

*Light One Candle Prayers – A Synod Initiative  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC*

**May 21, 2020**

Come, Holy Spirit. Come like wind hovering over the waters of creation; hovering, nurturing, birthing womb of life. Come and birth our world anew in life and light and grace. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit. Come like breath breathing into our nostrils, like fresh air rushing into our lungs; filling, expanding, raising breath of life. Come breathe life into the lungs of our world. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit. Come like fire burning the dead wood of our lives; like sparks of love, like deep glowing embers lingering, moving, changing, igniting. Come ignite hope and love in the beating heart of our world. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit. Come like a tongue speaking all languages and creeds; like understanding dancing on deaf ears; like faith dancing in deaf hearts. Come speak, dance anew that our deaf world might rise to faith. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit. Come like a dove descending, resting, claiming, naming. Come like the presence of God remaining, abiding, strengthening. Like raising from drowning death that drips with life. Come claim our world, name us anew, claim us for life. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor Kathy Calkins, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge

**April 29, 2020**

Gracious God, creating God, resurrecting God. You surprise us with life each day. Open our eyes to spring daffodils and tulips bursting into bloom. Open our hearts to your life bursting into full colour all around us, and give us hope this day; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Gracious God, creating God, resurrecting God. You surprise us with life each day. With fuzzy grey pussy willows and tender green leaves beginning to bud; spring forth in our hearts and lives. Grow our faith to full beauty and life in you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Gracious God, creating God, resurrecting God. You surprise us with life each day. The grass greens and our spirits are raised in hope. For we have waited on your promises O God. Waited for the tender fresh blades of life to reveal your glory in our world. Thank you, O God, for green. For grass. For hope. For life. In Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Gracious God, creating God, resurrecting God. You surprise us with life each day. Doctors and nurses who serve faithfully and courageously. A phone call from a friend. An actual letter in the mail. The laughter of children. A grandfather's wrinkles that stretch wide in a smile. Greet us each day with your love in the small but precious things and resurrect us to life; through your Son Jesus our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Gracious God, creating God, resurrecting God. You surprise us with life each day. The glory of the rising day's dawn stretching across the sky in the colours of magenta and amber and salmon. The dazzling beauty of light sparkling like diamonds on a cobalt pond. The fading of the day into the gentle lustre of moonlight and twinkling stars, as the earth falls into rest and peace. Surprise us once more O God, and grant us your rest and peace; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Pastor Kathy Calkins, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge

**April 23, 2020**

Loving God, our constant source of hope and love. Strengthen us to cope with our fears and uncertainties involving the current health pandemic, and give us a compassionate heart for those grieving for the lives lost in a senseless act of violence in Nova Scotia. In your precious and holy name, we pray. Amen.

Wayne Street, Synod Council Chair, Lethbridge

God of Life and hope. We thank you for this privilege in life that we are blessed with. For the life we live, even in isolation. We pray for those who wish for death due to poverty - impoverished due to lack of food, or the basic needs, impoverished from relationships. God, not knowing what to pray for them, we ask for Your presence and for them to know Your presence with them. As we light a Candle in the name of Our Resurrected Christ, shine that light of life where hope seems diminished. God be with us. Amen.

Pastor Prema Samuel, Assistant to the Bishop, Synod Office, Edmonton

God of resurrection, as we look at our world in need we give you thanks for the gift of resurrection and the life of your risen Son who calls the church and all people to love one another as you love us - unfadingly, imperishably, and undefiled. Inspire us to continue putting the needs of our neighbours and others ahead of our own that through our actions we might show love even while keeping physically apart. Care for all the first responders and essential workers who care of us. We ask these things and for many more which you know we need. Amen.

Pastor Anna Thede, Synod Council Secretary, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Edmonton

In this time of crisis and disorientation, we seek your wisdom, guidance and comfort, O God. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Synod Office, Edmonton

**April 22, 2020**

God of new life, gather, equip and send us as your people into a hurting and confined world.

Pastor Calvin Skriver, Messiah Lutheran Church, Camrose

**April 13, 2020**

God our Way-Maker-When-It-Seems-There-Is-No-Way, remind us that COVID-19 numbers are people. Fill us with grace and mercy. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Laura Holck, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary

**April 8, 2020**

Great Designer of Creation, we pray for your direction and aid to those who are working on developing a vaccine for the Coronavirus, and for those who are working in laboratories as well as those who are in charge of overseeing and licensing the release of safe treatments, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson, Camrose

We pray for Good Samaritans the world over, taking care of those God helps us see as fellow pilgrims along our journey. Specifically, we pray for the Good Samaritan Society and all other continuing care communities as they care for those in need. Amen

Deacon Sarah Rudd, Manager of Mission and Culture, The Good Samaritan Society

### **March 30, 2020**

We pray for those who have little or no food, those who live in fear of the unknown, for those whose hearts are broken. Grant peace, strength and hope in these moments, Amen.

