OCTOBER 2016

Pray For Us Calendar

These prayer requests were submitted by coworkers in the Lord's mission. 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.

CHURCH WORKERS — OCTOBER 1–31 **Pastors; deaconesses; Lutheran school teachers; directors of Christian education, Christian outreach and family life ministry; parish musicians. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed with many faithful church workers who assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, while building up the Body of Christ.**

Remember God's work through the Synod's church workers as you pray:

1. *with overflowing thanksgiving for the many dedicated church workers in the LCMS,* who share in our joys and sorrows. Ask the Lord to comfort and defend them from every assault of the devil.

2. *for the Synod's pastors,* that they would hold fast to the Word of God and find strength to continue preaching and teaching God's truth in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.

3. *that God would bless the work of directors of Christian education,* as they develop educational ministries for children, youth, adults and families.

4. *for the Synod's directors of Christian outreach,* that God would guide their efforts to support a congregation's or organization's outreach and evangelism work.

5. *for teachers in Lutheran schools,* that they would model Christ-like behavior for students and incorporate the Gospel message into each and every day.

6. *for Lutheran school principals and administrators,* that they would lead with integrity and encourage stakeholders to embrace the mission of the school to make disciples.

7. *for the Synod's deaconesses.* Pray that they would be equipped with all things needful to love and serve people in every situation.

8. *for directors of family life ministry.* Ask that God would guide their vital work to strengthen the families in our congregations.

9. *for directors of parish music,* that they would find joy and satisfaction in their work of enhancing the worship life of the church.

10. *for the Synod's commissioned lay ministers,* who work under a pastor's guidance to support a church's efforts in evangelism, Christian education, parish administration and other areas that are God-pleasing.

11. *for missionaries,* who leave home and family to work in far-away lands. Ask God to give them strength, wisdom and protection as they do His work.

12. *for young people who are considering a career in church work.* Ask the Lord to raise up more church workers and to guide young people to seek His will for their lives.

13. *with thanksgiving for Veterans of the Cross,* a program of the LCMS Office of National Mission and Concordia Plan Services that helps retired church workers and spouses pay for necessities like medication, food and utility bills.

14. *with thanksgiving for Soldiers of the Cross,* a program of the LCMS that provides emergency support and pastoral care to current church workers who are affected by natural disasters, illness or other unexpected circumstances.

15. *with thanksgiving for every person who volunteers in a congregation* as an elder, an usher, a greeter, a Sunday school teacher or in another capacity. Praise God that He calls His people to support professional church workers in a variety of ways.



The Rev. Wally Arp, senior pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, Fla., greets children as they arrive to the parish school.

INVOLVEMENT IDEAS

- Do you know a high-school student who is thinking about attending one of the colleges or universities in the Concordia University System? Visit **kfuoam.org/events/concordia-college-fair** to hear folks from each of the Concordias talk about what makes their school unique.
- What does a director of family life ministry do, anyway? Visit **lcms.org/careers-in-church-work** to download a PDF about the roles of different church workers.
- Learn more about Soldiers of the Cross by visiting **lcms.org/sotc**. Visit **lcms.org/votc** to learn about the Veterans of the Cross program.

PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

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16. *for sole pastors and other church workers who don't have a ministry team,* that God would provide the support and encouragement necessary to refresh them for their service each day.

17. *for Grace Place Wellness Ministries,* that this Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS might provide respite and refreshment to weary church workers.

18. *for DOXOLOGY,* an RSO of the LCMS, that it might help pastors improve their own spiritual health and enhance their ability to provide pastoral care to others.

19. *for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat,* an RSO of the LCMS, that it might provide healing and assistance to those church workers who are struggling with serious issues.

20. *for seminary students,* especially those who are currently serving vicarages, that they would be welcomed and shaped into effective future church workers.

21. *for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.,* that they would continue to properly prepare future pastors and deaconesses to serve God and His Church.

22. *for Lutheran Education Association,* that this RSO might be a blessing to those who work in our Lutheran schools.

23. *with thanksgiving for every person and organization that supports the Synod's missionaries.* The prayers and financial support of God's people enable them to share the Gospel with people around the world.

24. *for the colleges and universities of the Concordia University System,* that they would equip their students with the necessary knowledge and skills to serve the Church as both church workers and laypeople.

25. *for the health and well-being of all church workers,* that they would utilize opportunities for rest and renewal when needed.



26. *for Concordia Plan Services,* that God would continue to guide this organization in providing employee health, retirement and disability benefits that enable our church workers to take care of themselves and their families.

27. *for military chaplains,* who put themselves in harm's way to minister to members of our armed forces. Ask God to keep them safe as they share Christ's love with our servicemen and women.

28. *for specialized pastoral ministers,* who serve the ill, imprisoned, aging, troubled, conflicted and isolated. Give thanks for their service to people in the midst of tragedy or crisis, and ask God to give them strength for this often-demanding work.

29. *for church workers who are experiencing a crisis.* Pray that the body of Christ would care for them and support them in every need, just as they support others during times of worry and loss. Pray also for all who would gladly serve but are without a call.

30. *that church workers on ministry teams would work together in God-pleasing unity and that their joint efforts would further God's kingdom.*

31. *with thankful hearts for the blessings God gives to His people through full-time church workers.* These faithful men and women love us, care for us, pray for us and teach us the Word of God.

Deaconess Amy Rast, associate director of deaconess formation at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., teaches deaconess students in Tanzania.

MISSIONARY & PERSONNEL BIRTHDAYS

Download the prayer cards of missionaries and other personnel from **lcms.org/prayercards**.

Oct. 4	Graham Guenther, South Korea
Oct. 6	Michele Kuddes, French-speaking Africa
Oct. 11	Deborah St-Onge, Latin America
Oct. 13	Duane Meissner, Belize
Oct. 14	Aimee Cima, Southeast Asia
Oct. 16	Gail Ludvigson, Dominican Republic
Oct. 20	Clarion Fritsche, Dominican Republic
Oct. 21	Mark Moss, Africa; Andrew Schlund, Mexico
Oct. 22	Arthur Rickman, Asia
Oct. 26	Wayne Braun, Germany
Oct. 31	Suanne Forrester, Hong Kong

MILITARY CHAPLAINS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER:
Chaplain Brian Hamer, Lemoore, Calif.; Chaplain James Freitag, Kuwait; Chaplain Richard Townes, Great Lakes, Ill.; Chaplain Vincent Bain, Fort Campbell, Ky.; Chaplain Jon Smithley, Vance AFB, Okla.; Chaplain Quentin Genke, Dover AFB, Del.; Chaplain Ryan Mills, Afghanistan; Chaplain Scott Simpson, Shaw AFB, S.C.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod