

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a time of great importance in our church's history. In just 10 days, you will vote to affirm whether we will call a new pastor. Getting grounded and intently considering what God desires for Our Father's is essential. This prayer and meditation guide is intended to help you do just that—immerse yourself in scripture, prayer and holy meditation so that your heart is filled with trust and faith in God and our future, no matter the vote's outcome.

Deepening our dependence, love and faith in Jesus and drawing closer to Christ and one another, we will be blessed with a deeper sense of peace, unity and hope. Please set aside quiet time each day from now until October 4 to walk closely with God using the daily prompts below. Invite the Holy Spirit to inform your heart, then sit back and wait with joyful anticipation to see what God is up to next.

Amen!

Day 1: Breathe in God's Love, Breathe Out Fear

Philippians 4:6-9

"There are occasions when it is undoubtedly better to incur loss than to make pain." –Plautus

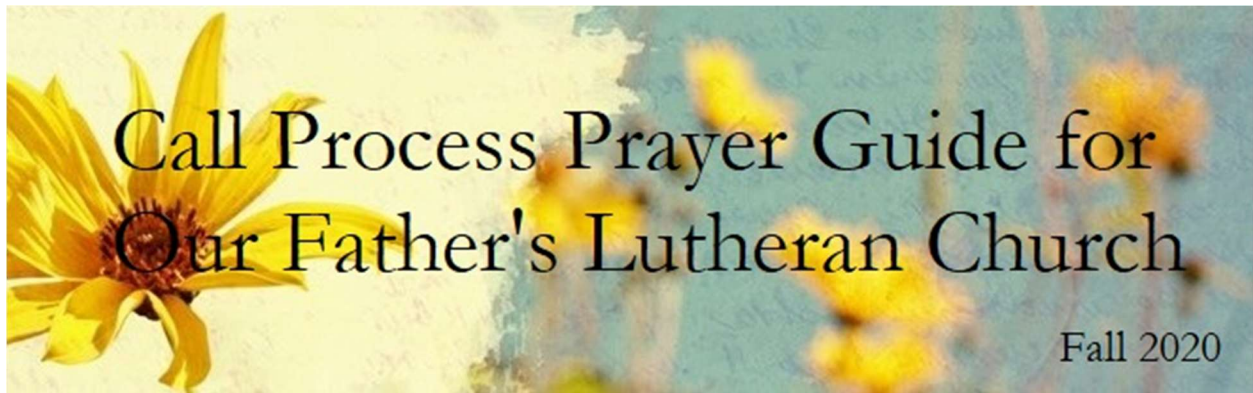
This thought is from my 12-step meditations book. What it says to me is that we need to look beyond the immediate to the long-term benefit to the whole Body of Christ. My question is, what is God's plan for the building up of our community? Our Fathers' reputation is one of reaching out, which is why I was attracted to it. I have been pondering Philippians 4, 6-9: "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Finally, friends, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable; if anything is excellent or praise-worthy, think about such things. And may the God of peace be with you. –Norie Chandler Siers

Day 2: True Head of the Church

Jeremiah 29:13 & James 4:8

Pray that this period of transition will be a time our church learns to seek God above all else. Pastors will come and pastors will go. Pray that the Spirit would teach us to draw closer to Jesus and trust Him as the true and ever-present head of Our Father's.



Day 3: Healing & Renewal

Psalms 66:18 & 139:23-24

Pray for a powerful experience of congregational cleansing, renewal and unity. Father, please inspire us to embrace healing, forgiveness and love toward one another in this season of uncertainty and change.

Day 4: Breathe In the Loving Wisdom of God, Breathe Out Deep Trust in the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; 1 Corinthians 13:6-7

God of Love, we are in need of your wisdom and power. We open our hearts and minds to a deeper awareness of your love. We want to trust you more fully in this time of struggle. We lean in to the grace of our baptism and confirmation as we trust You to bring the knowledge of Your will for our church family. We long to work together to make the Body of Christ more real in our community. Help us to ask ourselves three questions before we speak: "Is it true?, Is it necessary, Is it kind?"

