

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Pastor Matthew Cephus
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Music Director As Scheduled

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



2025

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT w/Holy Communion

April 13 PALM SUNDAY w/Holy Communion and the distribution of Palms

April 20 EASTER SUNDAY Joint Service w/Holy Communion
(note 10:30 am start time)

April 27 FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER w/Holy Communion,
Guest Pastor Vue Lee



Prayers for Pastor Matthew & Patience and all who will be traveling with them as they visit Liberia during April & May.

"If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

Psalm 139:9-10

We should remember that God accompanies us on every journey, providing protection, guidance, and blessings throughout our travels. As Pastor Matthew and Patience and all others traveling to Liberia embark on this adventure, let this mission trip inspire everyone to do good and contribute positively – even if it is within your own community!

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry | Newsletter article – April 2025

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

APRIL IS HERE!

“So, it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable” (1 Corinthians 15:42).

April is here, winter is behind us, and spring weather is beckoning us to come out and play. My mom just can't wait to be outside and work in her garden. The spring season brings with it a bursting forth of new life as plants waken from their winter slumber. They emerge once again from a death-like state of being, putting forth green shoots and leaves, as well as beautiful flowers. All of this is wonderful to behold each year. It never ceases to amaze me and bring a smile to my face.

There are many connections from the natural world that can be made to Christ's resurrection victory over death and flowing from Christ himself to those who trust in him. This is what Paul the apostle writes about in his great resurrection chapter in 1 Corinthians 15. Paul is writing to first-century believers who wanted to know specifically what our resurrected bodies would be like. A fair question, I believe. Isn't that something we've all wondered about at some point? I know I have! The best analogy that Paul can give is to turn to the natural world and seed planting. Seeds don't look like much. They appear pretty lifeless; shriveled up and dry as a bone. How can there be anything remotely related to life in these dead things? Of course, we know how this works, so did Paul, and so did the Corinthians to whom Paul was writing. That's Paul's point. He reminds believers then and now that looks are deceiving. The dry, shriveled up seeds that we plant in the ground have a marvelous way of regenerating themselves into new life. That little seed contains within itself the necessary cellular components to reproduce the whole plant: stem, flower, seed, etc. It's all there.

I need to remind myself of this sacred truth when I'm helping mom work the soil in her garden. The ordinary task of tilling and planting connects me with something much deeper than simply putting seeds in the ground. As a *human*, I am very much connected with the *humus*, the organic part of soil that results from decay of plant and animal matter. Those two words – human and humus – are pretty closely related etymologically. This takes me back to the very beginning: “...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature” (Genesis 2:7). The curse placed upon Adam and every one of us, “*You are dust and to dust you shall return*” (Genesis 3:19), has been transformed through the second Adam, Jesus. Now, even when we die and return to dust, yet shall we live through Jesus who died and rose again (John 11:25).

How does all this work? I don't know, and that, I believe, is what Paul is saying. We don't know, and maybe that's because we can't know. Our finite brains, capable of so much, cannot grasp this. This is not a blind obedience sort of thing, but a peaceful resting in our crucified and risen Savior. The day is coming when we will no longer walk by faith, but “*we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is*” (1 John 3:2). All the nagging questions that gnaw at our faith in this life will fade away in the light and beauty of Christ who is risen; who is risen indeed.

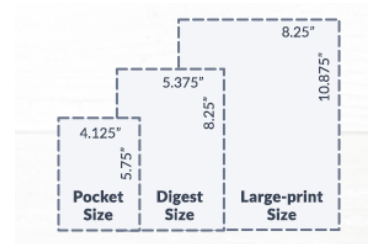
It may well be that the new heavens and the new earth promised in Scripture will take us back to God's original design and purpose: "And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed" (Genesis 2:8). With this happy thought, I leave you to Easter joy as you work in your garden.



PORTALS OF PRAYER

Please feel free to pick up your copy of the April – June 2025 *Portals of Prayer*. They are located on the table in back of the Church – Help Yourself! If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the church office and be sure to specify which size you would like.

Thanks!



In-Person Pre-Planning Funeral Seminar

Plan for peace of mind. Make your choices now, so they don't fall to your family later. This pre-planning seminar will be hosted by Washburn-McReavy and take place at Gloria Dei. Learn how preplanning for funeral and cremation services can help you protect your family in the future. If you have an interest in attending, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the entryway OR call the church office at 612-781-1989. The dates are April 23 (11 am – 12 pm) and May 7 (1 pm – 2 pm). Pre-planning is determining the details of your funeral and cemetery services in advance. To some, this may sound like a difficult conversation. But putting a plan in place is actually a smart and caring **thing to do. With a plan, you'll reduce stress for grieving loved ones—and simply let them honor and celebrate your life, knowing things are happening just as you wanted. All your wishes. All with ease.**

Some of the topics to be covered, include

- Why funeral services are important for the loved ones left behind.
- The different types of funeral services.
- What are the common reasons people prearrange funeral services.
- What are the benefits of prearranging funeral services.
- **What is the VA's veteran burial benefits?**
- How do I protect assets from Medicaid?
- What if I die away from home?
- What if I move away from the area?
- Can I donate my body to science?