Rev. Mike Harmon, Armena Parish (Scandia and St. Joseph's Lutheran)

### **March 29, 2020**

Prayers from El Salvador

-- praying for the government in its decision on whether or not to extend the "state of exception," restricting business, school, and church openings and general mobility (just approved, a new decree for 14 days)

### **March 28, 2020**

Prayers from El Salvador:

-- that God animate each one faced with feelings of impotence

--illumination and strength for those staffing the church's drop-in centre, when folk come, in desperate need of food, and there is nothing to offer them

--for the health and safety of the concerned communities of Usulután, for protection from infection by a man recently returned from the USA, diagnosed with Covid-19, who has been in contact with numerous persons without advising anyone, including family and physician

--pray for the true heroes, the doctors and nurses who are caring for the sick

--for the ecumenical councils, who are asking for prayers for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba, and give thanks because Cuba is helping other countries

--the Church Council of the USA asks for prayers for and pressure on its government, in these times of friendship and fraternal relations

--pray for prudence, faith, and hope, for a new life, it's a time of reflection and conversion, let's continue preparing ourselves to be able to die with Jesus and rise with our Lord Jesus Christ, let's live this conversion and resurrection in solidarity so that this pandemic leaves us stronger and more united, because it will pass and the cure and health will come

--we ask for reinforcements for the army of angels in order to increase the prayers and that true faiths be stronger

--pray for economic finances for all of us pastors and for families in general, so that's there's never a shortage of bread on our tables each day

--pray that that which President Bukele was describing not come to pass, that now we are in paradise, insinuating a worse future

--pray that God give spiritual strength to the people, and that God send angels and enlarge the spirit of struggle for justice and for their rights

--pray for all the homes where there is someone unemployed, that that household have a right to receive the \$300 assistance being promised by the government

--pray that God help us in pastoring our congregations, in the manner in which we are able

--pray for God's help in these difficult moments, for each of us

--pray for the 2,326 water boards, which supply 1.4 million persons, who represent 23% of the population, and who aren't included in the national compensation program

--pray for deportees, returnees, and forcibly displaced persons seeking assistance with food from the Migration Ministry of the SLS, which doesn't have the resources to respond to the growing number of requests

--pray for all during this time of quarantine

--pray for migrants left and trapped in different countries with nobody to respond for them, now more vulnerable than ever

--for communities of faith, life, and healing, located in *Rosario de Paz, Cristo de Paz, Galilee, Cristo Libertador, Nahualapa, Emaús de Vida, Sta. Isabel*, for health and hope, and that the crisis generated by Covid-19 take its distance from the face of the earth, and life with more security rises up

--for faithful member Brunild Ayala, who recently had foot surgery

--pray for the church *Rios de Agua Viva* in San Mauricio

--pray for the community *Fe y Esperanza* in Nejapa, always accompanied by their pastor from home

--as number of cases increases (30 as of 29/3), pray that God protect and guard each one

**March 27, 2020**

(see English translation below provided by Rev. Dr. Brian Rude)

*Oración para la iglesia de Alberta en Canadá.*

*Un saludo para la iglesia de Dios en la ciudad de Alberta, Canadá. Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo Jesús. Nos encontramos muy preocupados a causa del daño a la humanidad causado por el covid-19. La vida nos la dura lección que los cambios están en lo pequeño, que se genera desde lo pequeño o lo que es considerado insignificante, como lo puede ser un virus por su tamaño.*

*Estamos orando al Señor por todas las personas afectadas por este virus, así como de otros males que aquejan sus vidas, por todos los países afectados que no podrán recuperar pronto sus economías, por todas las personas que aún, habiéndose recuperado, quedarán sufriendo las secuelas dejadas por el virus. Pedimos al Señor que nos fortalezca en la fe, que escuche nuestras oraciones, que responda el clamor de su pueblo que desde su angustia grita, ¿Quién vendrá por mí?, Quien lo hará sino mi Señor. Amen.*

Prayer for the church of Alberta in Canada.

A greeting for the church of God in (the city of) Alberta, Canada. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. We find ourselves very concerned due to the damage caused to humanity by covid-19. Life gives us a tough lesson, that changes are in the small, that they are generated from what is small, considered insignificant, like a virus can by, because of its size.

