



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.

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INDIA AND SRI LANKA – MAY 1-15 The Evangelical Lutheran Church of India has its roots in LCMS mission work dating back to 1895. It now counts a baptized membership of nearly 50,000 in more than 1,000 congregations and preaching stations. The Lanka Lutheran Church has more than 1,000 members, with 22 congregations, five pastors, eight evangelists and 10 teachers serving in five preschools.

Remember the Lord's work in India and Sri Lanka as you pray:

1. *with thanksgiving for God's faithfulness to the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) and the Lanka Lutheran Church (LLC), two LCMS partner church bodies who serve the people of India and Sri Lanka. The LCMS first sent missionaries to India in 1895, and mission efforts in India later expanded into its island neighbor, Sri Lanka.*

2. *for the Lord to guide and protect IELC President Rev. Dr. J. Samuel. May the Lord grant him strength and wisdom as he serves in this important role.*

3. *that the Lord would continue to guide the ministry of Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil, India, the seminary of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church's (IELC), as it trains future pastors, deaconesses and other leaders. Ask God to bless the seminary's efforts to cover its \$60,000 budget deficit through local fundraising.*

4. *for God to grant the timely issue of all needed permits for the construction of new buildings at the IELC's seminary in Nagercoil, so that the seminary may better serve its students and the needs of IELC congregations.*

5. *with thanks to God for the success of the IELC seminary's new Bachelor of Divinity program. Pray that this undergraduate degree will continue to attract students and faculty from across India and garner interest from other Asian countries.*

6. *with praise and thanks to God for the faithfulness and skill of the IELC seminary's faculty. May He continue to work through them to train the next*

generation of pastors and deaconesses for the IELC.

7. *that the Lord would continue to use the IELC's system of 80 Lutheran schools to provide Christ-centered, quality education for its students. Pray that the Lord would provide the means for the myriad construction and repair needs in these schools.*

8. *for God to guide and bless the IELC's ministry amongst the tsunami survivors in Kanyakumari, a town at India's southern tip.*

9. *that the Lord would use the mercy project, supported by the LCMS, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Chennai, India, to make His love known to local malnourished children and their families. Through this integrated child development program, students receive wholesome food and are cared for in a Christ-centered environment.*

10. *that the Lord would provide four LCMS families to serve in India and Sri Lanka as career missionaries.*

11. *with thanks and praise to God for the success of the church-planting "probationers" who serve a two-year vicarage in locations throughout India and Sri Lanka as a part of their seminary training. Rejoice that 75 congregations have been established or re-established through their ministry and ask the Lord to grant them safety as they travel and serve.*

12. *that the Lord would guide fellowship talks taking place between the LCMS and the Lutheran Church in Lanka (LCL), a church body in Sri Lanka that is not yet in altar and pulpit fellowship with the*

LCMS. Ask God to grant participating leaders wisdom and clear communication throughout the process.

13. *that the Lord would bless the LCL's efforts to begin assuming greater financial responsibilities for its ministries through improved stewardship.*

14. *that the Lord would also watch over Rev. G. Nadaraja, president of the Lanka Lutheran Church (LLC). May his leadership be a guide and blessing to the entire church body.*

15. *for the millions of very poor and suffering people in India and Sri Lanka. Pray for God to use His Church to show mercy to the Dalits, the "untouchables," who comprise the lowest castes in India. Though it is illegal under the Indian constitution, caste-based oppression and discrimination continues.*



Involvement Ideas

• Visit www.lcms.org/india and www.lcms.org/srilanka to learn more about LCMS witness and mercy work in India and Sri Lanka.



• Visit www.lcms.org/india and www.lcms.org/srilanka and click on "mission projects" to read about projects that need financial support in India and Sri Lanka and to give a secure gift online.

• Visit www.lcms.org/armedforces to learn more about LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces.

• Visit www.lcms.org/operationbarnabas to learn more about Operation Barnabas, a special program of Ministry to the Armed Forces.

