us how we can align our prayers and plans and actions with His mission
- + For half-hearted effort in our prayer life, slow response to God's Word, and failure to listen to the Spirit's prompting

## **THANKSGIVING**

- + For daily breath and daily opportunities to praise the Lord!
- + For God's invitation to partner with Him in His mission
- + During this "Pastor Appreciation Month" give thanks for your pastor, and pray that God raises up more mission-focused pastors to lead His people in mission
- + For the gift of the Savior and God's choosing us to share this gift in our relationships
- + For the privilege and adventure of being ambassadors of our most powerful and gracious King, who promises to be with us always, every day, to the end of the age
- + For providing all the resources we need to carry out Jesus' Great Commission
- + For the people God brings into our lives with whom we can share the story of Jesus and His love
- + For the many opportunities to engage in spiritual conversations (pray that the Holy Spirit gives us the eyes to see those opportunities and the wisdom to speak for Him)
- + 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 partnerships with other churches, neighborhood schools and organizations which allow us to advance the Gospel message in our communities
- + For the mission interest and engagement among the people and congregations in our District
- + For our District leadership, for pastors and local church leaders who understand the purpose of the church and who take mission seriously especially in these challenging times
- + For Intercessory Team Members (listed 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

### + Pastor's Appreciation Month:

- Against a spirit of powerlessness, hopelessness, confusion, discouragement and burnout for pastors, planters, and leaders; that we will instead learn to fight as effective warriors with Christ ahead, behind, beside us
  - Against every attack on pastors, 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
- + That wars and rumors of wars (and political unrest/polarization) will not hinder the Gospel's proclamation in the United States and throughout the world
- + That the Lord of All will protect pastors and church leaders from the Evil One's temptations
- + That we will not give in to a "status quo" mentality, the desire to return to a more comfortable condition, rather than doing the hard work of obedience in challenging times and situations
- + That we will not be blinded to the spiritual holocaust taking place in our communities, nation and the world, but that the Lord will open our eyes to His life-giving, life-changing power
- + That we will not give in to lukewarmness in the practice of our faith life and witness; that we will not yield to Satan's temptations to pull us away from time with the Lord in prayer and His Word
- + That Satan will be forced to yield to the powerful advance of Jesus' Kingdom in our communities and in the world
- + That Satan will not destroy or weaken our witness, or restrict our evangelization activities.
- + That those who want to limit the impact of the Spirit, the Church and its witness, will be stopped, and instead that they will see the awesome grace of God working in their own lives
- + That our Lutheran schools will be the front-line advance of the Gospel in our communities
- + That the proclamation of the Gospel among the nations (every people group) will be the declaration of Jesus' Victory, and that we will be privileged to bear that Good News!
- + Against every spiritual stronghold and idol in our communities—Holy Spirit, 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, Dahlonga (Campus), Savannah, Valdosta, Swainsboro; In FL: Amelia Island/Yulee, Jacksonville, Nocatee, 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.
- + That we are not drawn in to a world view that limits reality to what we can see with our five senses; that we are aware of the Evil One and his intentions and works, but that we are even more aware that "those who are with us are more than those who are with them," (2 Kings 6:15-17) – Lord, pull back the curtain so that we can see your work with us and on our behalf!
- + 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
- + For courage to stand with / to partner with those who desire to plant and multiply
- + That the coming of God's Kingdom will always shape and move the work of the Church as it reclaims territory, both souls and soil, from the Evil One.
- + Pray to put on the whole armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil... so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand (Ephesians 6:10ff).
- + Pray for protection against every form of the Enemy's attacks – especially for President Walton and his staff, for Peter, Debbie, Victor, Scott and Mike, and for our fellow intercessors

# WEDNESDAY

## DISTRICT MISSION / OUTREACH ACTION

We pray for Students and Campus Ministries:

