

2008 Prayer Calendar – Montana Synod, ELCA

January 6: Residential Care Ministries. We pray for the residents and staff of **St. John's Lutheran Ministries**, in Billings, **Sapphire Lutheran Homes in Hamilton**, **Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell**, and **Valley View Lutheran Home in Glasgow**. May your presence and love surround and fill each and every one.

January 13: Central Hi-Line Ministries. God of community, we thank you for the partnership in you that is shared by the congregations of **Hingham Lutheran**, **Kremlin Lutheran**, **Bethel Lutheran in Joplin**, **Our Savior's in Rudyard**, and **the rural parish of Goldstone Lutheran**. Strengthen and encourage them all as they serve you in the name of Jesus Christ.

January 20: Cape Orange Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa: Bless our companion synod in South Africa and its Bishop Mervyn Assur. Strengthen our companion congregation ties, and help us to build strong relationships for the building up of God's kingdom.

January 27: Zion, Lewistown. Lord of gentle might, we pray for the strengthening of your disciples at Zion Lutheran Church in Lewistown and wherever your people gather in Word and Sacrament. Make fruitful the youth and family ministry of this congregation. We give thanks for the times of refreshment and renewal experienced by many who have used the facilities of **Canyon Haven Retreat Center**. Bless those who may visit this place in the future. Amen

February 3: First & Messiah, Havre; American, Chinook. God of all seasons, as the earth rests in these winter months, so may we receive your peace and renewal so that we may continue to serve you faithfully.

February 10: Faith, Hamilton; and Trinity, Hot Springs. Welcoming God, we pray that these congregations will be encouraged as they reach out to welcome visitors and tourists in the name of Christ.

February 17: Pondera Valley & Golden West, Conrad; Our Savior's, Chester; St. Olaf, Ledger. We pray that as the sun warms the ground to ready it for seed, make us good soil for your Word, that it may be alive and growing within us.

February 24: First, Savage; Grace, Skaar; First, Circle and American, Richey. Lord of Life, as the days begin to lengthen and we see begin to see signs of new life, make us ever mindful of the new life we have by grace through faith in Christ.

March 2: Zion and Pleasant Prairie, Greater Flaxville Area; Immanuel and St. John's, Greater Westby Area. God of all, in spite of the remoteness of our communities that often separate us from one another, keep us ever mindful that we are joined with all your faithful people as members of the Body of Christ.

March 9: King of Glory, Good Shepherd, & Messiah, Billings, First English, Billings. Eternal God, we give you thanks for the many blessings of the year now past, and we look forward with hope to the places and people to which you will guide us in the days ahead.

March 16: Lutheran Social Services of Montana. We pray for children with medical problems or special needs placed in adoptive homes, for birthmothers who meet with caseworkers as they struggle with a decision to parent or place a child, for couples who anxiously wait for the phone call informing them that their baby has arrived, and for birth families and adoptees who are searching for each other for medical reasons or reunion.

March 23: Broadview Lutheran, Broadview; Our Savior's, Laurel; and American, Lavina. We thank you, Lord, for all your many blessings, and we ask you to guide us in sharing them for the sake of the gospel. **Atonement, Billings**, Gracious Lord, grant us vision to carry the mission of Christ into our daily lives, the church, and to all whom we meet.

March 30: New Life Lutheran, Our Redeemer's & St. John's, Helena. Give us courage to speak your word of justice and mercy in this community.

April 6: Christ and Faith, Big Sandy; Sunburst and Valier Lutheran Churches. God of seedtime and harvest, you have planted us in this place to bear good fruit in your name. Bless the fruits of our labors that the harvest may be plentiful.

April 13: ELCA Allegheny Synod: We pray for our sister synod in Pennsylvania, and for their Bishop Gregory Pile. Bless their ministry and strengthen our partnership.

April 20: American, Harlowton; Trinity, Martinsdale; and Grace, Ryegate. We pray for these congregations working together in the Greater Mussellshell Lutheran Parish as they call, ordain and install a pastor.

April 27: American, Baker; St. Elizabeth's, Ekalaka; Peace, Plevna; First, Lambert; and Pella, Sidney. God of creation, we pray for life and growth. Growth for crops and livestock, life and health for our congregations, and a growing and deepening faith and trust in you.