The free session will consist of a 30-minute **informational "pre-planning" presentation and options for the future** and a 30-minute Q&A. Snacks will be served.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD SHELF



Please continue to fill our cart with food to be donated to the Salvation Army Northeast Food Shelf. Thank you for always generously supporting your community! Gloria Dei donated 84 pounds of food in the month of March. As a **reminder, our "cart" is always located in the lobby for your donations.** Let's help envision a future where all our neighbors and community members have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The Salvation Army is always seeking food, hygiene and monetary contributions to help restock their shelves. Donated food items are put to immediate use, helping to feed the hungry in our neighborhoods. High demand items include 100% juice, healthy cereal, canned chicken, salmon and pork, and culturally specific items like coconut milk, bamboo shoots, jasmine rice and fish sauce. Personal hygiene items such as toilet paper and toothpaste are also highly requested items. The Salvation Army appreciates your efforts to help in the fight against hunger!

Passiontide Celebration of Beauty and the Arts, April 5 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saint Clement Catholic Church, 901 24th Avenue NE, will present a Passiontide Celebration of Beauty and the Arts, Saturday, April 5, 7 pm. This multi-faceted celebration features music, art, poetry, and a **theatrical production. The evening begins with a production of "All Shall Be Well," a one-act, one-woman play** in which Molly Delaney Druffner plays 14th century mystic, Julian of Norwich. In addition, there will be a presentation of poetry, and music by Hildegard von Bingen, Byrd and Palestrina. Admission is free, but donations to the Holy Cross Sacred Music and Arts Endowment Fund appreciated.

Free community dinners at St. Timothy's | April 8 @ 5 - 6:30 pm

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 825 51st Ave. NE, in Columbia Heights, serves a free community drive through dinner the second Tuesday of each month. The drive through dinner goes from 5-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). The dinners are free and everyone is welcome! Please spread the word!! Info: 763-571-9721.

Free Community Meal | April 10 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month, 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates are April 10, May 8 and June 12.

SENIOR PROGRAMS AT LOGAN PARK

Logan Park Rec Center, 690 13th Ave NE, [\(612\) 370-4927](tel:6123704927)

Senior Luncheons, Tuesdays, \$10: Call to reserve your spot by the Wednesday before the luncheon. Tuesday, April 8: Honey ham slices and au gratin potatoes. May 13: Taco Bar. June 10: Summer BBQ
Seniors on the Go: Spaces are limited so register early. Wednesday, April 23: **SideKick Theater, "The Fabulous Lipitones," 9 am-4 pm, \$30.** Thursday, May 15: Rochester Trolley Tour, 8 am-4 pm, \$60.

LPNA Clothing Swap

Saturday April 12, 10 am-1 pm, Logan Park Recreation Center, 690 13th Avenue NE. Bring clothing items you no longer want or need (in clean, wearable condition – no stains or holes, not worn out – **something you would give to a friend**) to share in the swap, then **"shop" the items others** have brought. **There is no requirement to bring items in order to take items, so feel free to come and "shop" the swap no matter what. Men's, women's, and kids clothing of all sizes to be included. If bringing donations, please** start at the check-in table. Limit of 15 items per person to donate; no restriction on the number of items you can take. No undergarments or socks, hats or shoes, adult-sized pajamas, workout clothing/yoga pants, clothing with embroidered or screen printed personalization (i.e., team sweatshirts). housewares, bedding, linens or toys.

Palm Sunday Luncheon at St. Constantine

St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church, 515 University Avenue NE, will hold a Palm Sunday event, Sunday, April 13, 10 am-1 pm. **Traditional Easter bread "Paska" and other Ukrainian home-baked goods. Ukrainian Easter Eggs ("Pysanky") and Ukrainian embroidery and collectibles available. Free admission.** Luncheon available 10 am-1 pm. Includes classic potato and cheese pierogies, Polish sausage, sauerkraut, rye bread/butter, dessert and coffee. \$15 Adults; \$7 Children 6-12 yrs old.

Friday Fish Fries at UACC | 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

The Ukrainian American Community Center, 301 Main Street NE, has begun its annual Lenten fish fries. For \$15, you get fish, pierogies, French fries, cole slaw. Proceeds go to UACC programs; tips go to humanitarian aid (medical supplies) for Ukraine. April 4 and 11. Pre-ordered takeout available. Visit uacc.org to purchase ahead of time.

Vital Fitness

East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 Second Street NE.

Registration: 612-787-4086 or VitalLiving@esns.org.