- + Pray that parents and pastors will encourage students to continue their walk with the Lord while on campus by connecting with our campus ministries
- + Pray that Campus Pastors' efforts to connect with students will bear abundant fruit
- + **LIVE! UCF Orlando – Outreach Minister DCE Kalli Wied**
  - For UCF students and faculty, that even with COVID, students will find community and that LIVE will be a source of community to them.
  - For discipleship work with the students, especially with new faces in Live's ministry, that they learn to engage with Christ in everyday life
  - For identification of new leaders among the students new to the ministry
- + **University Lutheran, FSU, Tallahassee – Pastor Jay Winters**
  - For student connections among the incoming class
  - For suppression of the Delta variant
  - For clear vision on the way forward for the Brilliant outreach – how this tool can best engage with students who listen (and that students will tune in!)
  - For the fall season of Triads, featuring discipleship essentials
- + **Christus Victor Campus Ministry, Athens GA – Pastor Greg Michael**
  - For our recognition of opportunities to serve students as they enter into the stress of mid-terms
  - For new students as they get beyond the newness of college that they would settle into healthy routines
  - For those students who are figuring out next steps as they begin the search for grad school and employment
- + **Thrive Campus Ministry, Florida Gulf Coast University, Estero – Pastor John Roth**
  - For God's will to be done in our campus ministry; that students who have started to attend will continue and we can form small groups for discipleship
  - For wisdom in how to address COVID concerns and the break of habits for some of our members, along with the lack of visitors coming on Sundays right now
  - To restart a children's ministry on Sundays and have both adequate staff volunteers and kids
  - That God will show a way forward to a more permanent facility since we believe the store-front is not a barrier to many when considering Thrive
- + **University of North Georgia, Dahlonega GA – Pastor David Kruger**
- + **University of Florida, Gainesville FL – Pastor John Glover**

For Mission & Outreach Work

- + **Messiah Latino, Tampa; Hope, Plant City – Pastors John Cobos & Miguel Sanabria**
  - For needed financial support from multiple sources
  - For the daily devotions sent out, and thanksgiving for positive feedback
  - That God would bless the Christ-centered text messages sent, keeping touch with so many
  - For those who have the fervent desire to receive the Lord's Supper
  - Thanksgiving for the 27 school bags and school supplies that were distributed
- + **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. Especially 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 working with a Haitian ministry and Ricardo, a Spanish speaking ministry.
- + **All Nations Mission, Grace Atlanta; Rev Adam Ellsworth, Rev. Dr. Jasson Kalugendo & Vicar Isaac Baroi**
  - That God will provide opportunities for appropriate community outreach and those who will participate
  - For the weekly worship and teaching taking place in Clarkston
- + **Hope Lutheran of Orlando, Rev. Paul vonWerder.** Pray for God's favor, wisdom, and blessing for the development and publishing of materials for micro-group/discipleship immersion training, Bible study and worship material in English and Spanish. Pray that God will use these materials as powerful resources for church planting and discipleship training.

# THURSDAY

## DISTRICT MISSION / OUTREACH ACTION (continued)

- For the discipling and outreach work of our Area Mission Facilitators:
  - Scott Gress in Southeastern Florida, Region 5
  - Mike Mast in Southwestern Florida, Region 4
  - Victor Belton in Georgia, Regions 1 & 2
- Continue to bring these locations to God’s throne, asking for clarity and discernment – and engagement – as new mission opportunities develop. Pray for every spiritual force of darkness to be overcome, and for the light of Christ to shine brightly:
  - + **Perry, GA** – Pastor John Lehenbauer and his team who have started Christ Lutheran School this fall
  - + **Hmong group in Georgia** – Pray for wisdom and outreach action with the Hmong, a SE Asian people group immigrated from Laos and Cambodia, some of whom have settled in the area of Buford GA.
  - + **Macon** area, Darron & Valerie Counselman, together with Pastor Laird vanGorder of Holy Trinity, Macon. Pray that God blesses their efforts to reach new people through Sunday school and Bible Study
  - + **Miramar** – Missionary Jeff Johnson, working with Miramar Lutheran’s Child Learning Center; give thanks for new families from the community and the learning center who have worshiped at church and pray for efforts to engage more children and families; give thanks for the children who have signed up for the Learning Center this fall. Ask God to identify and raise up a “cultural insider” from the community as a new leader in the congregation and pray for seven new families from the community to connect with Jesus through the church.
  - + **The Villages, Trinity Summerfield** – Pray for unity in mission planning, that the purchase of land for a future site on the southernmost development of The Villages will bear kingdom fruit.
  - + **Jacksonville/Nocatee area** – for mission vision and development of God’s vision; pray for a church planting couple and another individual interested in reaching their neighbors through a church plant.
  - + **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 – Pray that God will bless strategic mission planning for South Florida. Pray for God to prepare the harvest field and to identify leaders.
  - + **Prison / Jail Ministry** – Dr. Tim Furnish, Woodstock GA; Rev. Jacob Roedsens, Lake Worth, FL
  - + **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.
  - + **Lake Nona** – pray for new micro-groups and disciples; 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
  - + **Dahlonega GA**, Dr. Gerhard Michael, give thanks for the purchase of land for a permanent site and ask God to give His vision for the use of that site, and for Rev. David Kruger who leads the Campus Ministry there
  - + **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?
  - + **Ethiopian church plant** potentially in Orlando or perhaps in Ft. Lauderdale? Ask the Lord for wisdom for timing and location of a new start
- That we would see Partnerships developed, where working together with other congregations and circuits is the norm, in order to connect people to Jesus and be disciplined
- Pray boldly that God will bless the vision of nearly 20% of our congregations (36 of them) 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
- For the “Church Planting Essentials” on line course, taught by Peter Meier. Pray for the cohort that gathers from Oct 6 – Nov 11, that the Holy Spirit will provide courage, vision, and bless the planning of all in the class

