

Ascension Lutheran Church Prayers October 13th, 2020

Our weekly prayers:

Almighty God, your Word reminds us that where two or more are gathered in your name, you are with us. We gather together in prayer, this evening. We are unable to be in the presence of one another, but we rest in your loving and lifegiving presence. Keep us steadfast in prayer and full of hope, amidst the uncertainty that surrounds us. As we lift our hearts to you in prayer, we give you thanks for hearing our petitions for our families, our neighbors, our nation and the world.

We pray for victims of fire and natural disaster, and first responders:

We have grown weary of hearing of about new first that seem to begin almost daily, as well as storms that make landfall upon our coasts. We pray for all those whose lives have been disrupted by the wildfires and natural disasters, wherever they have occurred. Bring hope to those who have lost their homes, as well as those who are still evacuated and waiting for information about their loved ones and their property. We ask for your protection for those who work tirelessly to responding to one emergency after another. Keep all first responders safe, as they put their lives at risk to protect the life and property of others.

We pray for medical facilities and providers:

For hospitals, nursing homes, group homes and other health care facilities. We pray for the health and safety of the patients and residents, of doctors and nurses and all care providers. Protect all who care for others, shield them from infection, sustain them in their work and grant them joy through the love and care that they generously share with others.

We pray for all those who are fighting COVID-19, including the president and first lady. Bring healing as a sign of your presence to all who have experienced the negative implications of this deadly virus. We anxiously await an accessible and effective vaccine, for all people.

We pray for children and families:

As children return to school, in whatever form is made available to them, we pray for their safety and a sense of security and hope for them. We are mindful of school teachers who are doing their best within the parameters that they have been given. And parents who find themselves having to play a more active and present role in their student's education. Grant an extra measure of patience and grace to all who are spending their days on Zoom with children.

We pray for all childcare centers and daycare providers that endeavor to support children and families. We remember the children, families and staff of Ascension Christian Preschool, may they remain healthy and well during this challenging time.

We pray for workplaces and our community:

Workers who are anxious about the safety of their workplaces; especially those whose job it is to interact with the public in hospitals, grocery stores, restaurants, public transportation and those who make deliveries. We pray that all people would respect and honor the spirit of social distancing and that our careful interactions would reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We pray for those whose income is uncertain, may they find employment and resources to meet their daily needs. Protect and sustain those who are working to help meet the needs of their neighbors, such as, Sunrise Christian Food Ministry, Sacramento Food Bank and others.

For our leaders, our government institutions and our municipal agencies:

We pray for our leaders who are faced with making decisions about how best to keep us safe. Give them wisdom, mercy and patience to make decisions that are for the wellbeing of all. May reasonable and effective solutions be sought by our elected officials and leaders to ease the burdens of unemployment and homelessness that have increased as a result of COVID-19.

We pray for this election cycle and the confirmation hearings that are taking place for a new supreme court justice. There are as many political opinions, as there are people, but we pray for unity among God's creation. That the peace that surpasses all human understanding might reign in the hearts of all people. That we might encounter difference as good, and disagreement as an opportunity to learn from others. Strengthen and encourage the church to become a house united, that we might demonstrate what unity can look like.

We pray for people who are unable to gather:

We pray for the church in all of her expressions around the globe. Where Christians are assembling for worship, protect them from viral infection. Where Christians are worshipping online, grant them steadfastness in your word. Strengthen those believers who doubt your goodness and sustain all who are weary in their faith, as a result of this global pandemic.

Give our church leaders at ELCA church-wide, Sierra Pacific Synod and Ascension Lutheran the wisdom and courage to make wise decisions about when and if we gather with others. We pray for those who are unable to gather to celebrate significant life occasions, those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

We pray for those who have decided to return to in-person worship. We pray for our COVID Task Force and Church Council as they continue to discern and seek clarity about how and when we might gather in person again. We pray that people would adhere to the guidelines that have been established and be mindful of others who are doing the same. May we come to see masks, not as a social barrier, but an expression of our love for our neighbors.

We pray for unity:

We pray for healing for the broken relationships and lack of trust among people in our communities, the nation and the world. We pray for peace, an everlasting peace, a peace that surpasses our human understanding, that can only come from you, Almighty God. Make us answers to our very own prayers, that we might become peacemakers ourselves, announcing the good news of the coming of your kingdom here on earth, as it is in heaven. We pray for the day when racial tensions have ceased, political bickering has subsided and all of your creation thrives as you intended.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus prayed that his followers might be one. Make us one with him as he is one with you, so that in peace and unity, not uniformity, we may share the message of your love with one another and the community, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.