

Day Three:

For Our International Partners

“Thank You, Lord, that You have bound us together with these sister churches and leaders and partner networks. We pray that You will give them protection and provision. We pray that You will show us how we can come alongside them, encourage them, and serve with them. Lord, grant our brothers and sisters Your favor in their cities, communities, and countries. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

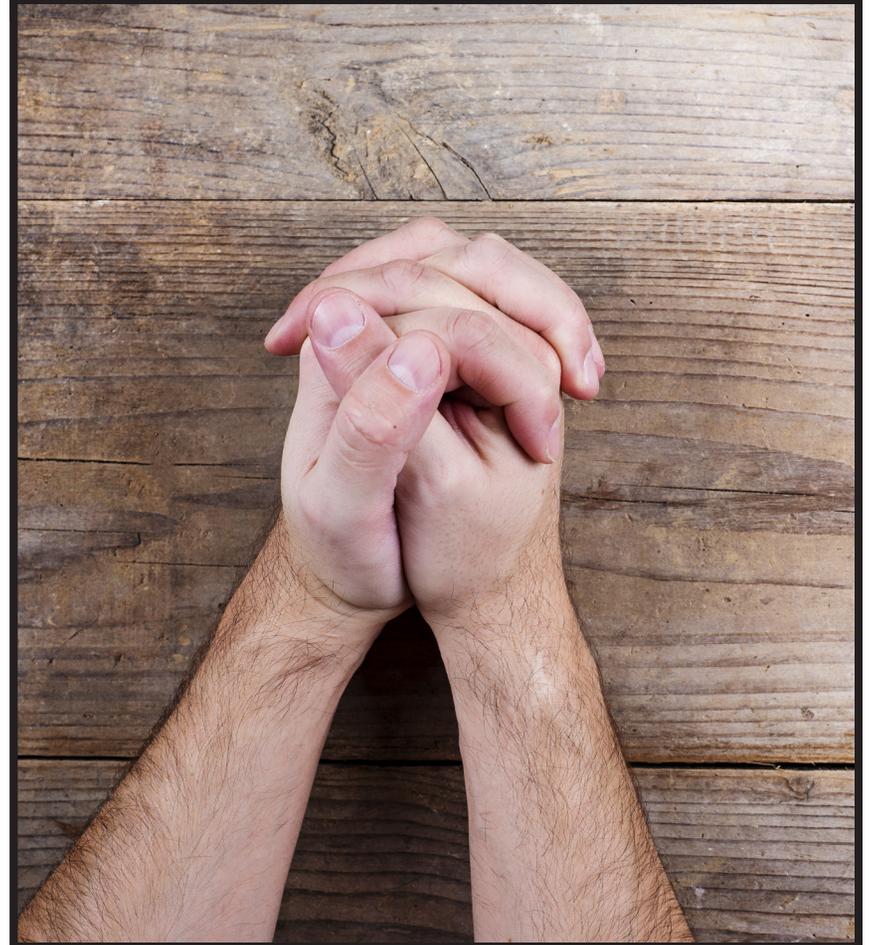
We are blessed as an association to not only have sister churches here in the United States but also sister churches and partner networks in fifteen other countries around the world. Together we are involved in the mission of the gospel that God has called us to and equips us for through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus says: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” It is with and through our international partners that we are being empowered by God to live out this reality of being witnesses of what God has done in and through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is with and through our international partners we are enabled by God to live these lives of witness locally, regionally, and throughout entire countries.

Let us pray for God’s protection and provision for our sisters and brothers in other nations. Let us pray for God’s leading in how He would have us reach out to them and partner with them in the coming year. Let us pray for God’s provision of food, medicine, clean water, and safety where these are needed. Let us pray for the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit to fill our sisters and brothers afresh and grant them God’s favor as they give witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in their cities, communities, and countries.



11th Annual Three Days of Prayer



This year, you are encouraged to use the Lord's Prayer as an outline to pray. Praying the Lord's Prayer as an outline can give form to our prayers and provide space for us to pray according to each petition for the churches or people we are focused on that day. Pray each petition one at a time, then pause and pay attention to what comes to mind. Then pray out of those thoughts or impressions. For instance, pray "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name," and pause. Then pray words and thoughts of thanks to God for being your Father, for His love, and for His goodness toward you. Glorify His name in prayer. Then pray the second petition, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," and pause. Think of how you would love to see God's Kingdom life break in on those you are praying for, and then pray for them. Pray for relationships, emotions, or bodies to be healed. Pray for someone to become aware of God's love for them. Pray for peace in someone's life or in a region. And so on. Continue to pray each petition one at a time, pausing to listen to thoughts, scriptures, and impressions that come to mind, and then pray for that church, that person.

Day One: For Our Congregations and Leaders

"Lord, we pray that You bless our congregations and leaders with Your favor and with Your provision and power to carry out the ministry and mission You have in store for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

What can God do through almost 1,000 congregations in the United States and overseas? How many people can He impact with His love and His power through the tens of thousands of members in the churches of LCMC? Wouldn't it be wonderful if our testimony in the years to come is that God was at work in and through our association, drawing millions of people to faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord? Discipling millions of people to live as followers of Jesus? Filling millions of people with the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit? Healing millions of people physically, emotionally, and relationally as well as setting others free from whatever held them captive?

As I have said before, this is not hyperbole. This is in fact what God can do in and through our association in the coming years. It is what can happen as the Holy Spirit empowers us to live lives of witness (Acts 1:8), serve as ambassadors for the kingdom of God who have a message of life to proclaim (2 Corinthians 5:20) and God-stories to share (1 Peter 3:15). With that in mind, let us pray for God's

provision and empowerment upon the members, leaders, and churches of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

Let us pray for new congregations in LCMC to be welcomed and connected in relationships with other congregations and leaders in the association and in their regions of the country. Let us pray for provision: provision of people. Provision of just the right relationships in our communities at just the right time. Provision of finances for ministry and mission. Provision of favor with community leaders and with those who do not yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Provision of training resources to equip God's people for what the Lord wants to do in us and through us. Provision of spiritual gifts that can help us impact others with God's love and God's power. Provision of the joy and boldness to share our God stories that come through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit being stirred within us.

Day Two: For Those Who Don't Yet Know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and For the Prodigals

"Lord, give us Your heart for those who don't yet know you as Savior and Lord, and for the prodigals. Create in us a boldness to love them and serve them and to share our God-stories with them as opportunities arise. Open our eyes to be aware of everyday encounters in which we can minister Your love and Your power to those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

We know that our Lord Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10, ESV). And we know that our Heavenly Father is a father who joyfully welcomes home the prodigals. Today, let's pray that God will bring us together as one across our association in praying that millions might be drawn to a relationship of love for and faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Let's also pray that the Lord might bring home the prodigals who have walked away from a life of faith in Him. Lord, bring home our spouses, bring home our sons and daughters and grandchildren. Lord, bring home our friends and neighbors. Let's pray that God might set them free from any woundedness or deception that has driven them away from their relationship with Him. Let's pray that they might experience God's love and acceptance and affirmation as His beloved daughters and sons.