**Companion Synod Prayer Petitions - 2017**

**January to July. Prayers for May to July recently added**

*The following prayer petitions are prepared and sent by the Upper Susquehanna Synod Liberia Committee. Please use them in your congregation to lift up our companion synod program; for example, include them in your intercessory prayers, print them in your bulletin or newsletter. The committee welcomes suggestions for petitions.*

Jan 1 We pray that this New Year brings the power of Jesus’ name into the relationship between Lutherans in the USA and in Liberia. May we be granted the wisdom to use this powerful name to bring more people both here and in Liberia to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Jan 8 At the Baptism of Jesus and as we begin a new year, help us to grow in unity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world as Your adopted children.

Jan 15 Lord God, we pray for the people traveling from our Synod to Liberia that they travel in safety, become acquainted with the Lutheran Church in Liberia and its people, and that they have transforming experiences. We trust all to Your loving care.

Jan 22 O Lord, our light and our salvation, in the midst of life’s difficulties, in the face of defeat, shine the light of your cross into our hearts, so that we your people remain united in the Spirit and empowered to proclaim the good news of grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

Jan 29 We remember those who are persecuted for their faith in Christ. May we work together with our Christian family in Liberia toward the goal of a world where people may be free to love and serve Jesus without fear.

Feb 5 We pray for Liberian pastors, evangelists and catechists and those training to be leaders of the church, that they might receive the Spirit of Wisdom that comes only from God and be empowered to share their faith with others.

Feb 12 Lord God, we thank you for the welcome and hospitality shown to us by our Liberian sisters and brothers. Forgive us our sins and help us to overcome our faults so that we in the Upper Susquehanna Synod might become the welcoming church you have called us to be.

Feb 19 O Lord, despite our imperfection, help us to see in each other the presence of your holiness, and unite us, the Lutheran Church in Liberia and the Upper Susquehanna Synod, around your Holy Table, in thanksgiving for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Feb 26 Today is a day of brightness - the “brightness” of Jesus. We ask for the courage to light a candle in the dark corners of this world whether they be in Liberia or in the USA. May our churches bring light to both of our lands as well as other lands that we might touch Christ’s ”brightness.”

March 5 During this season of Lent, we pray for all who have suffered from sin and its deadly consequences. We pray for those in Liberia and in all places where war has torn apart communities, that they might be saved from temptations of discouragement and be strengthened by your forgiveness. We pray for the LCL’s Trauma Healing and Reconciliation program.

March 12 O God, we thank you for the early missionaries Morris Officer and David Day and others, who, like Abraham, left their homes to travel to Liberia to share the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for the Lutheran Church in Liberia and the thousands of people who now believe in God’s love.

March 19 O Lord, Fountain of Living Water, we pray that your children in all places around the world will have access to clean water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and farming. We pray for all who are working in villages, organizations and the government to assure this basic human necessity of water for all people.

March 26 We pray for Phebe and Curran Hospitals in Liberia which we have supported and continue to support. May they continue to heal people who otherwise would have no hope. Give hope to the hospital staff and administration as they live and serve. Selah.

April 2 As Jesus wept for Lazarus, so the Lutheran Church in Liberia has wept for those suffering from HIV/AIDS. We pray for those working in the LCL’s HIV/AIDS Program, that they would bring healing and hope to families who have been affected.

April 9 Lord God, we join our sisters and brothers in Liberia in celebration of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and with them, we mourn the tragic events that followed. We thank you for the faith we share that overcomes adversity and accepts God’s will.

April 16 O Lord, Giver of Life, Redeemer and Sanctifier of Life, on this Day of Resurrection, lead us, your people - in the Upper Susquehanna Synod and throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in the Lutheran Church in Liberia, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ in all places - to tell the good news of freedom from our past and the promise of eternal life in your glory.

April 23 As Thomas saw the hands and side of the risen Lord, teach us to see in the scars of others the redeeming presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

April 30 We pray for the representatives of the partner churches walking with the Lutheran Church in Liberia as they meet in their annual conference: the Church of Sweden, the Danish Evangelical Mission, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

MAY 7 - Enable Bishop Jensen Seyenkulo and the officers of the Lutheran Church in Liberia to be good shepherds to the congregations. Guide their special ministries of Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Program and their work fighting malaria and HIV/AIDS.

MAY 14 - As Liberians celebrate National Unification Day, we pray for continued peace and renewed prosperity for people of all tribes and languages of Liberia.

MAY 21 - Dear Lord, we pray for the health of the pastors of the Lutheran Church in Liberia. Give them strength and courage as they follow their call in circumstances where health care is not readily available.

MAY 28 - The hour has come to glorify the Son of Man. Together as partners, may we – the Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Lutheran Church in Liberia - strive to glorify Jesus and spread his saving word in prayer and in deed to all who listen and follow him.

JUNE 4, Day of Pentecost - Almighty God, your Spirit has moved across the waters and through all nations and tongues, pour your Holy Spirit upon all your children, especially our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church in Liberia,: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and awareness of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

JUNE 11 - O Lord, bless the efforts of teachers in the Lutheran Schools in Liberia … of doctors and nurses at Phebe Hospital and Curren Lutheran Hospital, … of Liberian pastors, deacons and evangelists … as they all give love and dedication in serving.

JUNE 18 - Shepherd, we pray for wise leadership and management of resources for both churches and schools as the initiate more income generating activities for the purpose of sustainability.

JUNE 25 - We pray Lord that Lutherans in Liberia and the United States continue to run the race, fight the good fight, and keep the faith, so that Christ’s message be fully proclaimed.

JULY 2 – As the United States celebrates its independence and Liberia begins nominations of presidential candidates, we pray for God’s guidance for national leaders, that they act with honor and compassion for the people.

JULY 9 - We thank you Lord for the welcome that our sisters and brothers in the Lutheran Church in Liberia showed our synod’s delegation of two clergy and three lay people who visited in January and February. We pray that we might have the opportunity to extend such a welcome to members of the LCL and that future exchanges help us to grow in understanding and love for one another.

JULY 16 - Lord of seed-time and harvest, be with the teachers and students at the Lutheran Training Institute in Liberia. Provide staff members with adequate salaries; provide students materials necessary for learning; enable graduates to find jobs. We pray for funding for the growth and expansion of LTI. Under the direction of its new director, the Reverend Peter Kpakela.

JULY 23 – As Liberia celebrates its Independence Day on July 26 and as it closes its process of nominating presidential candidates, we pray that the forthcoming elections be peaceful and legitimate.

JULY 30 - Lord we pray for partner churches walking with the Lutheran Church in Liberia - the Church of Sweden, the Danish Evangelical Mission, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. May their work together help grow the witness of the Lutheran Church in Liberia as it proclaims in word and deed the presence of our Lord and Savior.