

Celebrating 75 Years of Mission



Our Mission Remains the Same...
Living as Christ's Witnesses

May Prayer Guide

*Join us in daily prayer, and for our monthly Prayer Meeting—First Wednesday of the month, 10am Eastern Time on Zoom.
For the Prayer Meeting Zoom link, contact Rev. Peter Meier, pmeier@flgadistrict.org*

Suggestion: Use the “10:02 Prayer” – set your phone or wrist alarm for 10:02 daily and use that time daily to pray for workers in the Lord’s Harvest Fields (see Luke 10:02).

God Speaks: Read Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:1-2,7-8, “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and His Anointed One... He said to me, You are my Son; today I have become Your Father. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance and the ends of the earth your possession.”

As we continue the celebration and afterglow of Easter, we move to Jesus’ Ascension and the Pentecost. While the news media barrages us with things to fear, and the “powers that be” tell us that our faith doesn’t matter if we want to get ahead in the world, God tells us differently. Ascension is the holiday that no one seems to notice, but it is a powerful message and assurance for us. Those who appear to rule the world are actually under Jesus’ Lordship. One day they will know it. God reigns and we worship and serve Him. We bear His name and carry it as we are going. We need not be intimidated by the world and its power, nor are we attracted to it. We are attracted to our beautiful Savior – crucified, risen, ascended and ruling for the good of His church. We serve and we witness in obedience and fearlessness! To God be all the Glory!

Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious; See the Man of Sorrows now!
From the fight returned victorious, Ev’ry knee to Him shall bow.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crowns become the Victor’s brow.

Hark, those bursts of acclamation! Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station; Oh what joy the sight affords!
Crown Him! Crown Him! King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

LSB 495. Public Domain

**So that at the name of JESUS, every knee will bow
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Philippians 2:10-11

MONDAY

ADORATION (LSB 949:2)

*All creation, all redemption, join to sing the Savior's worth;
Lamb of God whose blood has bought us, kings and priests to reign on earth.
Wealth and wisdom, pow'r and glory, honor, might, dominion, praise,
Now be His from all His creatures, and to everlasting days!*

CONFESSION

- + For considering our "doing" and busyness as more important than time spent with the Lord in prayer
- + For letting our mind wander down ways that are not Christ-glorifying
- + For allowing the world to stoke fears within us, rather than trusting in our King Jesus and praising Him for His daily goodness and faithful love
- + For harsh words, spoken deliberately; for thoughtless words spoken hastily – not realizing their hurtful impact on others and on our witness
- + For every lost opportunity to share the Good News of the Savior
- + For failure to remember that Jesus is Lord of lords and King of Kings ruling over His church for our good
- + For taking on the ways of the world, rather than to have the same mind in us that was in Christ Jesus
- + For our lack of self-discipline in our devotional and prayer life
- + For not considering our lives a living sacrifice, offered daily to our Savior

THANKSGIVING

- + For Jesus' ascension and coronation as King of kings, Lord of all creation
- + For opportunities to worship together with other Christians
- + For daily opportunities to live for Him who died for us and was raised again
- + For people in our lives with whom we can share the story of Jesus and his love
- + For God's saving will for us, which has called us by the Gospel and enlightened us with the Holy Spirit
- + For God's Word which clearly shows us God's will that He wants all people everywhere to be saved
- + For connecting us with people who are open to the Gospel's message, and that God would keep our eyes open daily for these people
- + For the undeserved privilege of being included as partners with God in His mission, His work of reconciling the world to Himself
- + For the 75 years of Mission in the Florida-Georgia District – "Our Mission Remains the Same—Living as Christ's Witnesses"
- + 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 Holy Spirit's work of aligning our hearts and minds with the mind of Christ.
- + For the joy of knowing Jesus as our Savior, living as his forgiven, loved, restored ones
- + For the joy of seeing others come to know Jesus as their Savior, forgiven, loved, restored
- + For Florida-Georgia Prayer Partners and Intercessors; Pray that the number of praying partners grows!

TUESDAY

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

+ That the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of (*name your friends, family members, co-workers*), to receive the Lord’s invitation to “come and see” God’s grace and mercy for themselves.

Names of those you know who need to be connected to Jesus (or grow in faith in Jesus)	
1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

+ God, help me to build a caring relationship with (*name of your friend, family member, co-worker*). Help me become whatever kind of Christ-like servant they can identify with so that by all possible means they will be saved.

