

COMPANION SYNOD PRAYER REQUESTS

Dear Friends of the KELC,

We are thankful to be partners in Christ and the following list are some concerns and joys that we have in our ministries and in our communities around the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We hope that in this journey together in prayer, you can know a little more about our challenges and the things that we rejoice in. We thank you for your list as well that we can fervently pray for you and give thanks with you. May God be with you in this time of Lenten preparation, and may God's Spirit help us to grow closer together as sisters and brothers in Christ.



February 17: On this Ash Wednesday, we pray for the forgiveness of our sins of neglect, hard-heartedness toward our neighbor and our turning away from your good and gracious will. Even as we remember our own mortality today, help us to also remember those around the world who face death each day because of hunger and disease. Keep us connected with our brothers and sisters around the world, especially those in the KELC. Turn us from our sin, create in us clean hearts, and renew us with your Spirit.

February 18: We give thanks for the leaders of this Church in the Allegheny Synod, Lord, especially Bishop Pile, Reverend Susan Winger, Reverend Timothy Knauss, Reverend Lynn Miller; and ask that you would guide them and all who serve in the Allegheny Synod.

February 19: We pray for the suffering people of Haiti, and ask that you would graciously provide for the many ways that they will need rebuilding and healing in their lives.

February 20: We pray for those who have received so much snow. (Some of us have received 60 inches since the beginning of February!). Give your energy and protection to those who help to clear the roads and those who provide emergency care in dangerous driving conditions.



February 21: SUNDAY – We give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit that unites us as one people in Christ. As we come into your presence, may

our worship be pleasing in your sight, that we may praise you in spirit and truth.

February 22: We rejoice in the gift given to our camp that has paid our debt and will allow us to focus better on our mission and outreach to our youth.

February 23: Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see past our self-centered yearnings and fears to gaze upon Your very image imprinted on our neighbor.

February 24: We give thanks for the work going on in ecumenical relationships, so that our ministry as the whole body of Christ might be better for meeting the needs of people in our community.

February 25: We pray for the people in our towns and out in the country who do not have enough resources for heat during these very cold months, and whose drafty homes let in the chilling air.

February 26: We give thanks to God for seminary students, those who teach at Gettysburg seminary and all seminaries, those considering seminary, and all candidates who are called into ministry. Guide them on their faith journeys.

February 27: O Lord, we have an abundance of water, and now snowing is falling fast and deep. As it melts, we will have more water – too much water. Please help those whose homes will be compromised – and fill the jugs of those who have too little water.



February 28: SUNDAY – We give thanks for your WHOLE church around the world, and pray that you would guide us together in each of our communities to share your good news.

March 1: We pray for the leaders of our nation, especially Barack Obama our president, Edward Rendell our governor, and all of our local leaders that God grant them faithfulness to do what is just and to work for peace.

March 2: We give thanks, O God, for parents and families who bring their children to You in Baptism and pray that you would help them to raise them in the promises of their Baptism, that together they will have eternal life.

March 3: We pray for Bishop Mark Hanson (bishop of the ELCA) and all pastors in Christ, that they will rightly oversee, correct, and promote faithful preaching, teaching, and living.

March 4: We give thanks for those who work the land, and pray that they reap healthy crops. We also give thanks for those who work with their hands to produce quality goods. We pray that those who serve would do so joyfully, those who manage would do so faithfully, and those who work with money would do so honestly.

March 5: We pray for the whole creation, groaning under the strain of sin, that the Lord preserve it and bless us to be good caretakers of it.

March 6: We give thanks and pray for our college students that as they develop knowledge they might also grow in the true wisdom of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior.



March 7: SUNDAY - Thank you for entrusting us with your Word – He is Risen! Inspire the witness of all your children, that all people may know the power of your forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection.

March 8: We pray for those in our community who struggle with medical needs because they do not have adequate health care.

March 9: Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church, keep watch over the Allegheny Synod, her Bishop, Gregory. Grant your Church patience as changes occur within the Synod staff and guide those who are newly called as assistants to the Bishop – Pastor Tim Knauss and Pastor Lynn Miller, with insight and wisdom.

March 10: O Lord, mercifully regard your servants who are bound by the chains of addiction. Give them strength, that they may be freed from fear and be restored in you to the liberty of the children of God.

March 11: We give thanks for Michelle Bossler, who serves as the Synod Staff’s administrative assistant. Strengthen her gifts of organization and quiet calm. Bless her as she interacts with all who call or visit the office. Enable her to respond not only to her call to serve the Allegheny Synod but also to serve as wife and mother.

March 12: We pray for those who suffer with cancer and other painful diseases. Be with them and their families through treatments and in the process of dying. Surround them with hope and fill their hearts with your presence.

March 13: We pray for the students, faculty, and staff of our universities that they may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to grown in the gifts that they have been given in order that they may be of service to others and share the knowledge to better this world. We pray for the campus ministries at these universities as they continue to help students and staff to see God at work in and through their lives.



March 14: SUNDAY – We give you thanks and praise for the promise of your resurrection; may your new life always bring us hope.

March 15: We give thanks for Christian education leaders and Sunday School teachers. We also pray that more people will feel the call of the Holy Spirit to fill positions to teach.

March 16: We pray, O God, that you would be a shield to those who immigrate from foreign lands to seek new homes, especially to this country, and provide a place of rest to those who seek refuge from oppression, injustice, and war.

March 17: We give thanks for the ministry that happens at our Lutheran nursing homes in Johnstown and Hollidaysburg, and pray that you would bless those who care with compassion for the elderly and the disabled.

March 18: We pray for women and children who are victims of any kind of abuse. Be with them to remind them that they are precious in your sight, give them wisdom and opportunities to get away from their abusers, and guide those who provide counseling and help to them, that they can learn to live lives of wholeness.

March 19: We give you thanks for those who are musicians and artists in our congregations. May their gifts of song and art give us a picture of your beauty, and help us to sing with all the beings of heaven.

March 20: We pray for those who are lonely, for those who have felt forgotten by God, and for those who are contemplating suicide. Help them to find peace and meaning in their lives, and to know that they are loved as a child of God.



March 21: SUNDAY – We praise you, O God, for a new day. Let us see each day you give us as a gift to share your love with those around us.

March 22: We pray for all of those who are unemployed or underemployed; and that all may find meaningful and sustainable work.

March 23: We give you thanks for the gift of family, and pray that you would bless the relationships of marriage, of parent and child, of grandparents and extended family. May the joy we have together reflect your love.

March 24: We pray for those who return from war, who are broken and injured in body, in mind, and in spirit. Bring your healing to their lives and to their families.

March 25: We give thanks for those who serve in LAMPa (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania) and pray that God would give them encouragement in the difficult task of advocating for justice.

March 26: We are concerned for all those suffering with addictions to drugs and/or alcohol.

March 27: We are joyful and thankful for all of the people who give to help the less fortunate with food, clothing, and shelter: especially our quilters who give tirelessly each week to sew quilts for those in need around the world.



March 28: SUNDAY – As your Son entered into Jerusalem and heard the people shouting out “Hosanna!” may we join in their praise. Let it be unceasing until your return.

March 29: Gracious Lord, we pray for our pastors, associates in ministry, and diaconal minister on this Monday of Holy Week as they gather at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newry. Feed them with your gifts of Word, bread, and wine. May the cross empower them for their work in the days ahead.

March 30: We pray for those in our community who have been hurt by their experiences of the church, for those who have apathy toward God and God’s Word, and for those who seem to lack a sense of caring for others outside of

themselves. Give them a hunger for relationship with you, and help us to be faithful evangelists.

March 31: We pray for congregations around our synod who, at this time, do not have regular pastoral leadership (pastor has recently left for another call, etc) or are in some other transition. May God provide by raising up leaders for the congregations and within the congregations.

April 1: MAUNDY THURSDAY – As you washed your disciples feet on this day and prayed for your followers to be one, fill our hearts with the willingness to be servants of one another, and bring healing to the disunity in the ELCA, in the Allegheny synod, and in congregations – whatever the dividing issue may be.

April 2: GOOD FRIDAY – As we remember your death on the cross on this day, we pray for those who are dying, and those who (like Jesus’ mother) grieve the death of loved ones. Give them a sure and certain hope in your resurrection even in the midst of sorrow.

April 3: HOLY SATURDAY – Emptiness and hopelessness are two emotions among many that the disciples most likely felt on this day after the crucifixion. We pray for those who feel there is no hope for their lives; who are emptied by the struggles of their lives that they may know the joy that the empty tomb and the resurrection of our Lord brings to all for God so loved the world.



April 4: The Resurrection of Our Lord - God of Easter morning, keep us ever routed in the baptismal promises that are ours by virtue of the empty tomb. Strengthen us as we grow in baptismal grace so that we remain mindful that by Christ death and in Christ’s rising the final enemy-death has been defeated. Hear the songs and praises of the Church in Kenya, the Allegheny Synod, and throughout the world as we gather around your Word and feast at your table. Make us ever bold to proclaim in one voice that Christ is risen! Risen indeed!