

Prayer Challenge

Pick five prayers to say a week's worth of Missions Prayers with your classroom.

World Missions

1. Native American outreach

Dear Lord of all creation, bless the Apache mission's goal to reach out to the more than 572 tribes in the U.S. and Canada with the gospel of peace in Christ. Move many to be trained in the Apache Christian Training School, so that they will be better equipped to share your message of salvation. Continue to bless the Apache mission's eight congregations, one preaching station, and two elementary schools with a love for souls redeemed by Jesus. Amen.

2. Vietnam

Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—it is by your hand alone that we've been able to conduct gospel ministry in Vietnam. We praise you for letting us support the training of Hmong Fellowship Church leaders at the theological education center in Hanoi. Continue to bless this program that trains pastors, who then return to their congregations to teach other pastors and members. Thank you for giving the members of the Hmong Fellowship Church a love for your Word. May a similar spirit spread across the world so that your kingdom grows rapidly according to your will. Amen.

3. Europe

Almighty God, you have used world events to position Missionary Luke Wolfgramm in Leipzig, Germany. Pour out your Holy Spirit on him as leader of the WELS Europe team as he hosts discussions with a dozen sister church bodies across Europe. Grant your blessing also to those involved with our WELS mission in London, which has many opportunities to share Jesus with immigrants surging into the city. Then, we commend to your care the instruction of students and the continuing education of experienced pastors through the seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany. By your Spirit's power through the means of grace, keep them growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

4. Latin America

Dear Lord, we rejoice in the establishment of a new church in Cochabamba, Bolivia, through the work of Academia Cristo, a ministry that uses the Internet to minister to Spanish-speaking areas of Latin America. We ask your continued blessings for Dr. Eduardo Milanesi as he leads this congregation of confessional Lutherans. We pray also pray for the new Latin American synod, Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional, of which this new Bolivian congregation is a part. Bless all efforts to reach your elect around the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

5. Africa

Jesus, Head of the Church, we praise you for our Christian fellowship with churches around the world including the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ in Kenya. Through these partnerships we can take the gospel to more people than we could alone. We ask you to bless our sister synods by our Christian encouragement, financial support, and theological training. Continue to guide us, Lord, as you open more doors for sharing your saving love with others around the world. Amen.

Home Missions

6. Carbon Valley Lutheran Church, Firestone, Colo.

Lord of the Church, we pray that you would pour out your blessings on our WELS home mission in Firestone, Colo. Give wisdom, endurance, patience, and strength to Pastor Timothy Spiegelberg. Bless the congregation as they use their repurposed facility to build relationships with people in their growing community. We ask your favor on current and potential members so that they may grow closer to Jesus as their Savior every day. Amen.

7. Christ Lutheran Church, Denver, Colo.

Jesus said, "There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." We, too, rejoice as the Holy Spirit brings more sheep into the Good Shepherd's fold through the message of the gospel. Help Christ Lutheran Church in Denver, Colo., as they reach out to people from many nations who live in their neighborhood. Bless their efforts to share the joy of your salvation with many more souls to the glory of your name. Amen.

8. New mission in Kronenwetter, Wis.

Lord God, we pray for our new home mission in Kronenwetter, Wis., near Northland Lutheran High School. Continue to energize the core group of members from area churches including some Northland students. Thank you for the opportunity for these younger members to help take the lead in this mission work. Enable everyone to grow in their Christian faith and their witness through this experience. We pray that you would guide this new church as they seek to call a pastor and start public worship at the high school. Amen.

9. Home mission in Bentonville, Ark.

We praise and thank you, Lord, for moving the WELS Board for Home Missions to approve a new mission start in Bentonville, Ark. Bless the efforts of the 12-person core group as they reach out with Christ's love to their community. Thank you for leading new home missionary Ross Chartrand to accept the call to serve God's people and the community of Bentonville. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

10. Home mission in Panama Beach, Fla.

Savior Jesus, you call us to go and make disciples of all nations. We thank you for leading the Board for Home Missions to approve nine new mission requests in 2023. We pray specifically for the new home mission efforts in Panama City Beach, Fla. Bless the core group from Amazing Grace, Panama City, as they seek to connect with the growing population in their area to pursue multi-site ministry. Use their gospel message, by the Spirit's power, to bring more people into your kingdom. Amen.

11. New mission in Idaho Falls, Idaho

Lord God, we thank you for the blessing of a new home mission start in Idaho Falls, Idaho. This small core group of believers is excited about reaching their predominantly Mormon community for Jesus. Bless the efforts of new home missionary Paul Krueger as he works to bring the gospel message his new community. Grant success to their efforts to the glory of your name. Amen.

12. Refuge Lutheran Church, Durham, N.C.

Jesus, our Loving Shepherd, we pray that you continue to gather your people in the Durham, N.C., area to be nurtured by your good news in Word and sacraments at the new home mission called Refuge Lutheran Church. Bless Pastor Doug Lange and the core group as they connect with the people you put in their lives. Give them hearts like yours to listen and empathize, to offer hope and to pray, as they hear about people's struggles. We also ask, Lord, that through the synod's "100 Missions in 10 Years" campaign many more home mission churches may be started across North America to bring more souls to heaven through your saving message. May your kingdom come, dear Savior! Amen.

13. Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Dickinson, N.D.

Lord of the harvest, we thank you for providing Pastor Joel Prange to serve the new home mission Amazing Grace Lutheran in Dickinson, N.D. We ask you to bless the congregation's efforts as they connect with people in their community. Give them your strength for the challenges they face. Supply the courage they need to be faithful witnesses of your amazing grace in our crucified and risen Savior. Help them to remember that because you live their labor for you is never in vain. We pray this to the glory of your name. Amen.

14. St. John Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, Minn.

Lord God, we praise you for opening the doors for the preaching of your life-giving gospel. When it seemed that doors to ministry were closing at St. John Lutheran in Saint Paul, Minn., due to hardships and vacancies, you were always guiding the church to new opportunities. We thank you for opening the door to Hispanic outreach at St. John. We also praise you for bringing Pastor Tim Otto to serve as bilingual pastor there. Bless his ministry among your people. If it is your will, allow this ministry to flourish as they connect with people in the community, so that many may find peace and salvation in Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

15. Foundation Lutheran Church, Folsom, Calif.

Heavenly Father, continue to equip Pastor David Koelpin and members of Foundation Ev. Lutheran Church in Folsom, Calif., with the zeal to reach even more souls through their weekly outdoor worship service. Bless their labors of love as they serve in your harvest field. Open the hearts of those in the community who visit the outdoor worship venue to not just see you as the God of a beautiful creation, but more importantly, to learn from the Scriptures that you are the God of their salvation through Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Joint Missions

16. Diaspora ministry

Dear Lord, we thank you for moving individuals from many people groups to partner with us in preaching and teaching the gospel of forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus to others both inside and outside our country. We are grateful for the Holy Spirit's rich blessing on that gospel ministry in hearts throughout the world. We ask for your continued blessings on the many immigrants with whom we come into contact. Give us daily opportunities to reflect your love for us through our testimony and our support of the church's ministry. Amen.

17. Pastoral Studies Institute

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit on the instructors and students of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's Pastoral Studies Institute, which provides pre-seminary and seminary training to North American students from a variety of countries and cultures. We praise you that, in many cases, this training also leads to international opportunities to share the Savior's love, since many of these spiritual leaders want training both for themselves and for church leaders in their countries of origin. Continue to open doors to this seminary program and the men trained by it so that they may carry Christ's gospel to more souls. Amen.