+ “Open Prayer” –

- Open Heavens – against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places
- Open Pathways – for protection against all obstacles of the Evil One as we are going, making disciples
- Open Doors – that God will open doors for daily witness to His perfect power, mercy and grace
- Open Tongues & Hands – that God will use our mouths and hands to bless others in His name
- Open Minds – that the Holy Spirit will open the minds of others to receive our witness
- Open Hearts – that hearts will be prepared by the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the Good News of Jesus

+ Against every spiritual stronghold and idol in our communities—Holy Spirit, give us discernment to recognize them and boldness to stand against them; that the enemy will not distract, confuse or turn us off course...

especially in these areas targeted for new starts or restarts: In GA – Clarkston, East Point, Milledgeville, Macon, Tifton, Savannah, Valdosta, Swainsboro; In FL: Amelia Island/Yulee, Jacksonville, Nocatee, Titusville, Rockledge, Orlando, Lake Nona, The Villages, Clermont, Harmony, Haines City, Four Corners/Davenport, Bartow, Port St. Lucie, Ft. Lauderdale & Miami areas, Homestead/Florida City/Kendall, Miramar, Port Charlotte, Babcock Ranch, Lehigh Acres, Lakewood Ranch, Venice, Naples; and Prison Ministry.

+ That in God’s strength, the sins and sorrows of this life will not prevent us from seeing His loving purposes unfold in all that is happening in our time

+ That the Lord of All will protect pastors, teachers, church and school leaders from the Evil One’s temptations which would distract from the mission work to which they are called

+ For deliverance against temptation and evil, for the addicted and despairing, for the tortured and oppressed, for those struggling with sin

+ That the Holy Spirit will fill us with a white-hot passion to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors

+ That we may put on the whole armor of God, so that we can stand against the schemes of the devil... so that we are able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take our stand (Ephesians 6:10ff).

+ That the Holy Spirit will protect and enrich the marriages and families of our leaders and church workers, so that the Evil One will not separate what God has joined together

+ That we will not give in to lukewarmness in the practice of our faith and witness; that we stand firm in the face of Satan’s temptations to pull us away from time with the Lord in prayer and His Word

+ Against the lying 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

+ Pray for protection against every form of the Enemy’s attacks – especially for President Rockey and his staff, for our FLGA Mission Team: Peter, Debbie, Victor, Scott and Mike, and for fellow intercessors.

WEDNESDAY

DISTRICT MISSION & OUTREACH

We pray for Students and Campus Ministries:

- + **That God will move our congregations** to see their local campuses as their mission fields, and to support campus ministries as partners in ministry
- + **For parents and pastors to encourage students** to continue their walk with the Lord as they consider which college they will attend after HS graduation.
- + **University Lutheran, FSU, and Florida A&M, Tallahassee – Pastor Jay Winters**
 - For student leaders, preparing for campus ministry in the coming schoolyear
- + **Christus Victor Campus Ministry, Athens GA – Pastor Greg Michael**
 - That God will bless student leaders who are being trained with “the Missionary Pathway” over the summer months
 - For incoming students, that they will find healthy connections as they begin their experience, and for our efforts to connect with them so that we will be helpful as they grow in and live out their life of faith during their time on campus
 - For those who graduate, that their transition to new situations and new church homes would be healthy
- + **Thrive Campus Ministry, Florida Gulf Coast University, Estero – Pastor John Roth & Campus Ministry Leader Ashley Reijm**
 - For the “Wings Up” Podcast which focuses on various topics that affect students from a faith perspective, that God might use this to connect more students even over the Summer months
 - For the five students in the Greek Club – they will be in an advanced class next year, and for the beginners class that will start in Fall; for the 13 who participated in the faculty/staff Bible study; for Wednesday’s “Reason for God” studies
 - For those students who started to attend FGCU as a result of the classes Pr. John taught at FGCU, two of whom joined the worship team
 - That student leaders – Grant, Jaden, Chad and Peter – will truly be models for others to follow and be blessed in their diligence and outreach for the campus community.
 - Pray that Pr. John’s chaplaincy with the FGCU police will come to fruition.
 - For the selection process of the next FGCU President. Pray that whoever is selected will see value in campus ministry and that we will continue to enjoy favor at FGCU
- + **Live Ministries, UCF, Orlando** –that God will bless Pastor Paul vonWerder (Hope Orlando) and DCE Eric Gerken (Prince of Peace Orlando) providing leadership for discipling students and leaders; for the student leaders God has gathered that they will find joy in connecting with other students in their micro-groups.
- + **University of North Georgia, Dahlonega GA – Pastor David Kruger, St. Peter Dahlonega**
- + **University of Florida, Gainesville FL – Pastor John Glover, First Gainesville**
- + **University of South Florida, Tampa; Univ of Tampa – Abby Moss, Messiah Tampa**
- + **University of Tampa – Pastor Dan Prugh, Holy Trinity, Tampa**