## **PEOPLE IN MISSION**

- + Pray for the Lord to raise up and send workers into His harvest fields. *Join in the 10:02 prayer daily (Luke 10:2)*
- + Pray for our Lutheran school administrators as the new school year is underway, especially as they work through the challenges of COVID and its variants. Pray that together with pastors and teachers, they will lead people to embrace the witness our schools provide in their communities.
- + For the daily opportunities our Lutheran school teachers and staffs have to show God's love and forgiveness inside and outside their classrooms, and that they would effectively disciple children as those who are called and sent by God to share the Good News of Jesus with families and friends.
- + That our congregations and members will "reflect the SON in 2021," that God will use them to connect people to Jesus.
- + 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.
- + That God will raise up more faithful pray-ers for the harvest in every congregation
- + That each person in the FLGA District will be Jesus' instrument to bring healing, peace, and comfort to those who are fearful
- + For President Walton and the FLGA staff: Laura Zirbel, Jay Wendland, Jennifer Tanner, Peter, Kathy Keene, Cindy Hammerstrom, Debbie Arrington.
- + For our FLGA Area Mission Facilitators: Victor Belton (Georgia), Mike Mast (Southwest FL), and Scott Gress (Southeast FL)
- + Megan Miessler & Rick Armstrong, Lutheran Counseling Services
- + Sheryl DeWitt and Dcs Liz Borth, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, especially for their second maternity home newly opened in the Chicagoland area. Pray for those who will be residents and staff, and for their host church, Immanuel in East Dundee, IL.
- + Rev. Bob Scudieri, Mission Nation Publishing. Pray that God will bless the partnership of MNP and FLGA to research and produce materials which help congregations to gather the diverse harvest in their communities
- + Pastor Joseph Song, Stepping Stones Mission, for organization and development of New Life Village in Conyers GA.
- + Rev. Jay and Julie Das, Living Faith, Cumming GA
- + For Rev. Gustavo and Ruth Maita, LCMS Missionaries in Puerto Rico. Pray that God will bless the efforts of the Puerto Rican Lutheran churches to plant new congregations to reach new people.
- + For those in your own congregation who are actively engaged in outreach and evangelism
- + For LCMS International Missionaries known to you
- + For those 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 35 Districts of the LCMS who are holding their conventions over the coming months, that as they plan and meet and vote, they will do so under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with God's mission foremost in their actions.
- + Pray that God will use these conventions to elect District Presidents and other leaders who are committed to the mission of God ("the Great Sending")
- + For the congregations of our 35 Districts of the LCMS that they will vigorously make disciples in their communities
- + 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 every congregation will have needed courage to truly be a "Sending" church, training and deploying God's people on God's mission
- + That every believer will feel a burden for the lost, will pray for open doors, open hearts, and boldness in witness and service
- + That pastors and church leaders will get adequate sleep and rest to keep physically, emotionally and socially healthy
- + 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
- + 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 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 Christians all around the world will adopt a "wartime 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

