

Prayers of the People (April 5, 2020)
OUR COMMUNITY

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

As the Holy Spirit leads, praise God for His peace that passes all understanding.

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 everything is in your control. Give us patience and help us to trust in you. Your timing is perfect.

As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for the Lord to intervene with his mighty power to end the destructive spread of the coronavirus.

Romans 13:1 says, *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.* Holy Spirit, strengthen and sustain Mayor Ten Haken, Governor Noem, and other leaders in our communities. May their decisions be wise and beneficial and may the public be gracious, kind, supportive, and obedient. ***As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for our leaders, especially Mayor TenHaken and Governor Noem.***

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. Bless the efforts of organizations coming together like Corona Help Sioux Falls and others who are serving our community. ***As the Holy Spirit leads, pray that we as believers would boldly share the hope of Jesus.***

Now Father, we pray for the teachers and students in our community. Grant wisdom, strength, and patience to the teachers as they put in long hours to connect with their students and keep them learning and growing. God, be near to the students in this time of uncertainty. Protect their minds, bodies, and spirits, especially those who come from unhappy homes or stressful family dynamics where abuse may be more prevalent and food insecurity is a real worry. ***As the Holy Spirit leads, pray for the teachers and students in our community.***

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 and stability where there is so much potential for chaos. 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.