

Prayer of the Church – 8.11.24 – Pentecost 12

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices, as we center on you, the Bread of life.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for creatures we are stewarded to tend, that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but let us extend grace, as we pray for our enemies. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers and bring an end to war and conflict, **especially in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific region.** Strengthen international cooperation, including those of our partners, such as **Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Social Services**, and keep safe those who, often in harm's way, work to safeguard and promote the good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Jackson, Stephen, Bryson, and Brendan** as well as our **missionaries** whom we are blessed to support financially and prayerfully.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today, in-person or virtually. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill, **especially Donna, Ralph, Bob, Paul, Donna, Mary, Ray, Diane, Jan, Helen, David, Alison, and Bernie** as well as our **friends and family requesting prayers, and those whom we name in our hearts.** Give courage to all who struggle with addiction.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations, like Good Shepherd, experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. Bless the work of our preschool and its supporters as we embark on an expanded and new ministry to young children and their families.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lord, fill those who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to address the hunger in this world. May all have access to the Bread of life in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Empower our ministries that serve our neighbors and nurture our partnerships with organizations, such as **Cornerstones, the food pantry, The Closet, and Women Giving Back**. Help us express Christ's unconditional love, as we seed, give, and serve with our time, treasure, and talents.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Bless the comings and goings of the Good Shepherd community with your protection. Let all journeys be met with hospitality on the way, and let community members return to us in celebration.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Grant wisdom and clarity to all in seasons of discernment and transition: graduates preparing for jobs or college, those shifting careers, and those navigating relationship challenges. Accompany them with your peace.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Michael, Bob, Matt, Debra, Henry, Emmett, Luke, Tyler, Stephanie, and Ron**. May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal God's goodness, grace, and glory.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen**.