A CALL TO PRAYER FOR OUR NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Peace Lutheran Church
Fall 2026

The purpose of the following two-week prayer discipline is to help our congregation stay rooted in spiritual formation while engaging faithfully with the public life of our nation. We have sought to avoid many of the pitfalls of some election prayer guides. Rather than telling people *what to pray politically*, this guide encourages Christians to pray from values and virtues that transcend party affiliation: being Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy in spirit and relationships, reconciled, just, wise, and truthful. We want to create space for genuine discernment rather than prescribing conclusions, seeking to genuinely encourage thoughtful, prayerful engagement during a season when many people feel anxious or divided.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, seek my face, and turn from their destructive ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

As we approach the national elections, we commit ourselves first to seeking God. This guide is not intended to promote any candidate, party, or political viewpoint. Rather, it is an invitation to pray faithfully for us, our communities, our leaders, and our nation. Each day offers a theme and prayer prompts, trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide each participant in forming their own prayers – though we have also included in the back of this booklet, prayers written by some "For a Time Such as This (FATSAT)" members.

Our prayer guide suggests a *daily pattern of prayer*. Beginning with silence, self-examination, Scripture, and quiet listening helps ensure that our prayers are not only directed outward toward the nation but inward toward our own transformation.

People who use this process may find themselves instinctively moving to a sense of lament, or hope, or action. If so, good! We members of FATSAT have found that framework spiritually deepening and very helpful. ☺

Daily Prayer Process (Use Each Day)

1. Be Still

- Take a few moments of silence.
- Become aware of God's presence.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, attitudes, and prayers.

2. Examine Your Heart

- Ask God to reveal any fear, pride, anger, prejudice, judgment, anxiety, or cynicism.
- Confess what is brought to mind or what you know you are already carrying.
- Ask, with humility and an open heart, for God's grace and forgiveness.
- Take focused time to receive and soak up God's grace and forgiveness.

3. Reflect on Scripture

- Read a selected passage or a short portion of Scripture. Read and reflect on as many of the suggested passages as you wish each day.
- Note a word, phrase, or image that stands out.

4. Pray the Day's Theme

- Use the prompts for the day's theme.
- Pray for yourself, your community, leaders, candidates, election workers, and the nation as appropriate.

5. Listen

- Spend a few minutes in silence.
- Ask, "What might God be inviting me to do, change, or trust today?"

6. Commit to Action

- Choose one practical act that reflects the day's theme.
- Offer yourself to God as an instrument of peace, justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

7. Close with Gratitude

- Name three things you are thankful for.
- Entrust the nation and its future to God's care. Give our nation your blessing for its future, in God's hands.

Day 1: Spirit-Filled Living

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 14:15-17, 26; John 15:4-5

Focus: Dependence on God's Spirit rather than fear, anger, or human strength.

Pray For:

- Fresh openness to the Holy Spirit.
- Humility and teachability.
- Freedom from anxiety about the election.
- Churches and believers to reflect Christ's character in attitude, word, and deed.

Consider:

- Where do I need the Spirit's guidance today?
- What attitudes need surrendering?

Day 2: Compassion

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 9:35-38; Matthew 25:34-40

Focus: Seeing others through God's eyes – with mercy, kindness and love

Pray For:

- Greater empathy toward people with different experiences and views.
- People who have the power of position or money.
- Vulnerable individuals and communities.
- Grace in public conversations.
- A decrease in hostility, judgment, and contempt.

Consider:

- Who is difficult for me to understand or love?
- How do my judgments trip me up?
- How can compassion shape my response to current events?

Day 3: Integrity

Scripture: Micah 6:8; Proverbs 11: 3; Psalm 15:1-5; Matthew 5:33-37; Matthew 7:15-20

Focus: Honesty, consistency, and moral courage.

Pray For:

- Truthfulness in public discourse.
- Integrity among leaders, candidates, and citizens.
- Personal honesty and accountability.
- Resistance to misinformation and manipulation.

Consider:

- Am I living consistently with my values and faith?
- How do I respond when truth is inconvenient?
- What is my Lament?

Day 4: Wisdom

Scripture: James 1:5-8; Proverbs 3:5-7; Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 14:28-33

Focus: Seeking God's perspective rather than relying on human understanding

Pray For:

- Wisdom for voters and leaders.
- Sound judgment in decision-making.
- Discernment beyond slogans and partisanship.
- The ability to visualize and prioritize the common good.

Consider:

- What areas of my own certainty need examination?
- What sources influence my thinking?
- How can/do I seek wisdom rather than certainty?

Day 5: Peace

Scripture: Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 5:9; John 14:27; John 16:33

Focus: God's peace within and among us.

Pray For:

- Calm hearts and clear minds.
- Peaceful interactions in families and communities.
- Nonviolent responses to disagreements.
- A spirit of reconciliation throughout the nation.

Consider:

- Where am I carrying fear or tension?
- What does the word “peace” mean to me?
- How might I become a peacemaker today?

Day 6: Truth

Scripture: John 8:31-32; Ephesians 4:25-32; John 18:37

Focus: Commitment to what is true and trustworthy. Speaking truth with love and rejecting falsehood.

Pray For:

- Commitment to truth across society.
- Responsible communication by media, leaders, and citizens.
- Protection from deception.
- Courage to acknowledge facts even when difficult.

Consider:

- How do I verify what I hear?
- Am I willing to be corrected?

Day 7: Community

Scripture: Romans 12:9-18; Acts **2:42-47**; John 13:34-35; Matthew 18:20

Focus: Our shared life together based on mutual care, hospitality and respect.

Pray For:

- Healthy neighborhoods and local communities.
- Respectful civic engagement.
- Bridges across political and cultural divides.
- A renewed commitment to the common good.

Consider:

- How can I strengthen my community rather than deepen division?
- Who are my neighbors in need of encouragement?

Day 8: Discernment

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 1:9-11; Luke 6:43-45

Focus: Recognizing God's leading amid complexity and discerning what is best.

Pray For:

- Clarity amidst conflicting messages.
- Spiritual sensitivity and attentiveness.
- Protection from fear-based decision making.
- Churches to model thoughtful engagement.

Consider:

- What voices am I listening to?
- What fruits are being produced by those voices?
- What voices spark anxiety in me? What voices encourage my deeper thinking?

Day 9: Justice

Scripture: Micah 6:8; Isaiah 58:6-12; Amos 5:21-24; Matthew 23:23; Luke 4:18-19

Focus: God's concern for righteousness, fairness, equity for all people, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Pray For:

- Policies and decisions that uphold human dignity.
- Fair treatment of all people.
- Protection of the vulnerable.
- Leaders committed to justice and mercy.

Consider:

- Where is God calling me to advocate for others?
- How do justice and compassion work together?
- What concrete actions can I take to address justice?

Day 10: Reconciliation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 2:13-18; Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:21-22

Focus: That we might help heal relationships and divisions - becoming ministers of reconciliation.

Pray For:

- Families strained by political differences.
- Communities experiencing polarization.
- Opportunities for understanding and healing.
- A spirit of forgiveness.

Consider:

- Is there a relationship needing repair?
- What does reconciliation mean for the people/situations being reconciles?
- Where can I initiate reconciliation?

Day 11: Safety and Protection

Scripture: Joshua 1:9; Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11; Psalm 121; Matthew 10:29-31; John 10:27-30

Focus: God's care, protection, and the wellbeing of all involved in the election process.

Pray For:

- Election workers and volunteers.
- Voters and community members.
- Public servants, law enforcement, and security personnel.
- Peaceful conduct before, during, and after the election.

Consider:

- How can I contribute to a climate of respect and safety?
- What concrete actions should I consider in order to contribute to this in my own community?
- What fears need to be entrusted to God?

Day 12: Courage

Scripture: Joshua 1:7-9; 2 Psalm 27; Matthew 14:27; II Timothy 1:7;

Focus Faithful action, confidence and perseverance despite uncertainty.

Pray For:

- Courage to do what is right.
- Leaders to act with conviction and humility.
- Citizens to engage responsibly.
- Strength to resist cynicism and despair.

Consider:

- What courageous step is God inviting me to take?
- Where do I need greater trust?

Day 13: Hope

Scripture: Romans 5 : 1-5 and 15**:**13; Hebrews 11:1; Luke 12:32 - 34

Focus: Confidence in God's faithfulness and the sustaining power of hope.

Pray For:

- Renewed hope for the nation and communities.
- Those feeling discouraged or fearful.
- Endurance in prayer and service.
- Eyes to see signs of God's work.

Consider:

- What gives me hope?
- What does tangible hope look like to me?
- How can I share hope with others? (see Diane's Powers' sermon 8.23.2-26)

Day 14: The Common Good

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-7; Ephesians 4:1-6; Matthew 5:13-16; John 17:20-23

Focus: Loving our nation without idolizing it, seeking the wellbeing of all. Seeking the welfare of the community while honoring our deeper allegiance to God.

Pray For:

- Respectful behavior toward all people in the midst of disagreement.
- Respect for democratic processes.
- Leaders and citizens choosing to work for the common good.
- A future marked by justice, peace, truth, and compassion.

Consider:

- What does faithful citizenship look like?
- How can I contribute to healing rather than division?

Suggested Daily Closing Reflection: *"How can I be more Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and committed to justice today?"*

NOTE

Our hope is that all who participate in this Call to Prayer over the course of two weeks will experience a movement from personal transformation (Spirit-filled living, integrity, wisdom) to relationship transformation (community, reconciliation, peace) and finally to public engagement (justice, courage, hope, and the pursuit of the common good).

Pray that these transformations become real and powerful for you.

God bless us all, our community and our nation as the election approaches!