



Michigan District Prayer Vigil

Prayer Guide

Introduction

Thank you for choosing to participate in this Prayer Vigil.

Your passion for prayer is evident in the sacrifice of time you are making today. As you come to Him, be certain and confident that God will hear and answer these prayers. He will provide you with all you need to put Jesus' words into practice.

If you find your mind wandering or if you have additional time, begin to meditate on one of the suggested Scripture passages relating to the Vigil's theme. They are listed for you on the last page of this document. May this time of prayer and meditation with our Lord open your heart more fully and prepare you for the many challenges and blessings that lie ahead!

Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Precious Lord,

We come to You now asking for the Holy Spirit's counsel in maintaining unity within our congregations and seeking Your guidance through this time of pandemic. Forgive us for the many times we try to go it alone, aim for our own selfish desires, and forget about our commitments to You. Help us to become the people You want us to be, to seek first Your kingdom, and make You the Lord of our lives.

Often, we are uncertain about what to do or which way to turn. We seek Your will, through the Holy Spirit, and ask You to open our hearts more fully. Show us how to develop a lifestyle in harmony with Your commands so that we may experience Your guidance in a special way. Show us where we may be used by You in overcoming obstacles within our paths. Bring peace upon our souls with the knowledge that You will use all difficulties for our betterment and for the growth of Your kingdom.

Lord, thank You first and foremost for sending Your Son, Jesus, to restore our relationship with You. Because of Him, we can now have life and live more abundantly. Let our eyes remain fixed on the motivation for all we do or hope to accomplish—the cross. May we never forget Christ's willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice by giving His life on our behalf in order to pay our sin debt. We look forward with gratitude to the journey that lies ahead and put our entire trust in Your open and enfolding arms.

In Your Son's Holy and precious name, we pray. AMEN.

Friday, May 22 - Lutheran Schools

For the first day of our Michigan District Prayer Vigil, we are focusing on our Lutheran schools. We have 145+ educational settings across the district. We are grateful for the impact our early childhood centers, elementary schools, high schools, and Concordia University are having on the students and families they serve. Although we pray for our schools on a daily basis, we hope to lift up our educational ministries especially during this first day of the Prayer Vigil. Below you will find a sample prayer and several points of focus you can use as you go to our Lord in prayer.

Sample Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our Lutheran schools. We are blessed with the opportunity to educate our young people in an environment where Your Gospel message can be heard every day. Please continue to give strength and encouragement to the educators, students, and families as they wrap up the 2019/20 school year. It has been a challenging time, but You continue to provide. We ask that you pour out an extra measure of wisdom and guidance for our school leaders in the coming months as plans are made for the upcoming school year. There are so many unknowns, but we do know that You will be by our side through it all. Keep our faculties, students, and families safe during the summer months, and bring everyone back this fall ready to learn and grow in their knowledge and faith in You. Amen!

Points of focus you can use in your prayer time

- A successful end to the 19/20 school year
- Wisdom for our leaders as they plan for the 20/21 school year
- Clarity in the coming months on what the beginning of the school year may look like as students return to our buildings
- Safety for all our students, families, and faculties
- Thanksgiving for the peace only God can provide
- Thanksgiving for the work our teachers have done to adapt during this time
- Thanksgiving for the parents who have put in so much effort to support their child(ren)'s education
- Thanksgiving for the students who have been so flexible and willing to adapt
- Financial solutions for the challenges our schools are facing
- Continued encouragement for teachers as they find innovative and creative ways to educate students no matter the circumstance next school year
- Early childhood centers, as they look to open up in the coming weeks/months to provide daycare for families
- Concordia University, as institutions of higher education are facing unique and daunting challenges
- School leaders, as they look to fill open positions with Christian educators
- Patience and understanding for everyone as difficult decisions are made that impact our schools
- Discernment, as we seek God's will in every decision that is made

Closing Prayer

God, we thank You for the graciousness You extend to us as You hear our prayer requests. Sometimes we become confused about what You want from us. Sometimes we focus more on successful service to You rather than on having the proper relationship with You. Give us the understanding of how the words of Christ will allow us to come to a better understanding of what You want for us. We lay these petitions before You with anticipation and excitement about the way You will choose to answer them. Help us to continue in fervent prayer in the days ahead so we remain faithful for the rest of our lives. We give You all the praise and glory for what You are going to do in the hearts and minds of all in the Michigan District. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

Suggested Scripture Readings

- Matthew 11:28 : Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Psalm 46:10 : Be still and know that I am God.
- Psalm 145:4 : One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 : All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.
- Colossians 4:2 : Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
- Romans 12:1 : Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- Mark 6:31 : Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.
- Luke 15:23 : Let's have a feast and celebrate.
- Mark 2:27 : The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
- Ephesians 4:32 : Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Philippians 2:12 : If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.