—Norie Chandler Siers

Day 5: Embrace Change

Ephesians 4:1-6

Pray that we be prepared to make the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry. Lord, we understand that the result of this call process will mean changes. Help us to be prepared to change and grow with grace and unity.

Day 6: Fisher of People

Amos 4:13

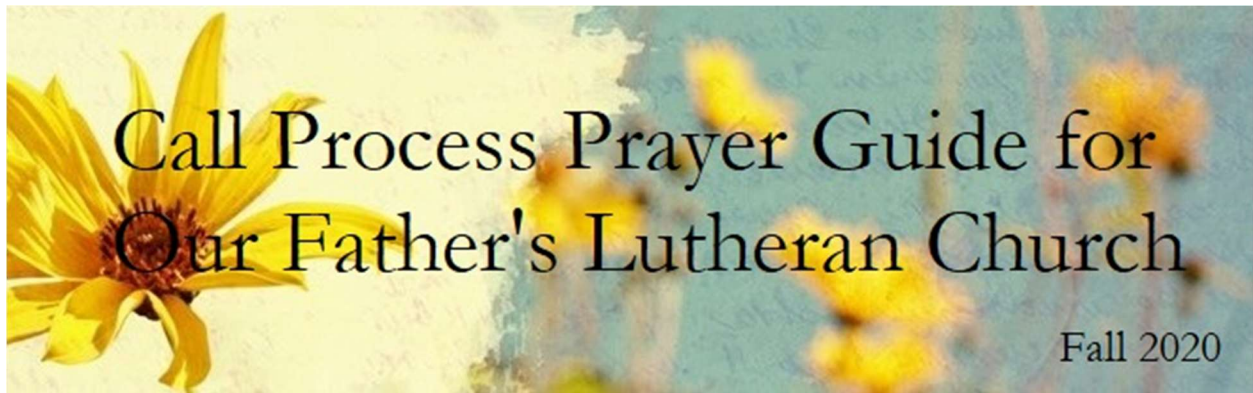
Pray that our next pastor will have a clear vision for ministering to Our Father's and the surrounding community in accordance with their gifts and God's will. Pray that many will come to know Jesus through our church.

Day 7: Grace Abounding

Hebrews 4:16, Isaiah 43:4

"Let us then approach the throne with grace and confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need," Hebrews 4:16 "Since you are precious and honored in My sight and because I love you," Isaiah 43:4

We breathe in the love of Jesus as we approach the throne of grace. We breathe out the grace we receive to our community. As our hearts are softened by grace, we give thanks for this opportunity to grow more deeply in love with God. Filled with that confident trust in God's mercy, we ask for the knowledge of God's will for Our Father's. Knowing that we are all loved deeply and blessed by God, we give thanks and bless each other in the Body of Christ. —Norie Chandler Siers



Day 8: Setting Self Aside

Philippians 2:3-11, Proverbs 3:5-6

Pray that all church members will set aside their individual expectations and decide in unity who God is calling to lead Our Father's Lutheran Church so that together, we can be the church God calls us to be. Lord, help us to put our wholehearted trust in You and only You.

Day 9: Bold Patience

Romans 12:12, Colossians 3:12

It can be difficult to be patient. Pray that God grant you the trust necessary to wait with patience to see what God is revealing to us in this season. May our hearts be filled with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience so that we may reject fear and rejoice in hope.

Day 10: Breathe In Trust, Breathe Out Anxiety

John 15:1-4

An old friend taught me this prayer some years ago: "Lord forgive what I have been, order what I will be, sanctify what I am." It reminds me of the story from John's Gospel 15:1-4, "I am the true vine and my Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, and every branch that does not bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me and I will remain in you." Remaining in God's love is what I believe our faith calls us to do. And I like the definition of faith that Tammy used in her sermon some time ago. "Forsaking all, I trust in Him." So my friends, let us trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our voting on October 4. And that we will work together to continue to be fruitful branches on God's vine. –With deep love and respect, Norie Chandler Siers

Special thanks to Norie for contributing her heartfelt meditations to this guide. Credit also to Wake Cross Roads Church for publishing their own lovely prayer guide which served as an example, and to Gregory Frizzell, author of *Seeking God to Seek a Pastor*