

The Congregation at Prayer
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Pentecost 16
September 14-19, 2026

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able,
or as your family size and ages permit. Learn by heart the verse and catechism.*

Invocation: In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Speak the Apostles' Creed.

Verse: Philippians 1:21 – “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #555 “Salvation unto Us Has Come”

Readings for the Week: [The readings for **Thursday-Saturday** are the Scriptures for this coming Sunday.]

Monday	John 12:20–33	<i>Today is Holy Cross Day. How does Jesus talk about His cross? What does He call His crucifixion? Why? How is Jesus' death like a seed? What now grows from Him?</i>
Tuesday	Luke 7:11-17	<i>When Jesus meets death, who wins? How is this story a preview of Jesus' own death? How is it a preview of yours?</i>
Wednesday	Psalms 27:1-9	<i>How does faith conquer fear? What is our faith in? How can we be sure our faith is right? Where is our confidence?</i>
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-9	<i>How do we seek the Lord? Where is He found? How does He reveal His thoughts and ways to us?</i>
Friday	Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30	<i>What does Paul mean when he says, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain?” Have you ever thought that? Why? Where do we turn at just such times?</i>
Saturday	Matthew 20:1-16	<i>Why is it so easy to grumble about others? Why so hard to be content for ourselves? How can we do better with that?</i>

The Catechism – The Lord's Prayer: The Sixth Petition: And lead us not into temptation. *What does this mean?* God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Collect for the Week: Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers: Please pray for . . .

- + yourself and for all in need (remembering especially those on our prayer list).
 - + God's blessing, wisdom, strength, and guidance for Pastor Douthwaite.
 - + the Lutheran Church of Venezuela, for God's wisdom, blessing, guidance, and provision.
 - + God's blessing, guidance, and provision for the Lutheran Bible Translators.
- Conclude with the Lord's Prayer and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.*

Now joyfully go about your day (or to bed) in good cheer, child of God!

In our prayers this week, we remember:

Dennis (Brie's father) recovering from surgery; **Kyle and Rachel** (Kyle Wright's son and daughter), **Martha** (former member), and **Bretton**, for healing, strength, and peace.

Kyle, John and Billy (friends of Mike), **Christina** (friend of the congregation and former attender), **Tricia** (Mickey's neighbor), **Joel** (friend of the Johnsons), for continued healing and recovery.

For all with cancer, for Your strength, faith and hope, and endurance in their treatments: **Elizabeth Libby, Susan Kunkel, Britton and Tim** (John's cousins), **Katie** (friend of Whitney), **Jeremy** (Jacob's brother), **Anthony** (friend of Pastor), **Erika, Brad, Rita, and Pam** (relatives and friends of Mickey), **Linda** (Mickey's sister), and **Kristi, Jerry, Adriana, and Kristen** (friends of the Killians).

Melody, Amanda, Susanna and Klara (cousin and friend of Caroline), **Adrienne** (Logan's sister), **Heather** (Melody's sister), and their babies, for safe and healthy pregnancies and deliveries.

Joseph and Joanne, Mary Ann, Barbara (Laurie's mother), and all elderly and homebound.

Suress (friend of Elizabeth), in need of a kidney transplant; and **Charlie** (Eric's friend), for health and peace.

Ava (friend of Grace Libby), **Leander, Melanie** (friend of Caroline), **Rene** (friend of Randy and TJ), **Jude and Tobias** (friends of Nancy), **Timothy** (friend of Marcus), **Kristoffer** (Lena's son), and **Jason** (friend of Elizabeth), for protection, peace, hope, strength, and faith.

Jonathan Malekzadeh, Lena, Greta (Lena's mother), **Jacque** (Mickey's sister), **Heidi** (Michael Vondal's fiancé), and **Nikki** (niece of Kathy) for strength and continued health.

Kim and Dan (friends of Ben) for their upcoming marriage.

The Vondal, Wing, Vigil, and Nus families for Your blessing, protection, strength, and faith.

Beth and Josh (friends of the Killians), **Sahilis** (Viviana's sister), **Scott** (friend of Scott Killian), **Thomas** (Angela's brother), **Traci** (friend of Elizabeth), **Dorothy and Mackenzie, and their families**, for unity, protection, peace, and faith.

Leslie, Dorris, and their children (from our Spanish Bible Study) for protection and faith, and for Your wisdom and guidance for the future.

Fatma (friend of our church), **Lindsey** (TJ's friend's daughter), **Suress, Huan, Joylyn, and Sandy** (friends of Elizabeth), and **Tamim and his family** (friends of the Malekzadeh family), for the gift of faith.

For our adopted missionaries: **Rev. Chris and Jenny Yang** (Taiwan), the **Wolf family** (Africa), **Rev. Rob Kieselowsky** (Philadelphia), and **Rev. Charles Ferry** (Eurasia), for blessing, provision, wisdom, and guidance.

For our seminary students: **Rowan Turner** (4th year), **Peter Ventimiglia** (2nd year), **Nathaniel Hall** (Keisers' son-in-law, on vicarage), **Erik Preus** (vicarage), and **Thomas Malmstrom** (4th year).

For our catechumens: **Greta Bowser, Liana Johnson, Grace Libby, and Etta, William, and Eloise Spencer.**

For our college students: **Joanna Douthwaite, Erik Eidsmoe, Nathaniel Faunce, Ben Galloway, Ryan Hertel, Anna Kautz, Christie Keiser, Henry Magee, Caleb and Eli Malekzadeh, Emelyn Royster, Tristan Price, Joshua Vigil, Jocelyn Vondal, and David Yang.**

The people of Ukraine and Russia, for peace, protection, and an end to the war, and for God to provide for those separated and displaced, especially the children.