Thursdays Weekly, 10:30-11:30 am, in person. A wide variety of balance, strength and flexibility movements will be incorporated into this fun and social group class. No cost. Pre-registration is helpful for planning purposes but not required. All abilities are encouraged to come. Movements can be done seated or standing.

Earth Day Cleanup on Central Avenue

Join HeightsNEXT for their Annual Earth Day Cleanup event, Saturday, April 26, 9 am, Columbia Heights Public Library, 3939 Central Avenue NE. Safety vests and garbage bags will be handed out and street/park assignments made for all volunteers. (Park assignments are made for families with young children who participate.) Each group goes to their area and safely picks up trash from the sidewalks and vegetation along the sidewalks (or park). Dress for the weather. Wear gloves to pick up trash safely. The event will be canceled if there is dangerous weather, but otherwise, this happens rain or shine. Celebrate with free donuts from Heights Bakery.

Flower Sale at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Freshen up your landscape or give Mom a gift of flowers May 8-11. Pre-order your flowers for discount prices — deadline April 9. They can be picked up at church during sale May 8 or 9. Pre-order via <https://form.jotform.com/250536548596166> or pick up a paper form at the church between 10 am-2 pm weekdays or Sunday mornings. Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 St Anthony Blvd. NE, 612-781-2796. Questions: Diane Langer 612-718-4229 or ddl2@aol.com

The warmer weather brings more gatherings with friends and family!

Remember to save your Aluminum Cans

Gloria Dei is always collecting cans.

Proceeds go to the mission of the Church Council's choosing!



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

WCCO 830 AM Radio

Heard each Sunday morning at 6:05 am

Hosted by Dr. Michale Zeigler
(unless otherwise noted)

April 6 "Better Than I Deserve!" (John 12:1-11)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith HaberstocK

Jesus didn't deserve to die on a cross, but He died and rose again in order to give us better than we deserve.

April 13 "In the Middle" (John 19:18)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In Jesus, God showed up smack in the middle of life with forgiveness, love, and a promise never to leave us.

April 20 (John 20:5-7)

"A Risen Christ and a Clean Room"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The risen Christ has folded Death up and put it in its place. Now Christ invites you to trust in Him and find place and purpose in His new creation.

April 27 "Through Locked Doors" (John 20:19)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When Jesus shows up, it's no longer "us vs. them," because Jesus is for everyone, even if everyone is not yet for Jesus.

Main Street Living North

Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 a.m. Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30-minute remastered episode of **"This is the Life,"** a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

MARCH OFFICIAL ACTS

None



Keep Up-to-Date with GDLC!

Gloria Dei's Sunday services are always available to watch. Check out our home page of our website OR at YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpDaOjUPivdq6f4ieiJFqIA>

It is a great way to stay connected.

Time of Grace

Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style. Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions.

Pastor Mike Novotny, The Core Appleton, WI

KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am

www.timeofgrace.org

"Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

Proverbs 30:5.



April Special Occasions



5th Larry Schlais
 10th Wenda Schwoch
 11th Diane Volner
 13th Robert Kluwe
 21st Pam Morelli

1st Bob & Dolores Kluwe
 3rd Richard & Diane Volner
 11th Al & Pam Morelli

APRIL SERVANTS

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Please sign up to Usher on the bulletin board in the Church lobby.

Counters

6th Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather
 13th Sandy Westling and Tom Harris
 17th Tom and Patty Lyrenmann
 18th Tom and Patty Lyrenmann
 20st Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer
 27th Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Candles

6th Shirley Holzinger – In Memory of brother-in-law, Greg’s birthday (4/11)
 13th Verlayne Sather, In memory of Jim
 17th
 18th
 20st OPEN
 27th Sandy Westling – Granddaughter Cassie’s birthday

Flowers

6th
 13th
 17th
 18th
 20st Easter Garden
 27th

If you sign up for flowers or candles after the newsletter is published, be sure to let the office know. We want to make sure that flowers are ordered and you are properly acknowledged in the bulletin.
Thanks!

Each Sunday service is followed by Fellowship where treats and coffee are served. If you are available to make and/or purchase sweet treats to share, please sign up for the date that works best with your schedule.

Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the Lobby.

Coffee is always provided. **THANK YOU**

APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Please note: Pastor Matthew will be traveling/mission trip April 21 - May 16</p>		1	2 11 am Bible Study	3	4 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	5 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10 am Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	7 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	8	9 11 am Bible Study	10	11 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	12 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
13 Palm Sunday 10 am Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	14 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	15 5 pm GDLC Council Meeting	16 11 am Bible Study 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	17 Holy Thursday 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 Good Friday 5:30 pm Good Friday Service	19 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4 – 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
20 Easter Sunday 10:30 am Joint Worship w/HC 6 pm NA Newsletter Deadline	21 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	22	23 <u>NO</u> 11 am Bible Study	24	25 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	26 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
27 First Sunday after Easter 10 am Worship w/HC, Guest Pastor Vue Lee 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	28 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	29	30 <u>NO</u> 11 am Bible Study			



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

TEACHING THE FAITH — APRIL 1-15

This month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod celebrates the many ways that God’s children are instructed, encouraged and strengthened in the faith. By teaching the faith, we nurture the faithful and reach the lost.

Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:

- 1.** *with thanksgiving for the gift of faith received at Baptism.* Ask the Lord to continue to strengthen that faith — and the budding faith of our children — until we depart this life and are united with the Lord.
- 2.** *with thanksgiving to God for the gift of His holy and inspired Word, the Sacred Scriptures; and for the Book of Concord and the many teaching aids that help us understand that Word aright and rejoice in its consolation.*

- 3.** *for Christian families, that the Lord would provide the assistance and tools necessary to overcome every challenge — big or small — that might drive them apart.*

- 4.** *for strong Christian marriages, that husbands and wives would cling to each other in the Lord, despite life’s challenges, and raise their children to walk in the way of the Lord.*

- 5.** *for Christian parents, that they would make teaching the faith to their children a priority. Pray that they set aside time to worship together, talk about faith issues, study the Bible and have family devotions.*

- 6.** *that family members would treat each other with kindness and patience, so that each member might be built up in the family of God.*

- 7.** *for our children and young people, who face daily assaults on their Christian beliefs, that God would strengthen and encourage them to stand firm while sharing the Gospel.*

- 8.** *for our churches, that they would provide useful education and programs to help equip people at every stage of life — teens, husbands and wives, parents, caretakers of aging parents and more.*

- 9.** *that God would continue to provide faithful church workers to serve as role models and teach people about their identity as a baptized child of God.*

- 10.** *that church members would eagerly volunteer their time and talents to support the congregation’s educational programs, such as vacation Bible school, Sunday school and groups for young families.*

- 11.** *that LCMS members would eagerly participate in Bible studies, small-group discussions and private study.*

- 12.** *with thanksgiving for faithful parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and other role models who help to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6).*

- 13.** *for the Concordia University System and the Synod’s two seminaries, that the Lord would bless their work in training new generations of workers to serve the Church.*

- 14.** *for the Synod’s directors of Family Life Ministry, that God would bless their efforts to support healthy relationships in the families of our congregations.*

- 15.** *that we might have hearts that are willing and eager to serve the Lord in every way.*

MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES — APRIL 16-30

Since the Civil War, LCMS pastors have served as military chaplains. Today, the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) supports active duty, reserves, National Guard and Civil Air Patrol chaplains. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains and supports them throughout their careers. MAF also provides a network of care for our nation's military members, families and veterans through Operation Barnabas.

Remember God's work through LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) as you pray:

16. *that God would bless and guide the work of the MAF director and assistant director.*

17. *for the President of the United States. Ask God to guide our commander in chief to lead with wisdom for the protection of the innocent against evil.*

18. *for LCMS military chaplains serving on active duty for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.*

19. *for our LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, especially those who have been mobilized stateside or overseas and taken from their parishes to extended active duty assignments, for those deployed, their families and their home parishes.*

20. *for Operation Barnabas, which is designed to meet the needs of congregations in the event their pastor/chaplain is mobilized. Operation Barnabas also seeks to assist veterans and military families during and after deployment.*

21. *for all congregations that reach out to members of our military through Operation Barnabas, that they would uphold them in prayer as they help to meet their physical, psychological and spiritual needs through the training they have received and the Lord's provision.*

22. *for increasing opportunities for LCMS chaplains to spread Christ's message of salvation, hope and restoration to those they serve.*

23. *for all chaplains returning home, that they would receive a hero's welcome for their*

sacrifice to this country so that in freedom we can continue to openly worship the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

24. *for those who suffer from battle stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pray that God would bring healing and renewal to those who have served or who are currently serving.*

25. *for all chaplains who are sick or have sick family members, that the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort would look with favor upon them, and as it pleases Him, restore them to health or give them the grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope.*

26. *for all chaplains in harm's way, that God would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them.*

27. *for all members of the military who were disabled during their duty, that our heavenly Father would mercifully guide, aid and strengthen all*

those with physical disabilities, enabling them to find fulfillment in their lives and encouragement for all their endeavors.

28. *with thanksgiving to God for providing LCMS chaplains to serve members of the armed forces. Please pray that military chaplains would have every opportunity to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with members of the military and anyone with whom they work and live.*

29. *for all military chaplains upon their return, that they would be reunited with their families, find gainful employment and receive all the care they need to heal their minds, bodies and souls. Grant that they would always look to Christ as their rock and their redeemer.*

30. *for those who minister to the armed forces, that by God's gracious working, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

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.

