

Prayers of the People (April 19, 2020)
OUR COMMUNITY

*(Romans 8) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **As the Holy Spirit leads, give thanks to God—he is for us and will never leave us or forsake us.***

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea... Sovereign God, we thank you that you are in control. Bring to mind stories of your faithfulness to combat our fear and worry. We proclaim our trust in your perfect timing. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for the Lord to transform our thoughts by the renewing of our minds.***

Father, we come to you on behalf of the Smithfield employees. Bring healing to those who have fallen ill. Give comfort to their families, especially those who have lost a loved one. We pray that you would break down any barriers that prevent full understanding of how to be safe and what to do if symptoms arise. Lord we pray against any division within our city. May all those affected feel the love and support of our community. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for the Smithfield employees and their families.**

Lord, use this pandemic to turn the hearts of many toward you! Boldly walk with us into opportunities to speak of your eternal healing, and give us a powerful word of explanation when we are asked where our hope comes from during this time. Let your church rise up in the midst of this uncertainty and confusion. Give us wisdom to know how to serve others, while keeping ourselves and community safe. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray that we as believers would creatively serve our neighbors and boldly share the hope of Jesus.**

God of wisdom, we ask you to grant knowledge, insight, and resolve to our city council as they vote on the shelter-in-place order for Sioux Falls. Lord, send wise counselors to instruct them and enable their minds to discern what is best for our community. Protect our council members and mayor from anyone who desires to harm them in any way. God, open the minds of our entire community, specifically those who claim Christ, to the radical living of “others first” that you have called us to. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for our city council.**

Abba Father, we come before you on behalf of the children in Life Church. May your still small voice be the loudest one in their ears. Hide them in the shelter of your wings, and may they cast all of their anxieties on you. Provide structure, stability, security, and fun in their homes. Grant their parents wisdom as they help them navigate the uncertainties that lie ahead. Use this time to strengthen our children and grow them closer to you. **As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for the children of Life Church.**

Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayers. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.