

Pray for the Mission

December 2014-January 2015

Use these prayers and prayer points to lift up our District missions to God's throne of grace on a regular basis, knowing that God promises to hear and answer the prayers of His people. Use them for your own personal prayers, for corporate worship, Mission Committee meetings, staff meetings, small group Bible studies, etc. Adapt these prayers as you wish to meet your needs.

These prayers are published monthly, and are available via the District's website, www.mnsdistrict.org, and by e-mail subscription. To subscribe, e-mail billy.schultz@mnsdistrict.org. For MNS District mission information, contact Rev. Dr. William Utech, Assistant to the President for Missions, 952-223-2151 (direct line), or william.utech@mnsdistrict.org.

O Holy Spirit of Christ, Teacher, Helper, and Friend; Open the hearts and minds of many this Christmas time to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ; that those who are insecure, or empty, or aimless, may find in the One from Bethlehem all that they need today, and much more besides, for His name's sake. Amen.

Dearest Jesus, in every difficulty there is an opportunity for Christians to demonstrate Your grace, wisdom and truth. Help me to step up and step into the opportunities and relationships of my life to be Your witness through the words and deeds I share. By Your Holy Spirit, help me be slow to speak and slow to anger, knowing that rarely does anger demonstrate hope and trust in You. Keep me from being judgmental of others while respectfully demonstrating my confidence in Your ways. Bring peace to our nation Lord, and let it begin in the heart and behavior of believers. All this I pray through the mercies and grace of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.*

*You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.*

*Everything is yours;
do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace.
That is enough for me.*

- St. Ignatius Prayer

Pray for our Missionaries and Mission Outposts of The Minnesota South District:

- Over 130,000 missionaries/members of LCMS Congregations in the Minnesota South District
 - 245 LCMS Mission Outposts/Congregations & Schools in the Minnesota South District
 - Vicars NomTsa Vang & Yia Lor, Neej Tshiab (New Life) Hmong, Robbinsdale
 - Vicar Toua Vang, Our Saviour Hmong, St. Paul
 - Vicar Vue Lee, King of Kings Hmong, Roseville
 - Rev. Yia Vang, St. Stephanus, St. Paul, and Hmong Mission Facilitator, MNS District
 - Rev. Francis Stephanos, Mekane Yesus Fellowship, St. Paul
 - Rev. Demelash Oumer, Emmaus Oromo Ministry, St. Paul
 - Rev. Lusenie Fofana, Bethel Liberian, St. Paul
 - Rev. James Ruey, Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Church of Southern Minnesota, Mankato
 - Rev. Simon Dup, Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Church of Southern Minnesota, Albert Lea & Austin
 - John and Mariam Gayed, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO), Rochester
 - Deaconess Luz Guerrero, Metro Hispanic Outreach
 - Rev. Derek Broten, Woodbury Lutheran-Oak Hill campus
 - Rev. David Larson, Church Planter-South Minneapolis
 - Rev. Tom Braun, Church Planter -St. Peter, MN
 - Rev. Darren Scruggs, Hosanna Highland, Mankato
 - DCO Kurtis Smith, UpWorks and Rev. Dr. Funghatou Lo, LINC-Twin Cities
 - Rev. Tom Park, Hmong Ministry, Bethlehem, St. Paul
 - Rev. Monte Meyer, St. Peter, Vernon Center
 - Rev. Chad Kirchoff, ReDO fitness
- Long-Term and Career Missionaries from the MNS District
- Jack & Cathy Carlos
 - Rachel Cassada, Ghana, West Africa
- Staff of the Minnesota South District:
- Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, President
 - Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer
 - Mr. Kurt Fuhr, LCEF Vice President
 - Rev. Dr. William Utech, Assistant to the President for Missions
 - Dr. Phillip Johnson, Assistant to the President for Mission Formation (Regions 1 & 2)
 - Rev. Fred Hinz, Assistant to the President for Mission Formation (Regions 3 & 4)
 - Rev. Dr. Mark Noren, Executive Assistant to the President
 - Mr. Sean Martens, Director of School Services
 - Mr. Billy Schultz, Director of Communications and Mission Support
 - Support staff: Gae Ash, Julie Bigler, Linda Bradford and Debra Connolly
 - LCEF Staff: Maria Hendrickson, Jocelyn Polley and Dick Swedean