THURSDAY

DISTRICT MISSION & OUTREACH

- + Ask the Lord to open eyes and hearts to the many opportunities for church planting and outreach among the 60,000 new residents who move into Florida each month. Pray for the upcoming “Church Planting Essentials” church planter training this month.
- + 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
- + Pray that every congregation will see themselves as participants in planting the Church – starting something new, making new disciples, participating in the District-wide 75th Anniversary Thankoffering
- + Pray for the President’s Equip Conference Planning Team as they prepare for this event under the theme, ***Living as Alongsiders: Disciples Making Disciple-Makers***, September 28-30. Ask God to use this to raise, multiply, and position each disciple in our FLGA District.
- + **REV7:9 project**, the partnership of the District and Mission Nation Publishing, seeking to help congregations start new local ministry with neighbors of differing cultures. Pray for **Rev. Dr. Victor Belton**, Project Director, and for **these participating congregations and pastors**. Give thanks for steps being taken to initiate and strengthen inter-cultural ministries. Pray for every spiritual force of darkness to be overcome, that the eternal destiny of all redeemed by Christ will be proclaimed and received with eager joy.
 - Lord of Life, Stockbridge GA, Rev. Carl Morton
 - St. Paul, Peachtree City GA, Rev. Mark Dahn
 - Trinity, Savannah GA, Rev. Jeff Webb
 - Mt. Calvary, Warner Robins GA, Rev. Andrew Howe
 - Faith, Merrit Island FL, Rev. Andy Schermbeck
 - Christ, Lakeland FL, Rev. Chris Hazzard
 - Holy Trinity, Tampa, Rev. Dan Prugh
 - Good Shepherd, Gainesville GA, Rev. Dan Sparling
 - Bethlehem, Jacksonville FL, Rev. Dana Brones
 - Hope, Plant City FL Rev. Dean Pfeffer
 - Our Savior, Lake Worth FL, Rev. Jacob Roedsens
 - Our Savior, Plantation FL, Rev. Tony Durante
 - Christus Victor, Athens GA, Rev. Greg Michael
 - University Lutheran, Tallahassee FL, Rev. Jay Winters
 - Messiah, Tampa FL, Rev. Mark Adrian
 - Oak Road, Lilburn GA, Rev. Andrew Wrasman
 - Trinity, Rockledge FL, Rev. Ron Meyr
 - St. Paul, Weston FL, Rev. Scott Henze
 - St. Paul, Boca Raton FL, Rev. Steve Carretto
 - Grace, Naples FL, Rev. Keith Lingsch
 - The Pelican, Naples FL, Rev. Mark Eisold
 - Peace, Decatur GA, Rev. Terrell Davis
- + Ask the Lord of the Harvest to identify more such congregations who wish to start new ministry with neighbors of differing cultures. Particularly pray that our congregations will be open to reaching the 1.5 and 2nd generation of immigrant groups.
- + Pray for our **Lutheran elementary and pre-schools**, as well as Early Childhood Centers. Ask God to bless the witness they give that the Word of Christ will reach into families and communities through our Lutheran schools! Pray for our **School Administrators, Teachers, Helpers and staff members** as they share Jesus’ love and His Word daily with children and families.
- + **Stepping Stone Mission/New Life Mission** in metro Atlanta, Rev. Joseph Song. Ask God to bless their efforts to feed and clothe homeless brothers and sisters, and to share the riches of Christ with them
- + For Pastor Matt Peeples and the **Kairos Network**. Pray that God will bless **The Missionary Pathway** training for everyday disciples, and also the **Monday Mission Insights** YouTube video shorts.
- + For Thank God for all **Lutheran Bible Translators** volunteers who give time and talent in service to the Bible translation movement, and ask for God’s protection over LBT missionaries and partners who serve in sensitive areas of the world.
- + For **everyday disciples**, that they may see and learn to love their personal mission fields, and so to engage as the priesthood of all believers. Ask God to show you who He is sending you to and to enable you to listen and to share the Good News.