• Download a map that shows the 90-some locations and countries where the LCMS carries out witness and mercy work around the world. Visit www.lcms.org/international to download this free PDF (available in 8 1/2 x 11 or 11 x 17 sizes).

Photo: An Indian woman is baptized into God's family at an IELC congregation.

LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES – MAY 16-31 LCMS chaplains have served in the United States Armed Forces since the early years of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. LCMS Armed Forces Sunday, on May 20, provides an opportunity for LCMS congregations to honor veterans and the LCMS chaplains who serve among veterans, current military, and their families

Remember LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces as you pray:

16. *for the 67 Army, Navy and Air Force chaplains currently on active duty, and the 83 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.

17. *for the 83 LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, approximately 24 of whom have been mobilized stateside or overseas this past year taking them from their parishes to extended active duty assignments.* Please pray for those deployed, their families and their home parishes.

18. *for our Active Duty, National Guard 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.

19. *for Operation Barnabas, which has expanded its program in the last year.* Originally designed to meet the needs of congregations in the event their pastor/chaplain is mobilized, it now seeks to also assist veterans and their families during deployment and in returning from deployment back to the community.

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

21. *for Chaplain Mike Moreno, who serves as the director of Operation Barnabas.* Mike travels extensively conducting face-to-face meetings and

seminars to assist churches in outreach to military members and their families. Ask the Lord to grant him safe travel, wisdom and Christ-centered love for the people affected by their loved ones' military service.

22. *for the Operation Barnabas counselors who are serving in 30 of the Synod's 35 districts.* These counselors are pastors with military experience who are now beginning a new phase of the Barnabas program, that is, to establish "Operation Barnabas chapters" in key congregations to assist veterans in the community.

23. *for the 25 LCMS Veterans Administration chaplains, as they provide care to our military veterans.* The VA system cares for the injured military veterans from every era. Now they are meeting injured veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who suffer physical and emotional scars.

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 health care system offer care programs for returning soldiers. Pray that our returning veterans might find healing and renewal.

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 in the Armed Forces.

27. *for LCMS districts as they consider the invitation to create chapters — pray for the Lord to provide the necessary time and talents for this effort through His people in various districts.*

28. *for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) chaplains who serve in a volunteer capacity throughout the nation.* The LCMS has 29 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.

29. *for the four full-time LCMS prison chaplains — Russell Helbig in Williamsburg, S.C.; Scott Kirchoff in Manchester, Ky.; K. Lynn Stroud in Bryan, Texas; and Ryan Willis in Ft. Worth, Texas — as they minister among prison inmates and staff workers in carefully guarded and highly regulated federal institutions.*

30. *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.

31. *for the staff of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, Mark Schreiber, Eric Erkinen, Mike Moreno and Nancy Rowley, who work tirelessly to support the LCMS chaplains and coordinate the many aspects of MAF.*

Missionary & Personnel Birthdays

Missionary & personnel prayer cards may be downloaded from the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/prayercards.

- May 1** Ed Strohschein, Hong Kong
- May 2** Hannah Kiefer, Macau; Sarah Weider, Indonesia
- May 4** Deborah Aarhus, South Korea
- May 9** Todd Roeske, Philippines; Virginia Taff-Lagergren, South Africa
- May 11** Michael Rodewald, South Africa
- May 15** Delaine Baker, South Korea; Matthew Heise, Eurasia
- May 16** Rita Flohrs, Germany
- May 18** Sandi Eisold, Peru; Kalia Lo, Cambodia
- May 19** Jerry Markin, Vietnam
- May 21** Jacqueline Noel Engelbrecht, Asia
- May 26** David Bickel, South Korea; Persephone James, Hong Kong
- May 27** Donna Meyer, Papua New Guinea
- May 30** Steve Kosberg, South Korea; Carl Rockrohr, South Africa

Military chaplains with birthdays in May:

Chaplain Marc DiConti, Camp Pendleton, Calif.;
Chaplain Donald Ehrke, Fort Bliss, Texas;
Chaplain Matthew Franke, McChord Field, Wash.;
Chaplain Timothy Sowers, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.;
Chaplain Charles Varsogea, England