

PRAYERS OF DISCERNMENT

2023 Bishop's Election

North American Lutheran Church

PURPOSE

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) will elect a new Bishop at its 2023 Mission Convocation in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; therefore, the Executive Council of the NALC is calling for prayer to discern this position. Electing a Bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of the Church and a key responsibility of the biennial Convocation. As an election, it is a process governed by the constitution of the North American Lutheran Church; however, it is also a call process. As such, it involves discernment from the perspective of both the individual potential nominees and the NALC as a whole. Engaging in prayerful reflection and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit are indispensable aspects of the process of nomination and election of the Bishop of this Church.

Understanding that congregations pray for such events in different ways, it seemed appropriate that we offer a variety of prayer resources for the election of our future Bishop.

The provided material, collected from various worship resources and members of the NALC, is intended for use in public worship, prayer, small or large groups, and individual devotions.

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INTRODUCTION

On Praying for the Leaders of the Church

Beloved, Pray for Us

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. Brothers, pray for us. Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

-1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

On Praying for the Bishop

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This

is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

-1 Timothy 2:1-8

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

-Ephesians 6:10



PRAYERS

Intercessory Prayers

Almighty God, through Your Son Jesus Christ You gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed Your flock. Inspire all pastors to preach Your Word diligently and Your people to receive it willingly, that finally, we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on Your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for the North American Lutheran Church, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for Your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



O God, through the ages You have called men and women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in Your Church. Let Your blessing rest now on all who answer that call. Grant them an understanding of the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the means of grace, the Word of God, the sincerity of purpose, diligence in ministry, and the beauty of life in Christ, that many people will be served, and Your name be glorified; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



Almighty God, make known to us who best will share compassion and grace to care for our clergy, churches, and ourselves; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Almighty and everlasting God, in all ages You have raised up faithful servants to pastor and guide Your holy people and to make known Your will among us; increase in us the gifts of discernment and understanding that we might know Your will as we prepare to elect a Bishop for Your Church.



Lord God, open our minds, our hearts, and our eyes that we may see You and choose as You would, a Bishop of faith and godliness.



Blessed Lord, You speak to us through the Holy Scriptures. Grant that we may hear, read, respect, learn, and make them our own in such a way that the enduring benefit and comfort of the Word will help us grasp and hold the blessed hope of everlasting life. Further, we are bold to pray that You call a servant who will teach the Holy Scriptures with passion and faithfulness.



O most loving Father, open our ears and guide our tongues that, in all our conversations and deliberations, our listening and speaking might be filled with Your grace and favor as we prepare to elect our Bishop; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Lord God, reveal to us a Bishop filled with the Holy Spirit and who will passionately support the mission and ministries of the North American Lutheran Church; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Gracious and loving God, You are our Good Shepherd, in You we place our hope and trust: hear the prayers of Your faithful people, lead us to one mind and one heart in You, and show us that Bishop who will feed and tend Your flock; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Give your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in Your Church, that, by their faithful service, faith may abound and Your kingdom increase; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

†

Holy God, send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to labor in the Gospel both at home and in distant lands; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

†

Almighty God, You have given Your Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us into all truth. Bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the people of the North American Lutheran Church as we prepare to elect a Bishop. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest Your glory and prepare for the way of Your Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

†

Gracious Father, we pray for Your holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

†

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide to the end; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Most high and holy God, pour out upon us Your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole Church a hunger and thirst for unity in You; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us, we pray, to be grounded and settled in Your truth by the coming of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. That which we know not, reveal; that which is wanting in us, fill up; that which we know, confirm; and keep us blameless in Your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



O God, through water and the Holy Spirit You give us new birth. Cleanse us from sin and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in Your people the gift of Your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in Your presence, both now and forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit You have knit

Your servants into the one body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them as they discern a new call in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

†

Loving God, grant us Your mercy and grace to hear Your voice and answer Your call to serve. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, that in wisdom and discernment we would clearly know and follow Your will for Your holy Church.