We are praying to the Lord for all persons affected by this virus, likewise other evils which affect their lives, for all countries affected which cannot quickly recover their economies, for all persons who, still, having recovered, will continue suffering the sequels left by the virus. We ask the Lord to strengthen us in the faith, that the Lord hear our prayers, that the Lord respond to the clamor of the people who, from their anguish, cry, "Who will come for me.? Who will come, but my Saviour. Amen.

Rev. Blanca Irma Rodríguez, Coordinator of the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod's Ministry to the Mobile Populations

(see English translation below provided by Rev. Dr. Brian Rude)

*Buenas tardes pastor Brian gracias esta oportunidad que nos brinda el Señor Obispo de Alberta Canadá como pueblo vulnerable ante esta pandemia del Coronavirus, que nos ha tomado por sorpresa por su alta virulencia y está dejando estragos y daños en la humanidad completa y como pueblo Cristiano nos aferramos a la compasión de Dios para su pueblo seguimos orando para cada familia, para cada pueblo para todo el mundo, colaboremos entre nosotros/ as sigamos las orientaciones sanitarias y quedemos en casa, pronto pasará y seremos fuertes con la fuerza de Dios y baremos ganado cómo vencer el coronavirus*

Good afternoon Pastor Brian, thank you for this opportunity that the Bishop of Alberta, Canada is offering us, as a vulnerable people before this Coronavirus pandemic, which has taken us by surprise due to its high virulence and is leaving havoc and damage to all of humanity and as a Christian people we grasp unto God's compassion for God's people. We continue praying for each family, for each town, for the whole world, let's collaborate among ourselves. Let's follow the health orientations and stay at

home. Soon this will pass and we will be strong with the strength of God and we will have victory over the cononavirus.

Rev. Concepción Angel, Salvadoran Lutheran Synod

(see English translation below provided by Rev. Dr. Brian Rude)

🙏 ORACIÓN 🙏

*OH DIOS PADRE TODO PODEROSO FUENTE DE AMOR Y MISERICORDIA*

*Bendito Dios*

*Te damos gracias por la Vida que nos Aprestado*

*Gracias padre por darnos la Oportunidad de Servirle en su Obra*

*Gracias por la Iglesias Milagro de Dios.*

*Gracias por la Iglesias Nuevo pueblo de Dios.*

*Gracias por la Iglesia Luterana Espíritu de Gozo.*

*Gracias por la Iglesias Señor de la Vida, y por la Iglesia Luterana Rutilio Grande.*

*Señor en esta Hora queremos ponerlas en tus preciosas Manos Señor pidiéndole que cuide de cada Familia de Cada Iglesia.*

PRAYER

OH FATHER GOD, ALL POWERFUL SOURCE OF LOVE AND MERCY

Blessed God

We give you thanks for the life which you have loaned us

Thank you father for giving us the Opportunity of Serving you in your Work

Thank you the Churches Miracle of God.

Thank you for the Churches New people of God.

Thank you for the Lutheran Church Spirit of Joy.

Thank you for the Churches Lord of Life, and for the Lutheran Church Rutilio Grande.

Lord at this hour we want to put them into your precious Hands, Lord, asking you that you care for each Family of Each Church.

Rev. Concepción Angel, Salvadoran Lutheran Synod

(see English translation below provided by Rev. Dr. Brian Rude)

*Señor usted ha dicho en Su Palabra de que el Sabio ve el peligro y se Aparta, Señor Nosotros Céntimos Una Angustia el no visitar a cada Iglesia Obedeciendo el Decreto Orientado por el Precidente de este país*

*Y Estamos Obedeciendo porque pensamos de que es para Nuestro Bien Como una Forma de Obediencia Aunque Estamos Claro de que esa pandemia No viene de Dios pero no podemos ponerlo Aprueba Señor , es así que le Suplicamos Señor por el bien de cada Familia y por el bien de nosotros le pedimos que nos libre de esa terrible Enfermedad, le pedimos por los Ancianos y Ancianas y por todos los que sufre Enfermedades Crónicas Señor Líbranos padre que no nos llegue ese Virus Aleja Señor esa Enfermedad y que se destruya en el Aire y no siga causando tantos Muertos en los países EUROPEOS, AMÉRICA LATINA, AMÉRICA DEL SUR. DEFIENDA AL PUEBLO SALVADOREÑO*

*Todo esto padre se lo pedimos en el Nombre de su Amado Hijo Jesucristo AMÉN* 🙏🙏🙏💜💜💜

Lord you have said in Your Word that the Wise person sees danger and Stays away, Lord We Feel Anguish for not visiting each Church Obeying the Decree Oriented by the President of our country. And We are Obeying because we believe that it is for Our Good As a Form of Obedience Although We are Clear that this Pandemic does not come from God but we cannot put You to the Test Lord, in this way we Ask you Lord for the good of each Family and for our own good we ask you that you free us from this terrible Illness, we ask you for the Elderly and for all those who suffer Chronic Illnesses Lord Free us father that this Virus does not come to us Distance Lord that Illness may it be destroyed in the Air and not continue causing so many Deaths in EUROPEAN countries, LATIN AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, DEFEND THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE.