## FOR THE NATION

- + That God would guide and direct 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
- + 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
- + For protection for our military personnel and their families, especially those deployed in "hot spots" around the world
- + For God to work through mid-term elections (2022) to place godly leaders into positions of authority in local, state, and national offices
- + Continue to pray for peace and national unity
- + For our nation to withstand ungodly influences from within and without
- + For all military personnel, for police and firefighters as they serve and protect
- + For common sense solutions to our border crisis
- + For protection from violent weather, especially during this hurricane season
- + For children in our country and the world who are homeless or go to bed hungry
- + 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

## 10 Surprising Reasons to Pray for Your Pastor

There are many reasons to intercede on behalf of our Shepherds in our congregations. In this month of Pastor Appreciation, here are 10 good reasons to be in prayer for your pastor:

1. **Pastors live in a world of unfinished tasks.** There are always phone calls to be returned, sermons to prepare, unfinished office work and administrative tasks, visits to make and problems that needed attention last week. *Pray that pastors are able to shut off their ministry engine at night and get restful sleep. Pray for rest.*
2. **Pastor's home lives and families are as demanding and needful as yours.** While each member of the congregation wants them at their significant times, the pastor's family needs and wants him too. Finding balance between home life and church needs often leads to stress and conflict. *Pray for the Lord to give pastors wisdom and courage in making these choices.*
3. **Pastors wage a constant battle for health.** Everywhere they go, food is served. They are blessed with the best desserts prepared by the best cooks on the planet. For pastors who love to walk or jog, erratic schedules make staying with the program difficult. Obesity has aborted ministry and shortened the lives of many a faithful pastor. *Pray for discipline to guard their health and determination in their habits.*
4. **Pastors lead teams of other ministers and lay leaders.** They struggle to know when a colleague needs a soft hand or word of comfort and encouragement, or a strong guiding hand (or swift kick). *Pray that the Good Shepherd will show His under-shepherds how to best help the team. Pray for sensitivity.*
5. **Pastors continue to minister to members who dislike them and even conspire against them.** When a member or family that has been critical has a sudden crisis, pastors do not have the luxury to let their sinful nature call the shots. They go and do everything possible to minister to the family in Jesus' name. *Pray that the Lord will enable pastors to minister to everyone, regardless of attitude. Pray for the Holy Spirit to rule their lives and decisions.*
6. **Pastors proclaim Christ's message to everyone in love, with power, by hope.** Sooner or later, many pastors will have to lead worship services immediately after receiving a harsh or discouraging word. They have to turn off the personal stuff, try not to be discouraged by harsh looks or words, and preach the message of Christ. In the flesh, this is impossible. *Pray for pastors to abide in Christ at all times, to keep their eyes on Him, to have the mind of Christ. Pray for focus.*
7. **Pastors try to set an example in their giving, even when their salary is inadequate.** Pastors and their families sometimes go without necessities to be faithful to the Lord in their tithing and giving to special needs. They trust Him to meet their needs, according to His promises. Even though most will never know the extent of their giving or sacrifice, the Lord will know. *Pray that congregations will adequately compensate their pastors and ministry staff. Pray that pastors and congregations will be faithful and generous.*
8. **Pastors want to build libraries and resources, but without spending too much** of the family income on books or continuing education or even conferences. It's a constant struggle. *Pray that the Lord will provide, through His church, enough resources for the pastor's continuing education.*
9. **Pastors want the church to grow, to reach the lost, to increase the finances, but without manipulation.** It's easy for pastors to succumb to temptation to lay guilt trips on the congregation in order to coerce members to do what they should be doing naturally and easily as Jesus' disciples. *Pray for a spirit of love and truth.*
10. **Pastors want church members to like them, yet they must strive not to do things just to please the crowd.** Pastors must not seek to curry favor with the people they've been called to serve. They are servants of the congregations, for Christ's sake (2 Corinthians 4:5). *Pray for pastors to be obedient to the Lord, no matter the cost.*

The above is adapted from an article of the same title by Joe McKeever. At the time he wrote the article, 2017, he had pastored for 42 years.