FRIDAY

GREAT SENDING – PEOPLE IN MISSION

- + **Join in the 10:02 Prayer daily (Luke 10:2)** - Ask the Lord to raise up and send workers into His harvest fields. Pray that God will raise up more faithful pray-ers for the harvest in every congregation, flgadistrict.org/prayerpartner/
- + That **each person in the FLGA District** will be Jesus' instrument to bring His healing, peace, and comfort to those who are fearful or hurting in any way.
- + For **President James Rockey and the FLGA staff**: Laura Zirbel, Jennifer Tanner, Peter Meier, Jay Wendland, Kathy Keene, Cindy Hammerstrom, Debbie Arrington, Meridith Swanson. Give thanks for these servants and bless their ministry!
- + For our **elected District Leaders**: Vice Presidents Victor Belton, Jay Winters, Charles Reich, David Brockhoff and Stephen Carretto, for District Secretary Greg Michael, for Circuit Visitors and members of the District Board of Directors, that they will bring wisdom and leadership to the mission of God in our District.
- + For our **FLGA Area Mission Facilitators**: Victor Belton (Georgia), Mike Mast (Southwest FL), and Scott Gress (Southeast FL)
- + For President Emeritus, **Dr. Gregory Walton**, who serves as LCEF's VP of Ministry Solutions, Grace Place Wellness.
- + **Pastor John & Yolima Cobos**, serving at Messiah Latino, Tampa and Hope, Plant City
- + **Pastor Miguel & Katherine Sanabria** reaching out to Spanish speakers at Immanuel Church and School in Brandon. Ask God to bless their multi-ethnic congregation initiative. Pray for Kat who is enrolled in the Deaconess program at the Center for Hispanic Studies
- + **Pastor Mark Eisold** at Pelican Golden Gate, Naples who is working with four Haitian Creole and Spanish ministries: **Pastor Charelus, Vicar Jean Jaques, Deacons Mendez and Sanchez**; Also **Pastor Andre Mezilus** and **Vicar Niclau Alcena**. Soon three deacons will be placed at local congregations to start new Hispanic ministries.
- + **Megan Miessler & Rick Armstrong**, Lutheran Counseling Services; pray for those whom they serve
- + **Sheryl DeWitt** and **Deaconess Alex Schick**, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, especially for the second maternity home in East Dundee, IL and **Deaconess Lori Trinche**. Pray for the moms and babies who are blessed by this ministry.
- + **Rev. Bill Schmidt**, Operation Barnabas Coordinator – a network of care for Military members, families, & veterans.
- + **Rev. Jay and Julie Das**, training pastors in Pakistan
- + **Rev. Gustavo and Ruth Maita**, LCMS Missionaries in Puerto Rico. Pray for continued good health, plans for time in the States to share about God's work and raise support; for the English class for homeschoolers in Ponce. Ask God for His favor and direction for a future project of planting cocoa and plantain trees in their vacant overgrown field.
- + **John List**, Lutheran Life Editor and Publisher, that our District magazine will bring encouragement, ideas and useful information to the people of our District and beyond.
- + **Missionary Lophane Laurent**, Mission Haiti. Pray for much needed funds to continue the monthly food distribution program; for safety and health-both physical and spiritual.
- + That the eyes of **every believer** will be opened to the Harvest around them that is ripe, ready, diverse, and abundant!
- + For those **missionaries** you/your congregation know and support in your Jerusalem... Judea... Samaria... Ends of the earth; Pray that the Gospel will be made clear through missionaries serving in sensitive areas world-wide.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

MISSIONS IN THE CHURCH AT LARGE

- + For the congregations of our 35 Districts of the LCMS that they will vigorously make disciples in their communities
- + For our LCMS as we prepare for the Convention this summer in Milwaukee; for those making arrangements, for Floor Committees as they meet this month; for the process of electing a President
- + 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 believers around the world will be more observant and attentive to people around them, prompting them to pray and serve with Jesus' love.
- + That pastors and church leaders will get adequate sleep and rest to keep physically, emotionally and socially healthy, caring for themselves as God's instruments in His mission
- + 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, showing them His purpose and their part in His vision of Revelation 7:9, "a multitude no one can count from every tribe, language, nation and people group."
- + 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
- + 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
- + For our seminaries (St. Louis & Fort Wayne) and our Concordia University System (Chicago IL, Seward NE, Mequon WI, Ann Arbor MI, St. Paul MN, Austin TX, Irvine CA) that Christian leaders would be prepared by the Holy Spirit using these schools for mighty use in God's mission, whether as professional church workers or as every day disciples who follow Jesus and serve others in His name
- + Pray for persecuted believers around the world, especially in areas where persecution is being ramped up for pastors and Christian people.
- + That there will be a mighty movement of prayer to be birthed in cities large and small throughout the world
- + That followers of Jesus will walk daily in the power of the Spirit, living and sharing the Good News

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, for the Supreme Court and all Judges, that they will make godly decisions for the common good
- + 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
- + 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 God's protection for our nation and its people, especially for protection of our military personnel and their families, for police and firefighters as they serve and protect our communities

Six Mission Prayers for our 75th Year

Florida Georgia District, LCMS

Our Mission Remains the Same – Living as Christ’s Witnesses

In this, the 75th Anniversary year of The Florida-Georgia District, we focus on prayer which is the first work of God’s people. God has invited us to pray, and we know that He delights to answer His people’s prayers. He invites us to “ask the Lord of the Harvest to send workers into His harvest field” and so we pray daily at 10:02 (Luke 10:2), calling on God to send workers – to prepare and send us! You are also invited to join boldly in the following prayers, 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 2023:

1. **A CULTURE OF EVANGELISM.** Pray that you and the members of your church will grow in having Gospel conversations 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 2023.
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 2023 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!