

PRAISE & PRAYER
April 15, 2026
First Mennonite Church

PRAISE:

Father, thank You for the calling we have received to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We know that on our own we are not capable, but in You we find everything we need. May our lives be instruments in Your hands, bringing flavor to those who do not yet know You and dispelling darkness with the light of Your truth.

Pray for our workers of the week: Eldon & Jan C.

Thank you for your faithfulness to trust the Lord with us for the points below. We appreciate your prayers very much!

Praises & Prayers:

- For several years Jan has led Bible studies at the Allen County Juvenile lock-up, and has had great joy in seeing the teens hear and respond to God's Word. In early March the Bible studies were stopped, with the reason being a lack of staff (staff are needed to both accompany the kids to the Bible study and to be in the units). A meeting in April was promised to bring more information, which has not yet happened. **Pray** the Bible studies can be started again—the Word of God changes young lives! There is a Sunday morning meeting, but interaction and actual Bible study is limited.
- **Pray** that as Jan and other Christian ladies interact with mostly M'slm women who attend English classes at the International House, the Holy Spirit will open hearts to the witness and message of Jesus through the Christian volunteers.
- While our refugee friends are here legally, some have had long waits for immigration documents to be issued. **Pray** for justice in the bureaucracy and for documents to be issued.
- Over the past years you have prayed for various refugee friends who seemed to gradually open their hearts to hear the Gospel. Thank you for praying! Two weeks ago, one of our Rohingya friends, "S", called Eldon asking to get together, and ended up praying to ask Jesus into his life! **Pray** for the strong work of the Holy Spirit to bring revelation and understanding to him as Eldon begins to disciple him. **Pray** also for "M", another Rohingya friend who says he believes what Eldon has shared with him. He needs to choose to follow Jesus over just "agreeing" about Him. When Eldon recently gave them both small MP3 players with the books of Luke and John in Rohingya, they both lit up with joy to hear this in their own heart language.

Pray for 6 unspoken requests.

Pray for comfort for Mark & Debby Neuenschwander and other family and friends in the death of Debby's father, Jerry Gerber, on April 10.

CHURCH: Pray for VBS. **Pray** that all of the volunteer positions would be filled; also **pray** for the children who will be attending, that they will be open and receptive to hearing about Jesus.

Persecuted Church: It has been one year since the Syrian government fell, and church leaders report that Christians are living in a climate of fear. Violent words threatening to kill Christians have been written on church walls and in Christian areas. **Pray** for protection and peace of believers, and strength to endure in this environment.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Hospital: Abby Tumbleson (making good progress at Lutheran Hospital and has been transferred to rehab)

Swiss Village: Rev. Stan Liechty (in rehab recovering from a fall); Twyla Sprunger (on Hospice; **pray** for strength and encouragement)

Home: Roger Beck (recovering from abdominal surgery); Lois Lehman (**pray** for continued healing of her short-term memory); Roger Von Gunten (**pray** for complete recovery after another hospital stay to replace a pacemaker); Amber McAlhaney (scheduled for shoulder surgery on Thursday)

FOR THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

- Jim & Linda Eicher
- Neill & Edith Von Gunten
- Bruce Granger
- Jenni, Lexi & Colton Garringer
- Olha Kalchenko, Oleksandr, Yevgenii & Davyd
- Loren & Pat Claassen
- Rick & Tiffany Gorrell
- Barbara J. Sprunger
- Tim, Carla, Ryan, Chloe, Isabelle & Cameron Steffen
- Chris, Shelby, Forrest & Nelleigh Reusser

PRAYER:

Lord, we pray that You would make us salty in how we live, and that You would make us shine brightly in how we proclaim the Gospel as we reveal Christ to people. Guide us each day to grow in faith and boldness, reminding us that we carry the incredible responsibility to influence this world for Your Kingdom. May our lives be a testimony of Your power to transform and redeem.

Please phone Praise & Prayer items to the church office, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 589-3108; or Jim Schwartz, 525-0124