

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Email info@gloriadeilcms.org
Website www.gloriadeilcms.org
Phone 612-781-1989
Fax 612-254-8401

Pastor **Matthew Cephus**
Phone 612-227-3974

Pianist As Scheduled
Office Administrator Jeni Hofstede-Bryan
Ministers All members of Gloria Dei

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



Worship Schedule for February 2026

February 1 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC

February 8 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC

February 15 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC

February 18 Ash Wednesday Service with the Imposition of Ashes

February 22 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC

*This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

John 15:12

God's love is central to the Christian faith and is often described as unconditional, sacrificial, and enduring. According to the teachings of Jesus, as reflected in John 15:12—"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you"—God's love serves as the model for how Christians are called to love others. It is a love that seeks the well-being of others, forgives, and welcomes all, reflecting the grace and mercy God continually offers humanity.

This divine love is not based on our actions or worthiness but is freely given. It is most clearly demonstrated through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who, out of love, gave himself for the salvation of the world. God's love inspires and empowers believers to care, share, serve, and reach out to others.



Newsletter February 2026. Pastor Matthew Cephus

Reflections on a Rag Rug

In the small town, there was a husband and wife who lived outside of town. They were displaced persons from eastern Europe who fled their homeland during the rise of Communism following World War II, and they eventually settled in the Midwest. They were very industrious people, besides being active and faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus. One of the side jobs they had was braiding rag rugs. People would bring them old garments, which the couple would then cut into strips, skillfully braiding these into beautiful and useful rugs. What was always interesting was looking at the underside of the rug and then comparing it with the rug's upper side (the side that faced up). The underside of the rug often looked like a jumble of random strips and colors, with no apparent pattern that pulled everything together. In contrast with this was the rug's upper side, which revealed beautiful and intricate patterns that this couple was able to pull together out of all those random strips and colors of discarded cloth.

There's something for us to learn here. In this life, we often see only the "underside of the rug." There may seem to be only random occurrences and events with nothing that pulls everything together. We long to see that beautiful "upper side of the rug" which makes sense of the many "strips and colors" of life. This is the promise of our Lenten Lord, who endured the cross for our sake, giving his very life as payment for our sins. He is the One who says, "Behold, I make all things new" ([Revelation 21:5](#)). He is the One who is ready, willing, and able to pull everything together for his love's sake, not only in this life, but for all eternity.

Both on the individual level, as well as the collective level, it can be hard to see how everything fits together in life. It can be a challenge to see an overall pattern of something that is beautiful to behold. Although we usually cannot choose what happens to us in life -- (health crisis, economic disruptions and inflation, immigration crisis, etc.) we can choose how we will respond to what happens to us. Paul the apostle closes out his first letter to believers in the city of Thessalonica with these words: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" ([1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)). Note that Paul says give thanks in all circumstances; he doesn't say give thanks for all circumstances. There is a difference. Can we give thanks amid life's circumstances that are painful or unpleasant? Can we give thanks when all we see is that jumbled underside of life? Faith looks beyond what is seen to what is unseen ([Hebrews 11:1](#)). We look beyond Lent to Easter; beyond crucifixion to resurrection; beyond death to eternal life. We trust that the Lord who has begun this good work of saving faith in us will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ ([Philippians 1:6](#)).

That beautiful "upper side of the rug" is being revealed in each of our lives slowly but surely. The "big reveal" won't come until that great and final day when Jesus is fully and finally revealed as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Until then, we walk by faith trusting that the common thread which pulls all the pieces together is God's redeeming love made known in Jesus Christ. It is in Jesus that we know God is for us, not against us (Roman 8:31). Hardship and loss, suffering and grief, pain and heartache are no match for our God! We worship and serve a God who has taken the "big gulp" and who has swallowed up death forever ([Isaiah 25:7-8](#)). That is what we celebrate every Sunday, but especially on Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Jesus invites us to turn over the tattered rags of our lives to him so that he may, by his amazing grace, skillfully weave them into a beautiful tapestry for his glory and praise.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry -- February 2026

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

Readers Needed – Gloria Dei is always in need of readers for Sunday Services

We welcome volunteers to assist with the reading of scriptures during Sunday services, as your participation adds richness and variety to our worship. Whether you are a seasoned reader or would like to try for the first time, your involvement is greatly appreciated. If you feel called to serve in this way, please reach out to the church office for more information or to be added to the schedule. Every voice helps bring the Word of God to life for our congregation.

