Prayer Calendar – December 2020

1	On this *World AIDS Day,* pray for **all who live with AIDS** *and those who love them and the medical teams who continue to treat patients and search for a cure.*
2	Pray for **pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month:** *LaVonne Stephenson (12/3), Lisa Ubbelohde (12/6), Matthew Deames (12/15), Andrew Plocher (12/17), and Bucky Beach (12/21).*
3	Pray for **all rostered leaders** as they study worship texts today and during this season of anticipation, longing, and waiting for the return of our Lord.
4	Pray for our **Candidacy Committee** as they meet today and tomorrow, for **all candidates for rostered ministry** as they continue their preparation for serving God's people, and for **Bishop Katherine Finegan** as she leads our committee members.
5	Pray for **pastors who celebrate their birthdays this month:** *Kelly Ylitalo (12/8), David Johnson (12/18), and John Kuziej (12/20).*
6	**Second Sunday of Advent** … Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation. Amen.
7	Pray for the members of **Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Rohrersville, MD; Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD; Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Keymar, MD;** and **Myersville Parish, Myersville, MD.**
8	Pray for the members of **Mbezi Beach Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,** and their **NGLS partner congregation, Eden Lutheran Church, Munising.**
9	Pray for **all of our Seminary Students** as they finish the Fall Semester, especially **Sarah Sleeter.**
10	Pray for **our Synod Staff** as they meet together today to plan and coordinate events and activities throughout our Synod.
11	Pray for **those who are incarcerated and their families** as they prepare for the holidays apart from those whom they love.
12	Pray for **families who experience brokenness** at a time when our culture shares and celebrates images of happiness and wholeness.
13	**Third Sunday of Advent** … Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance. Amen.
14	Pray for all those with ***dementia, especially Alzheimer's Disease, for their families, and for their caregivers.*** Pray also for ***more research*** and a cure for this devastating disease.
15	Pray for **our Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate birthdays this month:** *Bill Wendorf (12/16).*

16	Pray for **those addicted to drugs, alcohol, and other substances** who may find this season of family celebration particularly troublesome. We pray that *the light of Christ Jesus may shine into their darkness.*
17	Pray for all **those who are missing loved ones who have died** as the holidays bring empty spaces at the table**,** especially families who have lost someone to COVID-19 during the last year.
18	Pray for **all who are traveling to be with loved ones** – may they have safe travels and happy homecomings … and for **all who will be gathering with loved ones online** due to concerns for their health and safety – may they know that love is just as real when shared from a distance.
19	Pray for **church choirs and musicians** as they share their special gifts with us during this holy season – and in new and extraordinary ways.
20	**Fourth Sunday of Advent** … Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always. Amen.
21	Pray for **Sunday School teachers and students** as they prepare and share online pageants or other adaptations that proclaim God's presence among us.
22	Pray for the members of **New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia, MD; New Light Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD;** and **Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD.**
23	Pray for **the poor among us** as they struggle to celebrate the Holy Days with few resources, and for **refugees, asylum seekers, and those who are displaced**, as they grieve what they have lost and work to rebuild their lives.
24	We give thanks today for those throughout our Synod who have worked diligently to create an **Synod-Wide Worship for the Festival of Our Lord's Birth.**
25	Pray this day that the *Prince of Peace may stir the hearts of people* throughout the world, that we may bring about justice, righteousness, and peace for all people. **May Peace on Earth become a reality.**
26	Pray for **all who work at homeless shelters and food pantries**, as they care for those in need.
27	For blessings on all those **men and women in the armed forces** defending our country who are away from their families this holiday season.
28	Pray for **ministries in transition and congregations who are seeking rostered leaders** to serve them, *especially Faith, Sault Ste. Marie, MI,* as they welcome their new Pastor Rita Chirala.
29	For all those *who are lonely and long for someone to talk to and help them celebrate* during this otherwise festive season.
30	Pray for **victims of violence, especially those who have been targeted by hate crimes**. May our world be changed by the One who welcomed all without conditions.
31	Pray for **world leaders** as we look toward a new year. May we work together in new ways and care for the creation God has given to us.

"We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod
as part of our domestic partner synod relationship."