For those serving our country in the military: **Jacqueline Teixeira, Nathaniel Faunce, Juliana Wing, Zechariah Vigil, and John Boling and his son Daniel** (friends of Mickey).

Members and friends in prayer this week: **Anthony, Hillary, Liana, and Ava Johnson**

For all who have placed their hope and trust in the name of Your beloved Son, but especially for those Christians in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Finland, the Sudan, and other countries, who endure serious and difficult persecution, even unto death.

For the Lord to bless **our mission church, Hope Lutheran Mission, in Purcellville, and our look into a possible Classical Lutheran School in central/western Fairfax County.**

+ + +

Remember to pray for our church officers, board members, and teachers:

President: Scott Killian
Vice President: Rob Douthwaite
Recording Secretary: Caroline Trundle
Treasurer: Logan Hansen
Financial Secretary: Dave Fields
Executive Board, Member-at-Large: John Schatz
Board of Elders: Jay Hertel (Chair), Scott Killian, Logan Hansen
Board of Evangelism and Outreach: Kathy Kieltmeyer (Chair) and Nancy Nus
Church Technology Council: Michael O'Connor, Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, and Jonathan Malekzadeh
Building Committee: Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, Kathy Kieltmeyer, and Scott Killian
Investment Committee: Logan Hansen and Scott Killian
Commission on Mercy: Grace Killian and Caroline Trundle
Sunday School Teachers: Scott and Grace Killian
Pastor's Assistant: Grace Killian

About this Sunday: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Service: Divine Service 4 (page 203)

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have “*mercy on your fellow servant*” and “*forgive your brother from your heart*” (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we “*are the Lord’s*” (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will “*stand before the judgment seat of God,*” we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also “*will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand*” (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends “*to bring it about that many people should be kept alive*” (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: “*I will provide for you and your little ones*” (Gen. 50:21).



@saint.a.church



saint.athanasius



saint-athanasius.org

This Week at Saint Athanasius / Hope Lutheran Mission

TODAY	Hope Lutheran Mission Divine Service, 2:00 pm
Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
Monday-Saturday	<i>Pastor away in Wisconsin and Saint Louis</i>
Sunday, September 20	<i>The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Youth Catechesis, 8:00 am Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 am Divine Service, 10:15 am Executive Board, 12:00 Noon

Next week's hymns: 555 (1-5), 555 (6-10), 634, 742, 696, 829

Pastor is away Sept 14-19. If you need pastoral care or assistance, please call our Elders, Jay Hertel (703.861.7025), Scott Killian (860.919.0846), and Logan Hansen (414.659.1551). They will be able to help you or arrange pastoral care in the case of an emergency.

NO Online Bible Study this week while Pastor is away.

Narrative Divine Service: Our annual Narrative Divine Service is coming **next Sunday, September 20th**. Throughout the service, we explain the liturgy, what we are doing, and why we do it. If you know of anyone who would like to learn about our liturgy and what we do, this is the perfect service to invite them to! We will also begin **Divine Service Setting 2** that week.

Oktoberfest will be **Saturday, September 26th** from 5-8 pm at the home of Paul and Angela Keiser. Join your fellow Athanasians for a time of food, fellowship, and relaxation. Other family and friends welcome as well! Brats & dogs will be provided; please bring a side, dessert, and/or your favorite Oktoberfest beverage. Hope you can make it!

Baby Shower: Please join us in rejoicing with Melody and Logan Hansen on October 4th for the gift of a baby! We'll gather at Glyndon Park Pavilion in Vienna following the service. Sandwiches will be provided; please bring a side or dessert to share. Please see your bulletin insert for more information; the sign-up sheet is on the back table.

Assist Pregnancy Center Vision Dinner: Sign up! Join us! Learn more about the important work done this past year and plans for the future. Our congregation is sponsoring a table at this annual banquet on Friday, October 30th. We want you to join us! Find out more about how we can support their work in saving babies, helping mothers, and strengthening families. Speak to Pastor, Grace Killian, or Caroline Trundle for more information or to reserve your seat.

Your Lifeline to the Lutheran Worldview . . . Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent subjects include: Social Emotional Learning, The False Masculinity of the Tate Brothers, Gloria Steinem's Legacy, The Gay Rights Movement's Anthropological Problem and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app or a podcast provider.

Life Thought: “Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!” *Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Opportunity for Service: Every Sunday we need folks to set-up and run our livestreaming. We have folks who are unable to come to church who depend on this. Would you like to help with this and learn more about the technology involved? This set-up usually begins around 8:30 so that everything is in place by Bible Class and Sunday School time. Speak to Jay Hertel if you are interested. Thanks!

Opportunity for Study: Every Monday-Friday morning at 7:00 Pastor leads “Morning Prayer on the Web,” a time to start your day off in the Word of God and prayer. This is on our WebEx video conferencing service and lasts approximately 20 minutes. Luther once said that he was so busy that if he did not start his day in the Word of God and prayer, he would often not get back to it! You too? Join us here! Go to saint-athanasius.org/WebExInstr.html for more information on how to log on and join us, or speak to Pastor if you need more help.



Create cards to bring some cheer to a cancer patient. Be one of “**Phil’s Friends!**” See Caroline Trundle for more information.

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Events

September 14-16	Pastor and Laurie away visiting Athanasians in Wisconsin
September 17-19	Pastor away at Board for International Mission Meeting
September 26	Oktoberfest @ Keisers, 5:00-8:00 pm
October 4	Baby Shower for Melody and Logan Hansen
October 5-8	Pastor away at SELC District General Pastors Conference and Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees Meeting

October 10	Executive Board Budget Meeting Youth Group @ Roysters, 6:00-8:00 pm
October 30	Assist Pregnancy Center Vision Banquet