

August 2 Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
Julie DeKoster, District 6 Elder

Heavenly Father, we come today with all praise, honor, and glory to you our triune God. We see your face in the colors of the rainbow, and on the faces of the people that we encounter each day. We see it in the beauty of nature that surrounds us at this time of year and in the laughter of children. We feel your spirit among us during these times of worship and in the fellowship we have with family and friends who surround us. Thank you Lord for the many blessings we receive each day.

We remain mindful of the many difficult situations that your people also endure. Many times these challenges can overshadow the presence of your caring heart and hand. Bring peace and healing to our hurting world. We are comforted in the knowledge of your ever present love and care of each and every person created in your image. May we be your hands and feet in offering care and compassion to those in need.

As a church family we offer thanks for the good report that Natalie P received this week. It has been a long road but her testimony has given evidence of your guiding hand and encouraging presence in her life. Dave D received a bit of discouraging news about his eyes after an earlier report that was very encouraging. He will need to undergo some follow-up treatment and we pray for your healing hand and comforting presence for Dave and Jan.

We are grateful for the work of Pastors Rebecca and Brad along with the other members of the ministerial support staff. These have been challenging times and they have offered us a feeling of community during these weeks and months apart. Continue to walk with them and grant each of them your peace and strength as they run the race before them.

We ask you to grant wisdom and discernment to our school leaders, teachers and staff during these challenging times. There are so many circumstances to consider and seemingly no way to meet the vast array of needs. The planning process is daunting and we pray that the decision makers will find rest in the comfort of your guiding hand. Give rest to the weary and renew their strength in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Likewise, grant wisdom and discernment to local, state and national leaders in our country and around the world. In Philippians 4: 6-7 you encourage us with these words, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." We pray that our leaders will seek you and desire to walk in your ways. Hold them close!

God, we do not always know how to pray or what exactly to pray for, so we thank you for Jesus, who prays with us and for us. In his name we pray the prayer he taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.