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*.*

**March 1**

*Russia* – Lord God, we praise you for your plan of salvation and thank you for the opportunity to share it in Russia. Bless our efforts there to connect with people through English classes and a program for toddlers. Guide the efforts of our missionaries and the Russian national pastors as they warm the hearts of their neighbors with the peace of your forgiveness from sin. Amen.

**March 8**

*WELS Congregational Counseling* – Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, by the gospel you have called us into your holy church and enlightened us with your gifts. We pray that you use us as your instruments to call and gather many more. To that end bless the work done through WELS Congregational Counseling’s program to help churches with self-analysis and assessment as they strive to improve their ministry. We ask that you give both the counselors and the congregations they work with wisdom, mutual respect, and the common goal of bringing glory to your name. Amen.

**March 15**

*Forward in Christ* – Heavenly Father, for more than one hundred years you have blessed our church body and many people outside of it through the magazine we now call *Forward in Christ*. Help us to find ways to expand its audience in the rapidly changing media landscape. Use your love and direction in the articles to help readers grow in faith and navigate the complexities of life as role models of your grace and truth. Amen.

**March 22**

*Campus Ministry* – Dear Jesus, brother in the flesh, you know from experience the joys, hardships, and temptations of young adulthood. Through our WELS Campus Ministry programs, send your Holy Spirit to college students across our country in order to preserve the faith of young Christian adults and to bring more into your church. Give congregations near college campuses an awareness of the opportunities and the desire and means to reach out with your Word and acts of love. Amen.

**March 29**

*Nepal and Pakistan* – Jesus Christ, Light of the world, through Isaiah you foretold that nations would come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. You have fulfilled that promise in us, and you allow us to participate in its fulfillment among others. Even in places like Nepal and Pakistan where there is much hostility to Christianity, we see abundant fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work through our distribution of Christian literature and now through the calling of a full-time friendly counselor. We pray that you bless our work through this man, now through regular visits and in the future through his full-time residence in Nepal. May your kingdom come to us and to many others! Amen.

**April 5**

*Vicar in Missions* – Lord, thank you for providing our church body with men willing to study to become pastors. Please bless the vicar year of these seminary students with the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experiences in a variety of areas including evangelism and even starting a new congregation. Use their mentors to guide them in pastoral ministry, and use us to support ministerial education and the Vicar in Missions program with our prayers and offerings. Amen.

**April 12**

*Africa* – Almighty God, you bring about your good and gracious purposes even in the wake of tragedy. We marvel at how, despite the civil unrest in South Sudan, you have given us an opportunity to minister to numerous refugees who had fled to Ethiopia. You have allowed us to see your powerful gospel working in their hearts. We also thank you for the Lutheran Church of Ethiopia—a group of 300 souls that holds faithfully to your Word and desires membership in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference so that they may be encouraged by other like-minded Lutherans of the Reformation heritage. And we bring before you our request for our Christian brothers and sisters in Malawi as they continue recovering from severe flooding that took place in January. Help restore to them the property they lost and comfort them at the deaths of loved ones through faith in Jesus our Savior. Amen.

**April 19**

*Evangelism* – Gracious Father, you have commissioned every one of your followers to be your ambassadors to this dark world. Give us each the wisdom, zeal, and the encouragement to do this. One of the ways you have blessed numerous congregations to this end is through WELS Schools of Outreach. We praise you for the over 200 opportunities our WELS congregations have had to attend these events where they have been encouraged and instructed on how to evaluate their outreach efforts and improve them. Help us all share you to the best of our ability. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**April 26**

*Outreach to Muslims* – Dear Lord, there are so many hurting people in this world who do not know what you have done for them—specifically, that you have saved them. We think especially of the Muslim populations both in this country and around the world. We thank you for blessing the work of our synod over the past years as we have tried to reach these hurting souls. We pray for your blessing as we redirect our outreach efforts to Muslims by going to countries with large Muslim populations. Go with us as we take you to them. In Jesus’ name. Amen.