May 4: American, Bethlehem, Peace, King of Glory, Good Shepherd, & Messiah, Billings. We pray for our congregations, Lord, giving you thanks for all the many gifts that you have given us for worship and praise, mission and ministry.

May 11: Kogodus Renewal Ministry. We pray that this ministry of spiritual renewal may continue to ignite in the hearts of those it serves new passion and new vision for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus through word and deed.

May 18: Galata & Devon, Greater Galata Area; St. Luke's, Shelby; Our Savior's, Box Elder; and Trinity, Choteau. Grant good weather, o God, for crops and livestock, and for all who tend the land. Protect and guide your people. Lord, we ask your blessing on college students who are soon to be returning home for the summer. Help us to welcome them home as you always welcome us.

May 25: Big Timber and Melville Lutheran Churches; Scobey and Peerless Lutheran Churches. As we celebrate graduations, we remember also our church colleges and seminaries. Bless and encourage all who serve in teaching and leadership roles, and grant the discernment of your Holy Spirit to all who consider a call to public ministry.

June 1: Jocko Valley, Arlee; Valley of Christ, Frenchtown; Prince of Peace, Missoula; Our Savior's, Bonner. Almighty God, you are our shield and protector. Save us from all that seeks to do us harm, and watch over all those who are traveling. Let us be places of safety and welcome for all.

June 8: Montana Synod Office. We thank you, Lord, for those who support and assist the varied congregations and ministries of this synod and who connect us with the larger church. Grant wisdom, patience, and perseverance to Bishop Jessica Crist and to Associate to the Bishop David Peters, and Executive Assistants Susan Hedahl and Patti Horst. Bless all who serve in administrative and adjunct staffing roles.

June 15: Hope, Powell, Trinity, Sheridan, and Trinity, Cody, WY. As the sun casts its brilliant light and warmth on our days, let your Son shine in our hearts as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

June 22: Messiah, Red Lodge & Joliet Lutheran, Joliet. Almighty God, strengthen and sustain these congregations as they reach out to residents and tourists with the love of Christ.

June 28: Outdoor Camping Ministries. Lord of all creation, we give you thanks for the blessings of **Christikon Bible Camp and Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp**. Guide and direct those who serve in these ministries as they proclaim the Good News of Jesus amid the wonder and beauty of nature.

July 6: Christ, Libby; Good Shepherd, Polson; Faith, Ronan; Eidsvold, Somers. We pray, O Lord that you will continue to guide us as we seek to balance our human wants and needs with our responsibility to care for the world you have lovingly created.

July 13: Rivers of Faith Lutheran Parish, Livingston/Wilsall. We pray for the congregations of **Shields River, Wilsall, and American and Redeemer in Livingston** as they cooperatively bear witness to Christ in their community.

July 20: St. James, Columbus, MT; Grace, Worland & Peace, Basin, WY. Sustain your people, O God, with the life-giving breath of your Holy Spirit, that we may be inspired and renewed in our service to you.

July 27: American Lutheran Parish - Harlem, Hogeland, and Turner Lutheran Churches. We pray that you will empower us to see your face in the face of our neighbor. Give us grace to serve him/her as we would serve you.

August 3: Unity Lutheran Parish (Malta and Whitewater), Dodson and Loring Lutheran Churches. We give you thanks for the ministries that we have in these places. Bless us with your Holy Spirit, that your gospel may be proclaimed in clarity and in truth.

August 10: American, Winifred and Faith, First English, and St. John's, Great Falls. We pray for continued vision for ministry that celebrates our past while embracing the future as we seek to serve our neighbors in Jesus' name.

August 17: Prairie Lutheran Parish (Saco, Hinsdale, Ft. Peck, Our Redeemer, Nashua), and First Lutheran, Glasgow. Gracious God, we pray that you will continue to bless and strengthen the ministry that we do together in our area. Grant us vision, grant us courage, grant us grace.

August 24: Hope, Anaconda; Gloria Dei and Gold Hill, Butte. We pray that we might be advocates in our community; for the unemployed or under-employed, and for all those who are in need.