Prayer Requests From Our Missionaries:

- Pray that the 250+ mission outposts and their members and friends in the MNS District will grow in their efforts to be intentionally engaged in the Mission of God in creative and unique ways throughout the year.
 - Ask God to give you opportunities to introduce your Friend Jesus to others, and that you will notice and take advantage of these opportunities.
 - The Evil One desires to destroy God's kingdom and derail the mission efforts of people and congregations. Pray that God would frustrate these schemes, while moving His kingdom forward.
 - Think of three people you know who are not Christian, or who are "disconnected" from Christ. Write their names down and pray daily for each by name, asking the Holy Spirit to prepare them to receive the Good News of Jesus, and to give you the opportunity and courage to share that Good News. Pray for mission zeal, stamina, wisdom and discernment for all of our mission workers, especially for our district missionaries:
- Rev. Francis Stephanos, Evangelical Mekane Yesus, St. Paul:**
1. Pray that the plan to provide opportunities to communities to learn about Christ through prayer and spiritual songs, home visits, and one on one contact may lead people to Jesus as their Savior.
 2. Pray that we may move out of our comfort zone and proclaim Christ to those who do not dare to come to church.
 3. For Pastor Hailu Grobo preparing to enter the colloquy process

Rev. Demelash Oumer, Emmaus Oromo (Ethiopian) Ministry, St. Paul:

1. For the Oromo Annual Spiritual Conference to be held June 2015 in Minnesota

Rev. Lusenie Fofana, Christ Evangelical Ministries, St. Paul:

1. For Caroline Moore, Sam Marsh & family, Solomon Kromah, Janet Sonie & children (single mother), Tee Fofana, Wilma Ward, Lucy Deputic and Munila Paasew (a Muslim), Ben Woto and Felicia Brewer and family
2. Thanksgiving for a family of 5 who were baptized!

Rev. Yia Vang, St. Stephanus Hmong, St. Paul:

1. For those who received our CDs at the Hmong New Year, that the Holy Spirit will bring them to faith in the Lord Jesus as they listen to the messages
2. For the Hmong Ministry joint Christmas on December 21st

Vicars Johnny Vang & Yia Lor, Neej Tsiab (New Life) Lutheran, Robbinsdale

Thank the Lord for:

1. Keeping His faith, grace and Word at Neej Tshiab
2. The health and wellness of the congregation
3. Redeemer Lutheran for providing a place of worship
4. The members of Neej Tshiab
5. Support from MN South District
6. An awesome Urban Summit conference at Concordia St. Paul
7. Safe trip to Eau Claire
8. Great Thanksgiving holidays

Ask the Lord for:

1. The assistance of the Holy Spirit to continue to work at Neej Tshiab
2. To heal and help those who have fallen to sins
3. Guidance and blessing for business venture, Accessible Home Health Care, LLC
4. Encouragement for those who have not been to church for a long time
5. Visions that are aligned to God's Mission
6. To strengthening our faith in Christ despite what's happening in the world today

Vicar Vue Lee, King of Kings Hmong, Roseville:

1. Pray for church planters
2. Pray for God to bless those who support others so that more can be done
3. Pray for the elderly, that caretakers and children will honor them
4. Pray for pastors' wives

Vicar Chong Toua Vang, Our Saviour's Hmong Lutheran:

1. For continued blessings and growth in Christ.

John Gayed, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO), Ethnic Friendship Center, Rochester:

1. For more volunteers to meet the growth of the students coming in.
2. For one of the Arabs from Saudi Arabia as we share God's love with him.

Rev. Darren Scruggs, Hosanna Highland, Mankato:

1. For the students as we walk with them in their journeys. Praise God for one who, along with her father, was baptized!
2. For our Do Good Stuff as we helped a widow clear out her water damaged basement!

DCO Kurtis Smith and Dr. Funchatou Lo, UpWorks, Minneapolis and LINC-Twin Cities:

1. Pray for Somali English students to continue to think about Jesus and meet him in their dreams during this Christmas season
2. Continue to pray for people to grow hearts for mission to become partners with LINC TC by either becoming financial supporters, prayer warriors, or volunteers
3. Open doors to share with the suburban and rural churches about LINC Twin Cities

4. Wisdom and guidance to Pastor Seabaugh as he is putting together the curriculum for "Harvest Incubator for Mission" training
5. For students to enroll in the "Harvest Incubator for Mission" training program. The training will be starting in the Spring of 2015
6. For DCO Intern Bob Etheridge for wisdom to research on how LINC TC can successfully implement the ANY4Christ ministry
7. For Kurtis Smith's family
8. That we are able to keep a kingdom perspective and work in collaboration with other Christians as we develop missional leaders

Deaconess Luz Guerrero, Metro Hispanic Outreach:

1. Praise God for showing the way to go in our ministry
2. For meaningful relationships with the new people I am working with at Trinity First and the Synod, that we can all glorify God with our work
3. That I may show love, patience, kindness, forgiveness, self-control to all the people I am in contact with through classes, visits, Bible studies
4. For wise use of my time regarding prayer, work, and rest

Rev. David Larson, Church Planter-South Minneapolis:

1. Thanksgiving for the hiring of a Children's Ministry Director
2. For the upcoming launch of our Miracle Grow Community.
3. For continued regular gatherings of the Lake Hiawatha Gospel Community

Rev. Simon Dup, Sudanese Lutheran Mission Church, Albert Lea:

1. For our ministry growth and pray that the South Sudan conflict might conclude peacefully.

Rev. James Rucy, Sudanese ministry in Mankato:

1. For Sudanese churches and communities in North America
2. For the congregations in Malakal Upper Nile, South Sudan to keep them safe during these crises and be with families that have lost loved ones during the war

Rev. Derek Broten, Woodbury Lutheran Church-Oak Hill:

1. That we would continue to be focused on the 70,000 in our community that don't Jesus.
2. That we would be willing to risk for the sake of the Kingdom and ask one family to be a part of what God is doing at the Oak Hill Campus
3. That we would continue to find ways to break into our community creating relationships with those who don't know Jesus.

Rev. Tom Braun, Church Plant, St. Peter Mission:

1. For the Holy Spirit to richly bless the new families I am instructing in their homes every week
2. For the Lord's blessings on fund-raising calls being made by Tom
3. For the Lord's blessings as Tom seeks to deepen the commitment level of attendees (of course through the power of the Holy Spirit)
4. For Tom's conversations with people in the coffee shops in St. Peter
5. For the Lord's blessings on new contacts being made in the St. Peter community
6. For the blessing of the Lord as we investigate the use of a building in St. Peter that can help us do sustainable ministry.

Rev. Thomas Park, Bethlehem Hmong:

1. Pray for Bethlehem's call process

Rev. Monte Meyer, St. Peter, Vernon Center:

1. That God would continue to bless our orientation and reputation and a family-centric church
2. That the idea of being a "regional ministry" would take hold in our community
3. That we would be bold and courageous in our witness

Rev. Chad Kirchoff, ReDO fitness:

1. Pray for the families who support this ministry and Pastor Chad in his ministry

Mission Hymn of the Month:

*Savior of the nations come, Virgin's Son make here Thy home;
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.*

*Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child, of the Virgin undefiled.
Though by all the world disowned, still to be in heaven enthroned.*

*Thou, the Father's only Son, Hast o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be; when shall we Thy glory see?*