



Pray For Us Calendar

The following prayer requests were submitted to LCMS World Mission by your coworkers in the Lord's mission around the world.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution.

LCMS DISTRICT OUTREACH EFFORTS - May. 1-15 *The LCMS is composed of 35 districts, all with their own offices, staff, and outreach efforts. Each district elects a district president who is responsible for the supervision of the district's congregations and church workers that includes evangelical counsel, care, and protection.*

1. for each district's pastors, staff, and lay delegates attending district conventions in 2009—that the Lord would bless their time together and provide them with many opportunities for sharing outreach ideas and encouraging one another in carrying out God's mission.

2. for all 35 district presidents as they seek to counsel, care for, and protect the congregations and church workers in their district.

3. for the People of the Book Lutheran Outreach, supported by many districts, including the Michigan and Texas Districts, which seeks to share God's love with Arabic-speaking people.

4. for the "Tell the Good News about Jesus" annual convocation in the Wyoming District, which equips pastors and laypeople to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in an increasingly resistant society.

5. for the Rocky Mountain District's annual "Conversations of Grace" conference, which trains participants to witness their faith in daily conversations with neighbors, friends, and more specific audiences, such as Mormons.

6. for the "Building Hope in the City" ministry of the Ohio District in Cleveland, Ohio. This ministry leads the revitalization of an urban school that has nearly 90 students, reaches out to African immigrants and Arabic-speaking people, and supplies furniture and other physical necessities to bring the Gospel of Christ to the lost, hurting, and in need.

7. for the cancer care ministry in Roselle, Ill., of the Northern Illinois District. A young church worker who has struggled with cancer himself leads this

outreach of spiritual support to cancer patients, especially in children's cancer wards.

8. for the prison ministry in Franklin, Wis., sponsored through the South Wisconsin District, through which five part-time chaplains spend one-on-one time with prisoners in Bible study, course work, and personal counseling.

9. for the planting of new churches in the California-Nevada-Hawaii District. Seventy of the district's 300 churches hold at least one worship service in a language other than English. They are currently working in 14 different culture-specific groups.

10. for the Recovery Assistance, Inc., Ministries, of the Southern District and based out of New Orleans, La., which works to restore faith, home, and community to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina in the name of Jesus Christ through Camp Biloxi in Mississippi and

Camp Restore in New Orleans.

11. for the mission and outreach in the Atlantic, California-Nevada-Hawaii, Central Illinois, Eastern, English, Florida-Georgia, Indiana Districts.

12. for mission and outreach in the Iowa East, Iowa West, Kansas, Michigan, Mid-South, Minnesota North, and Minnesota South Districts.

13. for mission outreach in the Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New England, New Jersey, North Dakota, and North Wisconsin Districts.

14. for mission and outreach in the Northern Illinois, Northwest, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pacific Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and SELC Districts.

15. for mission and outreach in the South Dakota, South Wisconsin, Southeastern, Southern, Southern Illinois, Texas, and Wyoming Districts.



Involvement Ideas



- Learn more about your district's mission and outreach initiatives. Go to www.lcmsdistricts.org to find your district Web site and contact information.

- Read faith-sharing stories from people around the LCMS at www.lcms.org/ablaze.

- Learn more about the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces at www.lcmsworldmission.org/armedforces.

- Make sure the MAF office knows of anyone in your church who has joined the service; send full name, rank, and address (as much detail as possible) as well as changes of address to lcmschaps@lcms.org or call 1-800-433-3954, ext. 1337.

- Ask your pastor if the congregation can support MAF with an offering on Armed Forces Sunday, May 17, 2009. Armed Forces Sunday is traditionally observed the Sunday previous to Memorial Weekend. Learn more and find Armed Forces resources at www.lcmsworldmission.org/armedforces or call for information (info above).

- Send appropriate "care" packages to deployed reserve, guard and active duty LCMS personnel or chaplains, as well as birthday or Christmas cards to any military members of your congregation.

- Become a Guardian today. Support MAF through annual gift commitments provided annually, semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly. For more information, call 1-800-248-1930, ext. 1655 or send an e-mail to Leah.Sievecking@lcms.org.



LCMS WORLD MISSION
www.lcmsworldmission.org

MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES (MAF) - May 16-31 *LCMS chaplains have served in the United States Armed Forces since the early years of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's history.*

16. for the 71 Army, Navy, and Air Force chaplains currently on active duty, and the 105 chaplains serving in the Army Reserve and National Guard forces. All LCMS military chaplains are pastors endorsed by the LCMS to serve in the chaplain corps of our nation's Armed Forces, providing spiritual support and worship opportunities for military personnel and their families.

17. for LCMS congregations who are celebrating Armed Forces Sunday today. Give thanks for the faithful support of many LCMS members and congregation in writing to chaplains and others who serve in the military. Pray that special celebrations around the United States today would also increase LCMS Christians' desire to actively support their Ministry to the Armed Forces.

18. for the 91 LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, 20 of whom have been mobilized stateside or overseas this past year from their parish work to extended active duty assignments ranging from four to 12 months. Please pray for those deployed, their families, and their home parishes as they deal with trying challenges and long separations.

19. for our active duty and Reserve chaplains who are deployed or mobilized overseas in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Japan, and Germany. Reserve chaplains are standing shoulder to shoulder with the career chaplains and military troops. Call on God to protect deployed chaplains and the troops they are with—all serving "in harm's way."

