Mission Prayers

*Mission prayers are provided to our WELS churches for use in weekly worship, bulletins, newsletters, or prayer lists. Each week’s request asks God’s blessings on a different area of WELS ministry. The first prayer each month is written to coincide with the showing of* WELS Connection*.*

**January 1**

*WELS* – Lord God, as we look back at 2016, we thank you for guiding and blessing this church body. You have blessed Martin Luther College with the largest entry class in 12 years. You have given us growth in campus ministry and missions efforts. You granted success to the International Youth Rally, the effort to eliminate our synod’s debt, and the organizing of our historical archives. Bless our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. May we continue in the Christ-centered focus encouraged by Martin Luther so that more people may be saved. Amen.

**January 8**

*Commission on Inter-Church Relations* – Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the commission to “Go and make disciples of all nations.” How thankful we are to you for the opportunity to reach out to people in different countries all over Africa. People in Liberia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, and central Africa are all hearing the good news from Lutheran pastors. New partners in the ministry are being brought into biblical harmony with us. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for your work and these wonderful blessings. Amen.

**January 15**

*Our Shepherd, Cornville, Ariz.* – Lord, often you want us to struggle in order to bring out greater blessings. That is true whenever a new church is started. The 84 people who are members of Our Shepherd, Cornville, Ariz., are finding that out. They have gathered out of a love for you. They have struggled to find a place to worship. They have left their comfort zone to knock on doors for your kingdom. Bless these efforts, dear Lord, and give them a zeal to continue to reach out so more souls are brought into your kingdom. Amen.

**January 22**

*Asia Lutheran Seminary* – Dear Lord, you have promised that your seed, the Word, will not return empty. We see evidence of that with the graduation of six men from Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong who are from locations other than Hong Kong. These graduates have either started or greatly aided nine congregations already. Now, give success to these new pastors as they reach out in difficult situations. May the whole world hear and heed your Word. Amen.

**January 29**

*Military Services* – Holy Spirit, only you can bring lasting peace to our world. Because of sin we rely on our military as your vehicle to help keep order in this imperfect world. Give our soldiers and their families your consolation and encouragement so that they stay strong and firmly rooted in the Word and sacraments. Give us new ways to reach out to those wounded in body or soul. Amen.

**February 5**

*Peace in Jesus, Boise, Idaho* – Lord of the nations, we praise you for your Spirit’s working so clearly among us in places like Boise, Idaho. Thank you for building a congregation of Vietnamese there that aspires to reach others by training for ministry, publishing resources, and preparing for evangelism to loved ones in Asia. Thank you, also, for the support network within our synod that helps new missions gain stability for this kind of service to you. Amen.

**February 12**

*Lutheran Schools* – Holy Spirit, look with favor on the schools and early childhood centers of our synod as they teach the precious lambs entrusted to their care about Jesus. And as our schools intentionally reach out to non-members bless their efforts so that other lambs and sheep of the Good Shepherd may be gathered into God’s fold in heaven. Amen.

**February 19**

*Living Word, Montrose, Colo.* – *­*O Triune God, continue to provide the members of Living Word Lutheran with strength and determination as they teach and reach the lost in Montrose, Colo. We are grateful for the many members of our synod who have supported WELS Church Extension Fund, thereby permitting the congregation to borrow the funds necessary to complete their preschool. Amen.

**February 26**

*Taiwan* – Lord, while there may be miles and hours that separate us from the country of Taiwan, one thing that unites us is the need for all people everywhere to know Jesus. Bless the efforts to train national pastors and evangelists in this country where there are nearly 24 million people but only about four percent who claim to be Christian. The fields are indeed ripe for harvest. Bless the efforts of all who proclaim the gospel message by opening the hearts of those who hear it to receive it in faith. Amen.