

Prayer of the Church – 8.22.21 – Pentecost 13

Leader – Pastor Johann (Outdoor) & Melinda DeWan (Indoor)

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. We pray for countries experiencing violence, disease, hunger, and unrest (**especially Haiti and Afghanistan, and many of the nations of Latin America, and South Asia**). Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to aid those in need. Sustain and keep safe all who work to defend, safeguard, and promote the common good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Scott, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Alex, Carson, Jackson, and Erica.**

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of ventures, anoint us with the missionary zeal of the early church. Bless our missionaries **Megan, Mark, Krista, and Joel in Africa, Gustavo and Ruth in Puerto Rico, Bethania Kids in India, Jon and Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Braille Workers worldwide, and the many other missionaries** and relief workers we support financially and prayerfully.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to the cries of the victims of violence in our cities and random acts of violence. Comfort and heal the ill, both physically and mentally, **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lilli, Jim, Donna, Pastor Eric Peterson, Pastor Ralph Wiechmann, Alyce, Pastor Bill Flammann, Bob, Jeanne, Bob, David, Diane, and Carolee as**

well as our friends and family requesting our prayers. Keep our children safe until they have had opportunities to be vaccinated. Surround them with your unwavering presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for hungry spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another, strengthening our ministries of feeding and nurturing neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Mike, Barry, Jeanne, Amelia, Sharon, Ethan, William, James, Alexander, Elizabeth, Susan, Georgia, Aulikki, Genevieve, and Evan.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal the Holy Spirit's love, life, and light in the midst of disease, destruction, desperation, and despair.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**