Thank You!

Please add to your Calendar:

Ash Wednesday is February 18 and Gloria Dei will host a 5 pm Service with the Imposition of Ashes. This service will not include Holy Communion.

PORTALS OF PRAYER

Each daily devotion includes a Bible reading, meditation and prayer to apply to your daily life, published in multiple sizes and formats. This this years' subscription prices: Pocket size (regular print) is **\$10.25**, digest-size is **\$20.55** and large print is **\$22.25**. Within your box of envelopes is an envelope for the **Portals of Prayer** payment. Please use the designated envelope when you make your payment. *Thank you!*



SALVATION ARMY: Fill Our Grocery Cart!



Our cart is always located in the lobby ready to be filled – items in demand are 100% juice; low sugar cereal; canned chicken, salmon and/or pork; low sugar canned fruit; soups (low sodium); dry or canned beans; granola bars and dried fruit; rice (white, jasmine, or brown); salad dressings; condiments and spices. Hygiene items: toothpaste; toilet tissue; shampoo; bar soap; deodorant. Please remember those less fortunate as you shop for your groceries. **PLEASE, NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ONLY.**

THRIVENT CHOICE® DOLLARS 2025 DOLLARS EXPIRE MARCH 31, 2026 – ACT NOW!

Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. Thousands of 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations—including churches, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more—are enrolled in the Thrivent Choice program. Thrivent Choice® provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about.

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following: • Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products. • Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products. Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis. Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

To direct your Choice Dollars, simply call 1-800-Thrivent (1-800-847-4836), when asked for a subject, say "Choice Dollars." When asked for a choice, press 1. Then answer the next question with your birth date. A Thrivent representative will then come on the line, tell the representative you want to direct your choice dollars to **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**, 3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418.

Bringing generosity to life!



Upcoming Community Events

"Evening with Irving Berlin"

Immaculate Conception Church, 4030 Jackson Street NE, will present an "Evening with Irving Berlin" on **Saturday, February 7**. Full buffet dinner with social hour starting at 6 pm, Dinner at 6:30 and Show 7:45. Tickets \$40. Reserve your ticket(s) by calling 763-788-9062 or visit website ICCSonline.org

Duchnovich Day Celebration

The Rusin Association will hold its annual Duchnovich Day Celebration, **Saturday, February 7**, St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center, 1701 5th Street NE. Starting at 1 pm there will be a lecture by Dr. Nicholas Kupensky on the Carpatho-Rusyn national awakener, Aleksander Dukhnovych, followed by dinner. Dr. Kupensky is an associate professor of Russian and Foreign Area Studies at the United States Air Force Academy and lectures at the Carpatho-Ruthenorum Summer School in Presov, Slovakia. Reservations required for dinner but not for the lecture. See <https://rusinmn.org/activities-events/> or contact at Rusinmn@gmail.com.

Second Precinct Advisory Council

Join your neighbors from Northeast and Southeast Minneapolis to keep up to date via monthly Second Precinct Advisory Council (2-PAC) meetings, in person or on Zoom. The next meeting is **Monday, February 9, 6:30 pm**, most likely at Monroe Village Community Room, 1900 Central Avenue NE. Meetings generally include a guest speaker, crime statistics updates from police leadership, and community Q and A time. Stay in the loop at www.courtwatch2pac.com where you'll find meeting minutes and other related announcements. To get on the 2-PAC email list and for meeting details, contact emilieinmpls@gmail.com.

Drive Thru Community Dinner at St. Timothy's

Tuesday, February 10 – 5:00-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). Free and open to all and all are welcome! St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is located at 825 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights. Spread the word!

Free Community Meal - February 12 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month, from 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates are Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.

Irish Dance Party

It's a month early, but Minneapolis Parks and Recreation will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an Irish Dance Party **Sunday, February 15** at the Nicollet Island Pavilion. Wear your favorite green and get ready to step, stomp, and shuffle to the lively rhythms of traditional Irish dance. Lessons are welcoming and beginner-friendly, with plenty to enjoy for seasoned dancers too. No fancy shoes needed—tennis shoes or soft-soled shoes work great. Mactir Academy of Irish Dance will guide you through the steps. All ages welcome, no partner or experience needed free admission & free parking. 3-6 pm.