20. for Operation Barnabas, which equips congregations to help their pastors who have been mobilized as chaplains. In many cases, their wives and parish leaders have little knowledge of military life, particularly the lengthy separations. Pray Operation Barnabas to provide pastoral care to the chaplains, their families, and parishes of those who have deployed.

21. for Chaplain Mike Moreno, who is the director of Operation Barnabas. Mike travels frequently to visit with congregations whose pastor has been mobilized

as a Reserve chaplain. Ask the Lord to grant him safe travel, wisdom as he implements Operation Barnabas, and Christ-centered love for the people affected by chaplains' departure from and return to congregational life.

22. for the newly trained Operation Barnabas counselors who are serving in 27 of the Synod's 35 districts. These counselors are pastors with military experience who are trained to minister to returning Reserve chaplains, their families, and congregations, as well as congregations who want to reach out to other veterans.

23. for the 27 LCMS Veterans Administration chaplains, 10 of whom are full-time chaplains in VA hospitals, as they provide care to our military veterans. The VA system inherits the injured and forgotten military veterans from every time. Now they are meeting injured veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who bring both physical disabilities and mental anguish. Pray for the VA chaplains as they faithfully minister to thousands of American veterans and their families.

24. for those who suffer from battle stress, which leaves lasting psychological damage. The term now used to describe ailments is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Both military base communities and the VA healthcare system offer care programs for returning soldiers. Pray that our returning veterans might find healing and renewal so that they can reintegrate their lives, renew their marriages and family ties, and get back to their jobs successfully.

25. for the Chaplain Candidate programs at both LCMS seminaries. Seminarians who feel an interest in military ministry can apply after one term of seminary work. Ask God to give wisdom and discernment to those considering military ministry, and lift up the candidate program coordinators at the two LCMS seminaries, Prof. David Wollenburg at St. Louis and Prof. Daniel Gard at Ft. Wayne.

26. for the MAF committee, a group of retired chaplains and military officers who review policies, consider applications for chaplaincy positions,

and discuss current issues affecting chaplains and military personnel. Pray for our MAF chairman, retired Lt. Gen. Merle Freitag, the MAF director, Chaplain Mark Schreiber, and the MAF committee as they work to undergird and expand our church's outreach to Lutheran men and women in the Armed Forces.

27. for the Civil Air Patrol chaplains who serve in a volunteer capacity throughout the nation. The LCMS has 25 CAP chaplains who are endorsed to provide guidance, moral leadership, and character development training for CAP student units. Pray for those who are also "on call" for search and rescue operations and crisis response support.

28. for the four full-time LCMS prison chaplains—Russell Helbig in Butner, N.C.; Scott Kirchoff in Manchester, Ky.; K. Lynn Stroud in Bryan, Texas; Ryan Willis in Ft. Worth, Texas—as they minister among prison inmates and staff workers in carefully guarded and highly regulated federal institutions. Please pray for strength and continued faithful ministry as these three chaplains serve in a challenging setting where people often feel hopeless and forgotten.

29. for the Ministry-by-Mail program. Each quarter, nearly 6,000 mailings are sent to military personnel, bringing Portals of Prayer along with an encouraging brochure titled, "So Help Me God," which includes stories from chaplains in the field. Please pray that this literature ministry will continue to be a blessing for many years.

30. for the staff of LCMS World Mission's Ministry to the Armed Forces, Mark Schreiber, Eric Erkkinen, and Nancy Rowley, who work tirelessly to support the LCMS chaplains and coordinate the many aspects of MAF.

31. for families who have lost loved ones in service to our country. More than 4,400 military personnel have died in Iraq and several hundred in Afghanistan; several thousand others live with long-term therapy and rehabilitation. Praise God for the devoted service of all fellow Americans who have sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation.

Missionary Birthdays

Missionary prayer cards may be downloaded from the LCMS World Mission Web site at www.lcmsworldmission.org/prayercards.

May 1	Ed Strohschein, Hong Kong; Jim Buckman, Newark, N.J.
May 2	Sarah Weider, Southeast Asia
May 3	Mabelle Bloker, Czech Republic; David Born, Westford, N.Y.
May 5	Sue Pfeil, Kyrgyzstan; Herbert Hoefler, India/Portland, Ore.
May 6	John Bowerman, Macau
May 8	Heidi Heisterkamp, Panama; Sarah Longmire, Thailand
May 9	Todd Roeske, Philippines/Copper Center, Alaska
May 11	Mike Rodewald, South Africa
May 13	Jim Bloker, Czech Republic
May 14	Mary Eddy U, Macau
May 15	Matt Heise, Georgia; Delaine Baker, South Korea
May 18	Kalia Lo, Southeast Asia; Rose Krause, Latvia
May 21	Jacqueline Engelbrecht, Southeast Asia; Jessica Luebbe, Macau
May 26	Seth Hoeppe, Cambodia
May 27	Donna Meyer, Southeast Asia
May 29	Alice Brauer, India

Military Chaplains with birthdays in May:

Chaplain Marc DiConti, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Chaplain Donald Ehrke, Fort Bliss, Texas; Matthew Franke, Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.; Chaplain Timothy Sowers, Germany; Chaplain Richard Steinke, Des Moines, Iowa; Chaplain Charles Varsogea, Washington, D.C.; Chaplain Lynn Wilson, Rapid City, S.D.