All this we ask you father in the Name of your Beloved Son Jesus Christ AMEN

Rev. Concepción Angel, Salvadoran Lutheran Synod

### **March 26, 2020**

God of wisdom and learning, we pray for all students at our post-secondary institutions whose learning has been disrupted, especially we pray for students who have been displaced, are separated from family, and who face food insecurity. Amen.

Rev. Craig Wentland, Augustana Chaplaincy, Camrose

In these unprecedented times of uncertainty, open our ears and eyes, hearts and minds to respond to your gracious presence among us, not motivated by fear but by faith to reach out to others in creative and encouraging ways, especially to those most vulnerable; in the name of Jesus our Greatest Physician. Amen.

Rev. Garth Wehrfritz-Hanson, Camrose

God our neighbour, in all times. Be present with us during this time of uncertainty. Encourage us to pray in your spirit for those who are ill, those who affected and depressed by this pandemic. Strengthen us with your loving kindness and faithfulness. Amen

Rev Dr. Blessing Shambare, St Peter's Ecumenical Church, Slave Lake

God of compassion and hope. Speak your word and send your spirit to your people. Take away our anxiety, fear and sadness. Give us worthy words to pray and praise you. Amen

Rev Dr. Blessing Shambare, St Peter's Ecumenical Church, Slave Lake

### **March 25, 2020**

Gracious and Loving Creator, Soothe your creation with your love and peace during this time of physical, emotional and spiritual upheaval. Amen.

Kathie Goertz Thompson, Spruce Grove, AB (LTS Seminary student)

Dear Lord, when my heart and body grieve the loss of routine and human interaction, your love and hope surrounds me with comfort and stills my anxiety. Be with us all and help us do our part to fight this plague. Amen.

Dr. Dianne Kieren, Chair, CARE Ministry Team, Hosanna, Edmonton

Jesus, we lift up you to our ranchers who are in their busiest time of year – calving. Grant them strength of body and mind and keep them and their families safe. For the gift of new life, thank you!

Rev. Colin Millang, Redeemer Lutheran, Hanna

**March 23, 2020**

God of grace, we pray for our spouses, whose support and love, make these tough moments a little easier and brighter.

Rev. Mike Harmon, Armena Parish (Scandia and St. Joseph's Lutheran)

**March 21, 2020**

God of this Frightened World, may many hearts be turned to you, O God, throughout this Pandemic journey and may we point the way to you, Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Linda, Lakeland Lutheran, Cold Lake

God of healing and hope, restore our land and its people to wellness and vitality. Amen.

Les Pearson, Unity Lutheran, Medicine Hat

Lord, we've been asked not to breathe into/onto each other. Breathe the Holy Spirit into each of us instead that we might breathe love, kindnesses, compassion and hope out into this terrified world, your people, and in doing so, we might breathe deeply and sing songs of hope from open windows and empty streets. Amen

Vivian Holtby, Grace, Wetaskiwin

Gracious and loving God, give your strength and guidance to all medical personnel: doctors, nurses, cleaning staff, office staff, emergency personnel, and all others working with them and around them. Hold them in the palm of your hand throughout this crisis...in Jesus name! Amen.

Rev. Doug Heine, Hinton

**March 20, 2020**

God of steadfast love, As our Lenten journey deepens embrace your children with faith, hope and love. Amen.

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Synod Office, Edmonton

Gracious God, open our eyes to the life that surrounds us: the lop-eared rabbits nibbling blades of uncovered grass; the early morning doe bounding down the lane; the sun's rising and setting that remind us again that you are God; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Kathy Calkins, Good Shepherd, Lethbridge

Be not far from us this day, O God; let us not be far from one another; in Christ we pray. Amen.

Rev. Kathy Calkins, Good Shepherd, Lethbridge



For the students, staff, faculty, families, and alumni of Luther College - many of whom live and work in the ABT Synod; for Dr. Bryan Hillis (President), Dr. Mark Anderson (LCHS Principal), and the Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry (President-Elect); grant them your gracious wisdom and comfort as they provide leadership and minister to the Luther College community in this time.

Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry, Red Deer

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26

Rev. Deb Kerr, Shepherd of the Hills, Calgary