Every Meal Open House

We're opening our doors and would love to welcome you to an open house at Every Meal on **Thursday, February 19** from **4:00 - 5:30 pm**.

Join us for a casual, come-and-go experience where you'll explore our newly expanded and renovated warehouse, connect with the people who make the mission possible, and see how nutritious, delicious, and culturally relevant food reaches more than 12,000 children across Minnesota each week.

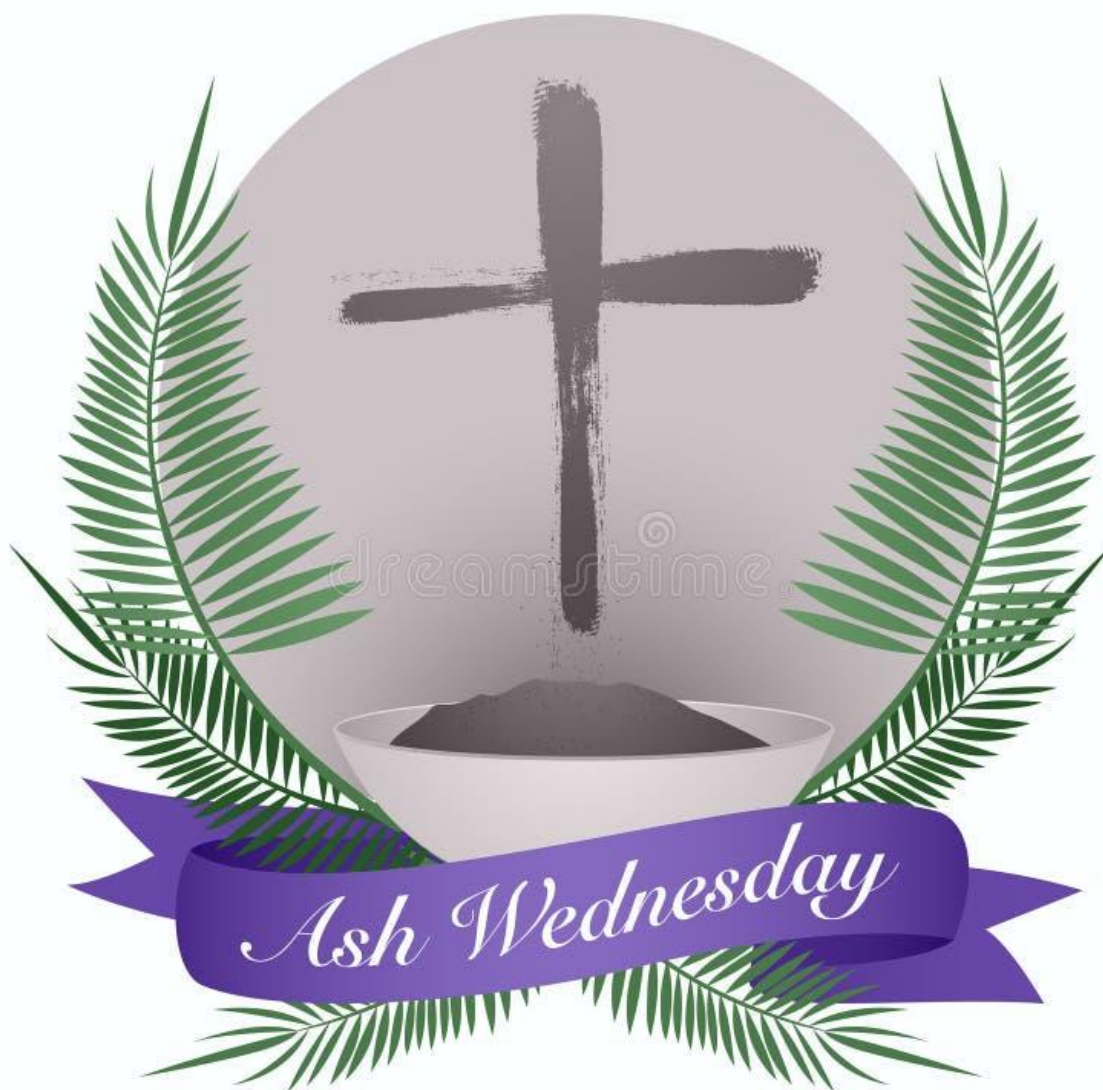
This is a great opportunity to learn more about child hunger in our communities, ask questions, and better understand Every Meal's impact because of supporters like you.