August 31: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia: Bless our companion synod in Bolivia, and their Pastor President Luis Cristóbal Alejo Fernandez, as they celebrate their church's 70th Anniversary and dedicate the Jessica Crist Retreat Center on Lake Titicaca.

September 7: Lutheran Campus Ministries. God of all knowledge and wisdom, we ask your continued blessing on Lutheran Campus Ministries in Montana. Let them be a real presence that speaks your unconditional love to students and faculty on our college campuses.

September 14: Grace and St. Paul, Fairfield; Bethany, Dutton; St. Paul, Cut Bank. We ask your blessing on our congregations as they minister individually and as ecumenical partners in our communities.

September 21: 1st American, Hardin; Zion, Roundup; and Emmanuel, Shepherd. We thank you, Lord, for the gift of salvation which you have given to us. Help us to live in the joy of that promise, and share the Good News of Jesus with others.

September 28: Trinity, Culbertson; 1st English, Bainville; Froid Lutheran, Froid; and Ebenezer, McCabe. Gracious God, we thank you for the many and continued blessings you shower upon your people. May we use them and live them to your glory and honor. Teach us and empower us to be disciples.

October 5: All Saints, Clancy; First Evangelical, Dillon; and Shepherd of the Valley, Townsend. Giver of all good gifts, we ask your blessing on the various ministries of our congregations, and we thank you for your promise to provide the gifts we need to carry out ministry in Jesus' name.

October 12: Zion, Fairview; Hope, Fallon; and St. John's, Jordan. Creator God, we thank you for the wide open spaces in which we live. May they remind us of the wideness of your mercy and the expansive nature of your love.

October 19: First, Miles City; Zion, Glendive; and Our Savior's, Broadus. Even as miles separate us from one another, Lord, draw us close in your love. Unite us in our common purpose to care for the neighbor and share the Good News of the gospel.

October 26: Northern Rockies Institute of Theology. Reforming and re-creating God, we pray that NRIT may touch the lives of the people of the Montana Synod, teaching and strengthening them in their faith and understanding, so that they may live lives of informed and engaged Christian service.

November 2: Christ the King and Hope, Bozeman; American, White Sulphur Springs. God of wisdom and understanding, we pray that we may reach out to students and teachers in our communities. Guide and direct all who seek the answers that only you can provide.

November 9: Bethel, Our Savior's and Redeemer, Great Falls. Holy Lord, we give you thanks for the many ways that you have blessed these congregations. Continue to bless them, and grant them your vision for ministry in their community.

November 16: Chaplaincy Ministries. God of life and hope, we lift up to you all those who serve in hospital and military service chaplaincies. Strengthen and encourage them even as they offer encouragement and hope to others in your name.

November 23: Highland, Outlook; Faith & Plentywood, Greater Plentywood Area; Nathanael, Reserve; and Volmer, Dagmar. We thank you, Lord, that you give us all good things in due season. Give us patience in our need, and generosity in our abundance.

November 30: Our Savior's, Brockton; St. John's, Poplar; and Zion, Greater Poplar/Brockton Area. We pray, O Lord, for our congregations and for your church. Give us willing hearts and faithful leaders so that your gracious will may be done.

December 7: Bethany, Bigfork; Our Savior's, Columbia Falls; Christ, Whitefish, Immanuel, Absarokee; and Peace, Belgrade. We offer our thanks to God, as the assembly of the faithful, for the way God touched our lives this past year; we pray for God to be with us as we live each day. May we be strengthened to proclaim the Good News in word and deed to those we meet. Amen

December 14: Bethel, Grain; First, Opheim; and First, Wolf Point. O Holy Jesus, we pray that you will come and dwell among us in our congregations, in our families, and in our communities. Give us hope in your promises, and trust in your love for us.

December 21: Bethlehem, Calvary, and Northridge, Kalispell; First, Plains; and Our Savior's, Thompson Falls. We ask that you will fill us with your peace, O Lord. Make us sensitive to the needs of those around us. Guide us in our ministries as we care for others.

December 28: Atonement, Immanuel and St. Paul, Missoula. Eternal God, we give you thanks for the many blessings of the year now past, and we look forward with hope to the places and people to which you will guide us in the days ahead.