

Growing Forward

Ten Days of Prayer for Pilgrim

“We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God’s mission...”

- Preamble to Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School

As we head toward Commitment Sunday, it is a good opportunity to celebrate who we are and what we are called to do. Ultimately, stewardship isn’t about how much we should give. It’s about who we are. In the same vein, November 16th isn’t about money. It’s about mission. As the baptized body of Christ, let us spend 10 days praying about who we are and what we are called to do.

Please use this prayer guide over the next 10 days as we approach Commitment Sunday. Each day contains:

- 1) A **scripture passage** or **hymn quote** speaking to *who we are*
- 2) A phrase from our **mission statement and core practices** that speaks to *what we’re called to do*
- 3) A **prayer focus**

Prayer Hint: A great way to pray for our church is to complete the following sentences:

God, I thank you...

God, I ask you...

Day 1, Thursday, November 6th

In Christ’s Love...

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. – John 3:16

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the many ways your love is expressed through Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School. Keep us grounded in your love, and deepen our love for you and for those in our church and in our city. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Prayer focus: for our global partners in South Africa, El Salvador, Ethiopia, and all over the world, that we would continue to learn from their inspired witness in this moment in history

Day 2, Friday, November 7th

We gather and prepare...

“Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

- Marty Haugen, Gather Us In

Prayer: Loving Shepherd, we thank you for all of the people you gather at Pilgrim – to learn, to serve, to eat, to grow, and to worship. Lord, we ask you would awaken us to fulfill your dream for our congregation, and lead us to helping more people come to faith in you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: for volunteers and recipients of the hot meals program, for the Alcoholics Anonymous group we host

Day 3, Saturday, November 8th

We send all as Leaders for God's Mission in the world!

And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:5-8

Prayer: God of the Apostles, we thank you for your Word, and for the reminder that many of your prophets shuddered before your call. God, we ask you that you give us wisdom and courage for the facing of this hour. Help us to boldly proclaim your truth, in season and out of season. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: for our SPARK/Parish Life/Advocacy ministries, for each Pilgrim School classroom's service emphasis

Day 4, November 9th

Praise God with all generations together!

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Romans 12:1-2

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for claiming us as your children through the waters of our baptism. God, we ask you to renew our minds and transform us as we worship and do your will together, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer Focus: our ministry among children and youth, and for our Seniors, for our worship ministry and worship committee

Day 5, November 10th

Invite Everyone to be present together in Christ

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

-- Ephesians 4:1-3

Prayer: God of our Unity, we thank you for all those at Pilgrim that are "inviting" people... allowing others to experience your hospitality and love. God, we ask you that you help us to practice unity in our mission and unabashed joy in our welcome of newcomers, in Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: Our new members, a sense of unity between our school and larger worship community, for our Parish Life committee, our newsletter volunteers (Jeanne Valencia)

Day 6, November 11th

Lift Up Academic Excellence with a Heart, Veterans Day

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. – Ephesians 4:11-13

Prayer: Lord of Learning, we thank you for our school, and for all schools who bless your children with learning. Lord Jesus, we ask you that you would help us grow in the gifts of the Spirit, enabling us to walk in the full stature of Christ. In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: for our school, our Principal Chris Comella, our teachers and all teachers, our school board and volunteers, and for our armed forces and all Veterans who have served our country

Day 7, November 12th

Grow in Prayer and the Word

*But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.
– 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15*

Prayer: Rabbi Jesus, we have so much to do and so many anxieties in our heart. We thank you for your presence and, in this moment... we receive you as the Prince of Peace. Teach us through your word, guide us in prayer, and give us your peace. In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: For our Pastors and Staff, for our discipleship, prayer, and bible study groups

Day 8, November 13th

Serve and Advocate Justice for the Vulnerable

“.... Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

Prayer: Living God, thank you for your Son, who came to earth to identify with our struggles and injustices. God of justice, we ask you that you would help our congregation in our efforts to be a community and city church who always remembers the poor and proclaims your “shalom” through works of service and advocacy. In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: for our SPARK committee, our service and advocacy ministries, and for those who are poor in our city, state, and world

Day 9, Friday, November 14th

Invest Time, Talent, and Resources Generously

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

– II Corinthians 9:7-8

Prayer: God of Abundance, thank you for all the blessings you have showered upon us as families and as a congregation. Providing God, fill our congregation with cheerful hearts as we respond to the opportunity before us. Move us to generosity as we dedicate to God's work the financial blessings that you have entrusted to us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: for our counters, our Treasurer and church council, for our fundraising opportunities, our Capital Campaign Committee, and our for good use of our gifts and our time

Day 10, Saturday, November 15th

Mpower Homes for Faith Formation

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:19-21

Prayer: Faithful God, we thank you for your continual presence and protection and provision in the 102 years of ministry at Pilgrim. Lord, we ask you that you bless each home to be empowered to pass on the faith to all generations. As we head to worship tomorrow, move our minds and hearts to give generously to your mission, which makes a difference in the here and now and in the hereafter. In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer Focus: for our Sunday School and Confirmation programs, all members of Pilgrim to be moved to worship together today!