Light refreshments will be available.

Every Meal Warehouse is located at 2723 Patton Road, Roseville, MN 55113

Days for Girls Sew-a-Thon

The Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club will host a **Days for Girls Sew-a-thon** at Northeast United Methodist Church, 2510 Cleveland Street NE, Saturday, February 28, 9-11 am. The volunteers will be making feminine hygiene kits for girls in developing countries. The completed kits will be distributed by various volunteer organizations to girls in developing countries so they can continue to stay in school and have choices in their lives. No sewing experience is required and training will be provided to assemble the kits.





THE LUTHERAN HOUR

WCCO 830 AM Radio

Heard each Sunday morning at 6:05 am

*Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigle
(unless otherwise noted)*

February 1 "Rotten Tomatoes" 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Boasting gone wrong—it's the rotten fruit of rightful praise. It happens when we forget that everything we have is a gift, even the things we think we've earned and deserved.

February 8 "Type C" 1 Corinthians 2:12

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God.

February 15 "Up and Down the Mountain" Matthew 17:1-9

Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Schutz

Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you.

February 22 "As Through Fire" 1 Corinthians 3:13

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

To be baptized into Christ, to trust in Him, is to die with Him, to be raised by Him, to pass through the fire under His shelter.

Before You Speak THINK

T	is it	TRUE?
H	is it	HELPFUL?
I	is it	INSPIRING?
N	is it	NECESSARY?
K	is it	KIND?

JANUARY OFFICIAL ACTS:

None

TIME OF GRACE

Sundays KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 AM

www.timeofgrace.org

You can also watch any *Time of Grace* program on-demand on the Time of Grace YouTube channel. Straight talk about God's Word and Real Hope for this Life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

Pastor Mike Novotny

The CORE in Appleton, Wisconsin



Daily Devotions from The Lutheran Hour Ministries

With several ways to read and listen, you can get your daily does of Scripture when you need it.

Visit lhm.org/dailydevotions to subscribe for email delivery to your inbox, sign up for the podcasts, or download the app for your mobile device – all for **FREE!**



Main Street Living | Twin Cities

Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at **9 am** Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30-minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. This program is totally funded by viewers and others who want to keep the Gospel available to those who cannot or do not attend worship services on a regular basis.



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	2 Groundhog Day Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	3 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	4 11am Bible Study	5	6 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	7 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
8 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	9 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	10 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	11 11am Bible Study	12 	13 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	14 Valentine's Day 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
15 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA Newsletter Deadline	16 President's Day Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	17 5 – 7 pm GDLC Council Meeting 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	18 ASH WEDNESDAY NO Bible Study 5 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Imposition of Ashes	19	20 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	21 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4 – 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
22 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC – Guest Pastor Bruce Laabs 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	23 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	24 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	25 11am Bible Study	26	27 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	28 

NEED TO CATCH UP ON GLORIA DEI'S RECENT SERVICES?

Check out our website, where you will find a "Watch Live" *click here to watch* section on our Homepage, you will then be redirected to Gloria Dei's YouTube page, where you will always find the last Sunday's service. To view previous Sunday services click "Live" (Home Videos **Live** Community) you will then be taken to the page with the previous Sunday services, click on the one you want to watch.

