

Resurrection Lutheran Church Three Days of Prayer



During January 2, 3 and 4, 2018, every congregation in LCMC has been invited to set aside a time for prayer. We are asked to pray for forgiveness, for all our concerns and needs and for the vision of LCMC, our leaders, our pastors and our congregations, that we may follow God's leading and lordship and that God will guide us on the paths he would have us travel.

God admonishes us to come, come in prayer and humility and lay all the stuff of our lives at his mercy seat. "Come," Jesus says, "Come to Me,

all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

God promises to answer, lead and direct us in every area if we just ask. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; and everyone who seeks finds, and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened..... If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" Luke 11:9-13

Therefore, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6 Let this booklet serve as a guide for three days of prayer.

- January 2, 2018 Time for Reflection, Confession & Forgiveness
- January 3, 2018 Lift Your Petitions before God
- January 4, 2018 Pray for the Vision God Calls Us To

Everyday Prayer

While there are three intentional days of prayer, God desires that every day is a day of prayer. "Pray without ceasing," God tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Here are some ideas to make prayer a regular part of your day.

Start the morning in prayer. Before you get out of bed, say good morning to God and thank Him for a new day. Pray with your spouse and/or kids before leaving for work/school, asking that God would bless their day.

Pray before each task, meeting, or class, asking that God would guide you and give you strength. Pray at each meal, thanking God for providing for your needs.

Whenever you hear a siren, stop and pray for those involved. When you see something beautiful, stop and thank God for His creation.

When you feel stressed, pause and pray. Let God's peace rule in your heart.

Pray with your kids/spouse before bedtime, thanking God for the day, asking forgiveness for your sins, and asking God to give good sleep

The above are just a few suggestions for prayer time. Reflect on times throughout your day when you can add time to pray. Make an effort to increase your time with the Lord and see the benefits it brings to your relationship with him.



Day 1, January 2, 2018
Day of Confession and Forgiveness

The beginning of prayer is scripture. God speaks to us through his word. Read one or more of the following passages and pray them with your heart; for when we come to God it should be with a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart.

Psalm 51, Psalm 32, Psalm 86

Examination of Conscience

Please take a few moments to examine your heart, mind and conscience. Use the following suggestions to help you on your journey.

Worship

- Is my heart set on God, so that I really love God above all things?
- Am I faithful to God's commands as a child loves his/her parents?
- When I'm at worship, do I give my attention and devotion?
- Do I come seeking to meet God through Word and Sacrament?
- Do I let my own preferences interfere in my participation worship?
- Have I worshiped false gods?

Prayer

- Do I pray morning and evening?
- Do I pray the Lord's Prayer thoughtfully?
- When I pray do I really raise my mind and heart to God?
- Do I offer God my thanks, difficulties, joys, temptations and sorrows and the needs of others?
- Have I prayed for the unity, peace and justice and the spread of the Gospel?

Study

- Is my faith in Christ Jesus firm?
- Have I grown in my understanding of faith?
- Do I take part in Sunday School and other Bible studies?
- Do I take time to pray the Scriptures, meditating on God's Word?

Serving

- Have I a genuine love for my neighbor?
- Am I involved in some direct ministry and service to others?
- Have I been just and honest?
- Have I been faithful to my promises and contracts?

Inviting

- Have I shared my hope in Christ with others?
- Do I look for opportunities to invite others?
- Have I been willing to be known as a Christian?
- Have I prayed regularly for those who struggle with faith?

Giving

- Do I share my possessions with the less fortunate?
- Do I "seek first the Kingdom of heaven" by giving my offerings off the top and make giving a commitment?
- Have I made money a false god by putting my trust and hope in it?

Encouraging

- Have I wanted others' good?
- Have I allowed pride, self-centeredness, and my own worries to keep me from concern for others?
- Have I listened to others' problems, encouraged and prayed with and for them?
- Have I been quick to forgive others?

Confess and receive God's forgiveness. We are assured that God does and will forgive us:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us." 1 John 1:9-10

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Remember to give God thanks and praise for forgiveness of sins, salvation and the promise of eternal life:

"Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles." Psalm 103:1-5

Close this time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer
Day 2, January 3, 2018
Lift Your Petitions Unto God

Begin your day of petitions with thanksgiving. Remember all that God has done for you. Here are a few suggestions of things to praise God for.

Please add your own personal praise and thanksgiving.

Praise God for creation. Refer to Psalm 8:3-4

Praise God the creator. Genesis 1

Praise God for creating us in Christ's image. Genesis 1:27

Praise God for Jesus. Refer to Matthew 1:23, 28:20b

Praise God for Calvary, Refer to 2 Corinthians 5:21

Praise God for eternal life. John 11:25-26 Do you really believe what Jesus said in these verses? Praise God for the gift of faith.

Please pray for:

- Our congregational family as we fellowship and worship together in Christ's love.
- For our congregational leadership, council and staff. Raise up mighty men and women who witness to the power of Christ in their lives and in the running of our church.
- For each area of ministry and for those who serve God through them.
- For missionaries throughout the world.
- For our homes and families that the Word of God be proclaimed and hearts opened to God's mission.
- For those in our midst who are shut-in and suffering illness.
- For those in our midst who are grieving.
- For those suffering spiritual and physical pain.
- For those in the military who are away from their families, those in war zones and those who risk their lives for our safety and peace.
- For those who serve in hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, service organizations and other compassionate ministries.
- For those who are alone and lonely.
- For God's peace to fill our world.

Present your personal petitions before God knowing that whatever you ask in Christ's name and according to God's will, you will receive. Read 1 John 5:13-15, Philippians 4:6 and John 14:13-14

Close this time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer
Day 3, January 4, 2018
Day of Vision

Where is God leading you? What ministry are you called to? What ministry vision do you have for the next year, or 5 years or 10 years?

- Pray for Resurrection Lutheran Church, asking God to guide and direct our ministry. Pray for guidance as to how we can fulfill the great commission. "Go therefore and make disciples?"
- Pray that our congregational leaders and will be rooted and grounded in God's Word and that they are open to God's voice, directing their vision for ministry.
- Pray that through our worship, study and prayer we will be filled by the Holy Spirit as we present our praise, adoration and thanksgiving to God.
- Pray for Pastor Phil and his ministry at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Pray for Julie Wood and her ministry at Resurrection.
- Pray for new members and visitors that they feel God's presence and love.
- Pray for continued renewing of faith in our midst.
- Pray for ministry and the proclamation of God's Word.
- Pray for hearts and ears to be opened to receive God's Word and the new life it produces.
- Pray for faith development. May the youngest and oldest and all those in between be filled, empowered and called to serve God in their own unique way.
- Pray for GO ministry.
- Pray for the Feeding Kids Ministry
- Pray for the School of Music
- Pray for the pouring out of God's Spirit in our midst and in the lives of all members.
- Pray that God will direct us into the ministry that He has called us to in our congregation, community, country and the world.

Please add your own personal petitions for the mission and vision of Resurrection Lutheran Church of Alpena.

Close this time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer