



Pray For Us Calendar

These prayer requests were submitted by coworkers in the Lord's mission.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

BELIZE — APRIL 1-15 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) officially began work in Belize in 2015, when the first LCMS missionary was called to the country. However, the Belize Mission Society, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, has been sending mission teams to the country since 2003 to hold vacation Bible schools, organize dental clinics and do other projects.

Remember God's work in Belize as you pray:

1. *that God would bless the work of the Rev. Duane Meissner, the first LCMS missionary to Belize, as he plants Lutheran churches in the country.*

2. *for the Meissner family. Ask the Lord to give Meissner's wife, Elizabeth, and their children contentment and joy in their lives in Central America.*

3. *for the people of Seine Bight, the village where Meissner is working. Pray that they would work together to solve community problems.*

4. *for Belizeans — and all people — who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pray that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts to bring them to the knowledge of the truth.*

5. *that the Lord would provide a permanent meeting place for Meissner's emerging congregation. Since last fall, they have been holding Bible studies and church services at picnic tables and other outdoor meeting areas in the village.*

6. *with thanksgiving for the work of the Belize Mission Society and other*

groups that have paved the way for the Gospel through their mission trips and mercy work.

7. *for the health and safety of the Meissner family and all those who travel to Belize on mission trips.*

8. *with thanksgiving for developments in Meissner's ministry. He held his first official church service in Seine Bight on Epiphany at the urging of members of the women's Bible study.*

9. *that those who attend Bible studies and services would continue to bring new friends and family members each week.*

10. *for those in Seine Bight who are impacted by sickness or infirmity, that the Lord would grant them healing or comfort according to His will.*

11. *for those in the village who continue to follow traditional religions. Pray that the Lord would lead them to faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose again to save all people from their sins.*

12. *that interest in the Lutheran church would grow in nearby villages as well.*

13. *with thanksgiving that the Word of God does not return empty. Pray that it would take root in hearts and minds in Belize.*

14. *that God would send more missionaries to serve alongside the Meissners. In this country of 350,000 people, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*

15. *for the future of the Lutheran church in Belize. Pray that the Lord would continue building His Church in this place.*



Lovina listens as the Rev. Duane Meissner, career missionary to Belize, reads a devotion during a visit to her home.



Primary school students pray before eating a free meal provided through the Belize Mission Society's lunch program.

INVOLVEMENT IDEAS

- Want to learn more about mission work in Belize? Read an article about the Rev. Duane Meissner and his work planting churches: engage.lcms.org/planting-churches-in-belize-winter-2017.
- The LCMS and Alliance Defending Freedom have collaborated on a free resource that provides guidance on how congregations, schools and ministries can protect against and prepare for religious liberty intrusions. Download *Protecting Your Ministry* at blogs.lcms.org/2016/new-legal-guide.
- Visit lcms.org/armedforces to learn more about LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, including how you can get involved with supporting U.S. servicemen and women.
- Find resources to help you bear witness to Christ as you speak about and support life, marriage and religious freedom at lcms.org/freetobefateful.

FREE TO BE FAITHFUL — APRIL 16-30 In 2012, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) launched “Free to be Faithful,” an initiative that educates and raises awareness about the increasing intrusions by the government and culture into the realm of the Church. The initiative focuses on three issues: the sanctity of life, traditional marriage and religious liberty. Join the LCMS this month and always in standing up for our Lutheran views in the public square.

Remember God’s work through the “Free to be Faithful” initiative as you pray:

16. for all Christians in the United States and around the world this Easter Sunday, that through Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, they, too, might be raised to the newness of life by God’s life-giving Spirit.

17. for those who struggle with same-sex attraction. Help them — and all of us — to find in God’s unfailing love the grace to deny all desires that are against His will.

18. that we might have the spirit of wisdom and compassion, so that we may rightly speak God’s words of judgment and mercy to all who will hear.

19. for Christians who are being sued because of their religious beliefs. Pray that the Lord would be with them during their trials and guide our country to find a balance that protects the rights of all.

20. with thanksgiving for the many freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States. Please pray that God would preserve these freedoms here and around the world.

21. for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith. Strengthen them with God’s Spirit and make them bold to confess His saving name.

22. for life, that all children would be welcomed and loved in America today.

23. for college students and military personnel, two groups who are profoundly affected by the government’s intrusion into the realm of the Church. Keep them faithful to Jesus, their Lord and Savior.

24. with thanksgiving for our military chaplains, who are under increasing pressure to remain silent about the faith, but who continue to preach Christ.

25. for marriage, that husbands and wives would find in Christ’s unfailing love for His Bride, the Church, and her devotion and submission to Him the pattern for their married life.

26. for our LCMS congressmen and representatives, that they would be courageous in their defense of the truth and that they would faithfully serve in the vocation in which God has placed them.

27. for President Donald Trump, that he would lead the country with wisdom and uphold the rights — especially of freedom of religion — afforded in the U.S. Constitution.

28. for religious liberty, that our rights to live, worship and care for others be upheld so that we may bear witness to Christ in all we do.

29. for all the citizens of the United States, that we would once again place value on the lives of all people, on marriage between a man and woman, and on the freedom to worship.

30. for LCMS staffers in Washington, D.C., that they would remain faithful to God’s Word, even when their jobs conflict with their beliefs.



The Rev. Wally Arp, senior pastor of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Oviedo, Fla., performs a wedding ceremony.

MISSIONARY & PERSONNEL BIRTHDAYS

Download the prayer cards of missionaries and other personnel from lcms.org/prayercards.

- April 1** J.P. Cima, Southeast Asia;
Joshua Gale, Peru;
Jenn Wolf, Kenya
- April 2** Rebecca Lopez, Brownsville, Texas
- April 10** Angela Sharp, Uruguay;
Shauen Trump, Eastern and Southern Africa
- April 12** Gail Grieser, Macau;
Eric Stinnett, Ethiopia
- April 13** Benjamin Helge, Eurasia
- April 16** Melissa DeGroot, Philadelphia, Pa.
- April 18** Robert Ferrin, Hong Kong
- April 19** Valerie Sue Stonebreaker, Togo
- April 23** Kendra McNatt, Germany
- April 26** Sarah Kanoy, Kenya
- April 27** Gretchen Weesner Aguilar, Asia;
Jacqueline Duke, Peru;
Micah Wildauer, Togo
- April 28** Markie Burch, Peru;
Matthew Fick, Taiwan
- April 29** Elizabeth Meissner, Belize

MILITARY CHAPLAINS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL:
Chaplain Douglas Ochner, Fort Gordon, Ga.,
and Chaplain Matthew Mortenson, Fort Hood,
Texas.