February Special Occasions



<div>4th Debra Panning 5th Derald Hadrath 11th Lillian Troiden 16th Tim Harris 16th Tom Harris 28th Brian Morelli</div>	<div>No Anniversaries</div>
FEBRUARY SERVANTS	
Elder:	
Ushers	Counters
1 st Tom and Patty Lyrenmann	1 st Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather
8 th Tom Harris and Wade Billmeyer	8 th Sandy Westling and Tom Harris
15 th Tom Harris and Wade Billmeyer	15 th Shirley Holzinger and Wade Billmeyer
18 th Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli	18 th Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli
22 nd Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli	22 nd Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli
Candles	Flowers
1 st OPEN	1 st OPEN
8 th Shirley Holzinger, Brother Larry's Birthday – 10 th	8 th OPEN
15 th Sandy Westling, Grandson Chris' Birthday	15 th OPEN
18 th (Ash Wednesday)	18 th OPEN (Ash Wednesday)
22 nd OPEN	22 nd OPEN
If you sign up for flowers or candles after the newsletter is published, be sure to the let the office know. We want to make sure that flowers are ordered and you are properly acknowledged in the bulletin notes. Thanks!	

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES — FEBRUARY 1-29

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God,” Jesus says in Luke 18:16. God wants all His children to have faith in Him, yet sin and brokenness permeate the lives of His people. Children are orphaned, and families are ripped apart. Over the years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has reached out to care for God’s precious children through the mercy ministries of congregations, missionaries and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs).

Remember God’s love and will for children and families as you pray:

- 1.** *for all Christians*, that they would help and defend the orphan and widow, the poor and lonely, the helpless and oppressed.
- 2.** The purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord: *for mothers*, that they might rejoice in their vocation and raise their children in the Lord.
- 3.** *for adoption and foster-care agency workers*, that they would make good and right decisions concerning what is best for all involved — enabling them to find proper families and resources to

meet the needs of the children they serve.

- 4.** *for all children*, that they might be brought to the waters of Baptism and taught God’s Word.
- 5.** Jacob (Israel), Patriarch, thank God for Jacob, through whom came the promise of the Messiah and the 12 tribes of Israel: *for fathers*, that they might raise their children in the Word.
- 6.** *for men as they grow up*, that they may be godly in their youth and their adult years.
- 7.** *for orphanages around the world*, that they might receive

proper funding, food, resources and godly caregivers so that they can provide the best care possible to the children entrusted to them.

- 8.** *for orphanage workers*, that they might be refreshed by Your Word and be good role models and teachers as they provide loving care to those in their charge.
- 9.** *for all orphans*, that they might find Christian families who will nurture them with the love and knowledge of Christ.
- 10.** Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul, thank God for Silas, lesser known, but essential to the work of the Kingdom: *for all church workers*, that all might work as God calls them to serve Him.
- 11.** *for all foster children*, that they might find peace among the chaos as they wait for a proper family to be established.

12. *for all who suffer from domestic violence*, that the Lord would deliver them from danger and comfort them with His peace and forgiveness.

13. Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos, thank God for these examples of earnest learning and meditation in the Word of God.

14. Valentine, Martyr, pray that the love of Christ might be the love celebrated above all loves.

15. Philemon and Onesimus: *for all Christian workers and those in authority*, that all might serve God in their vocations.

16. Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor: thank God for the Augsburg Confession and the other writings of Melanchthon that proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

17. *for all caregivers*, that they might raise children in the truth faith.

FEBRUARY *Pray For Us Calendar*

18. Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor: thank God for Luther's proclamation of salvation by grace through faith for Christ's sake.

19. *for children and parents who are deaf*, that they might know Jesus's voice and be filled with His peace.

20. *for widows*, that they might know Christ as their faithful bridegroom who will supply for their needs as they live their lives in prayer and purity.

21. *for the homeless*, that they might find a warm and safe place to lay their head, food for their bellies, hope for the future and rest in the love of Christ.

22. *for the unemployed*, that they might find suitable and fulfilling employment, fair wages and encouraging support.

23. Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr: thank God for those who continued the teachings of Jesus and gave their lives for the Gospel.

24. St. Matthias, Apostle: thank God for his quiet witness and those who gave their lives for the Gospel without any recognition.

25. *for the poor*, that they might find true riches in the Word of God and be blessed by the generosity of others.

26. *for children who are missing*, that the Lord would keep them from danger, restore them to their families and give them His peace and protection.

27. *for peace among siblings*, that the Lord would help them love and support each other throughout their lives, instead of being divided by bickering and jealousy.

28. *for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*, that they might be treated with respect and love as beloved children of God.

29. *for families*, that they might attend worship to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments.



Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

 THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD