

GOD SPEAKS

"...spread out your hands to Him in prayer."

JOB 11:13

When I was young, I was taught to fold my hands in prayer, most likely to keep those little hands from doing all sorts of distracting things. In the Bible, we learn that there are other prayer postures for our hands. You might consider some of these as you pray:

1. **Surrender - Hands Up:** Hands held up may be a sign of surrender. My life is not about me. I surrender to Your Lordship, Jesus. I surrender my preferences, my position, my prejudices to You. I surrender my fears, finances, friends, and family to You, trusting in Your love and care for us all.
2. **Generosity - Hands Open:** What I have is not mine; I am simply a steward of all You have given me. I want to mirror Your generosity, to be an example of how You, God, have opened Your hand to us and lavished Your love and life on us. Use me and my hands to model this characteristic of You to those in my life.
3. **Mission - Hands Forward:** I hold my hands forward as a symbol of mission, of living for something greater than myself. I want to embrace Your kingdom mission, welcoming the stranger, the lost, the least, the lonely. I offer Your love in Jesus to the poor, the powerless, the privileged, and the persecuted.

These postures might help you consider your personal response to God's sacrificial, generous and welcoming hand to you. As we celebrate the gifts of the Reformation this month, we consider how we may share them with our neighbors near and far.

Lord Jesus, You have loved me with a sacrificial, generous, and welcoming love. You have placed me in a position to share that love with others. Use me and my hands to share the Father's heart of love and bless me with opportunities to speak of that love to others in Your powerful and saving name. Amen.

Job
11:13

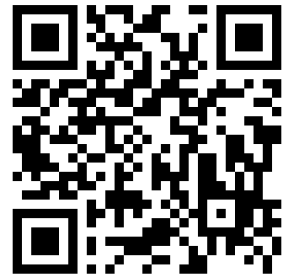
As for you, if you
redirect your heart
and spread out your
hands to Him in prayer.

CALL TO PRAYER

Luke 10:2

The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field.

SET YOUR ALARM FOR 10:02



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October MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE



**EQUIP, EMPOWER, ENGAGE,
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS.**



1 That each person in the FLGA District would see themselves as an Along-Sider, bringing Jesus' joy to their neighbors and coworkers and friends. Pray that the Holy Spirit will show each person someone whom they can disciple as a disciple-maker.

2 Pray that our Lutheran schools will be faithful mission outposts, reaching unchurched families with the Gospel and strengthening the faith of church families.

3 Pray for the areas which have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. Ask God to provide relief, to provide and protect volunteers, and to bless the work of our FLGA Lutheran Emergency Response Team under the leadership of Jay Wendland & Joel Matthews. Ask God to give volunteers the opportunity to witness Jesus' compassion.

4 Pray for the Puerto Rico FORO gathering, beginning today and continuing through Sunday. Give thanks for the support of congregations and our FLGA District for the work of church planting and Gospel outreach in Puerto Rico and ask God's blessing.

5 Pray for pastors and leaders preparing for weekend worship, that they will keep focused on God's mission and His purpose for gathering and sending His Church.

6 Ask the Holy Spirit to continue and increase the work of aligning our hearts and minds with the mind of Christ so that our lives always point to Jesus.

7 Praise God 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, to make more disciples.

8 For everyday disciples, to see and learn to love their personal mission fields and engage as the priesthood of all believers. Ask God to show you who He is sending you to enable you to listen and to share the Good News.

9 Join in prayer with Lutheran Bible Translators for missionaries and translation consultants to enjoy good health and provide wise guidance to local leaders. Pray for missionary kids to do well in school and to make godly friends.

10 Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of those you know who need to receive Jesus' invitation to come and see God's mercy and grace for themselves.

11 Give thanks for 15 years of Gospel ministry by Stepping Stone Mission in the Atlanta area, and for Rev. Joseph Song's ministry in this mission field among the homeless. Ask God to bless all who gather for their 15th Anniversary celebration.

12 For pastors and leaders of Circuit 7 who meet for a Mission Convocation at St. John, Ocala today. Pray that they will be blessed and encouraged as they consider what it means to be part of a District-wide "Plant The Church" initiative.

13 For emerging new mission starts, and those which are still in the "dream" stage, that the Lord would help new faith communities sprout up and flourish throughout the District.

14 Pray that every congregation will see themselves as participants in planting the Church—making new disciples, starting new ministries, planting new micro-churches and multi-sites, starting new congregations, or leaving a mission legacy.

15 Give thanks for our District staff meeting today for an Executive Staff meeting followed by an All-Staff Ministry Anniversary celebration. Give thanks for the ministries of President James Rockey, Laura Zirbel, Peter Meier, Jennifer Tanner, Jay Wendland, Rusty Huseman, Kathy Keene, Cindy Hammerstrom, Debbie Arrington, and Meridith Swanson.

16 Pray that every believer will feel a burden for the lost, will pray for open doors, open hearts, and boldness in witness and service.

17 Pray for Rev. Bernard Julmiste and Grace Tabernacle Lutheran Church in Broward County as they provide spiritual guidance and support through community outreach and counseling programs in Ft. Lauderdale and in Haiti.

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

19 Give thanks for the life-giving ministry of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries hosting its annual Gala today. These Christ-centered maternity homes in FL and IL offer love, hope, and a future to single pregnant women in crisis.

20 For 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

21 Ask the Lord to use your mouth and hands to bless others in His name, and others will be ready to receive our loving witness.

22 Ask God to bless the LCMS Black Clergy Conference meeting this week in Memphis; especially pray for God to raise up leaders and harvest workers from among these congregations.

23 Pray for everyday missionaries near and far that God will give them an understanding of the culture around them, knowledge of the people to whom they are called, and insights for the most effective methods to share the Good News of Jesus.

24 Pray for the many not-yet-believers who attend our Lutheran schools and Early Childhood Centers. Pray that God would work through His Gospel to bring them to faith in Jesus, and that they would share this Good News with their families.

25 Ask the Lord of the Harvest to give wisdom and creativity to congregations who want to begin new outreach ministries in their communities.

26 Pray that each believer will know the Father's heart in such an intimate and beautiful way that they will be moved to share God's great love with others in their lives.

27 Give thanks for opportunities to worship together with other Christians, and for the joy of seeing others come to know Jesus as their Savior, forgiven, loved, restored, and precious in His sight.

28 Ask the Lord to bless missionaries around the world with consistent and meaningful times of prayer, worship and Bible studies. Pray that God will bless them with adequate rest, closeness with the Lord, and protection from spiritual attack.

29 Pray for your neighbors to experience the joy and peace that are found in Jesus alone, and that you might have the privilege and opportunity to share these gifts with them.

30 Pray that God's people will be blessed with perseverance, especially when facing challenges to their faith. Pray for boldness in sharing the Gospel, and assurance of God's strong presence.

31 Reformation Day - "Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word!" Give thanks for the work of reformers throughout the history of the Church and pray that God will keep us always reforming according to His Word and will.