†

Merciful Father, we are called to give thanks in all circumstances. Help us to give thanks when we are unsure how You are working in our lives as well as in times when we can see Your handiwork clearly. Give us hearts that rejoice always for You have us given us the greatest treasure in Jesus Christ our Lord.

†

Holy Wisdom, who are we that You are mindful of us? You of all majesty are the Lord of lords and King of kings. May we always sing Your praises and proclaim Your good news to the ends of the earth!

†

Give ear to our prayers, Mighty One, and regard us with Your mercy. May we walk in Your ways all our lives and put our whole trust in You alone. You are our strength and shield, a very present help in times of trouble.

Prayers for Eastertide

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

God of Life, we give You thanks for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and for the power with which You fill Your Church through the Risen Lord alive and among us. Bless Your whole Church with resurrection power as we prepare to elect a new Bishop for the North American Lutheran Church and guide us by Your presence to all that is hopeful and life-giving for the sake of the Gospel.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Merciful and loving Savior, You come among us and speak peace amid our doubts and fears. Unlock the doors of our hearts and minds to see the possibilities that Your life among us brings for the sake of the world. Bless those among us in this Church offering themselves to serve as our next Bishop. Strengthen them and all of us for service in Your holy Church.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lord Jesus Christ, You stand before us in all circumstances of life, asking that we love one another. We give You thanks for the men and women who have offered themselves to the care of Your Church as our next Bishop. Be with them and with their congregations during this time of discernment. Bless each of them with Your grace and commitment and be with those who are preparing to be delegates for the North American Lutheran Church Convocation. Lead us all to be committed disciples for You.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Shepherd us, O God, as You speak, and Your sheep hear Your voice. Open our ears to the guiding of Your Spirit through the Church, the Word, and the means of grace. Bless us with wisdom as we prepare to elect a new Bishop for the North American Lutheran Church and hear our thanks for the one who has shepherded us these past eight years, Your servant, John.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

God of all creation, You come among us as one who serves and calls us to love one another. As we prepare to elect a new servant leader for the North American Lutheran Church, let Your call to love each other be foremost in our hearts and minds. By Your risen presence among us, teach us so to love each other and the world You have given us that we may live out our days in harmony with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

God of all creation, You offer us the gift of perfect peace. Lead us by Your Spirit of peace as we draw closer to the election of a new Bishop. Strengthen Your Church to know and do Your will.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lord of the Church: We lay our ardent prayers before you today for the North American Lutheran Church. As we prepare to elect a Bishop this year, guide us by the wisdom of Your Spirit. Fix our hearts on the power of the Gospel to transform us and the world You have given us, and lead us to elect the one who, with wisdom, grace, and love, can best respond to Your call to serve Your Church with humility.

Prayer for the Nominating Committee

Almighty God send Your Spirit, who broods over the world, to fill the hearts and minds of Your servants on the Nominating Committee of the North American Lutheran Church with wisdom, clarity and courage. Work in them as they examine and recommend candidates to serve as Bishop of the North American Lutheran Church. Help them endorse candidates who will effectively proclaim, by the means of grace and by example, the Good News of God in Christ. Challenge this Church to seek and serve Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior—loving our neighbors as ourselves and to be a blazing light for the kind of justice and peace that leads to all people respecting the dignity of all. Be with our Church that we may be open to the challenges that this process will bring to us—and help the whole Church to discern Your will for our future; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from *A Word To The Episcopal Church* by the Taskforce on Reimagining the Episcopal Church

Prayer for Time of Transition

God of Love, You are with us in every transition and change. As the North American Lutheran Church enters the election of a new Bishop with excitement and anxiety, we recall Your compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank You for the gifts, talents, and skills with which You have blessed us. We thank You for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank You for the work of others that give breadth and depth to our work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with You and supporting one another; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Adapted from *In Times of Transition* by Joseph P. Shadle

Prayer for the Process

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the witness of Your whole Church in his name. We thank You for Your Holy Spirit, empowering us for ministry. So guide the hearts and minds of all those who shall choose a Bishop in this, Your Church, and those who will respond to the call, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for Your people. May our discernment transform our spirits and draw us closer to You; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Thirty Days of Prayer

DAY ONE

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your might.

–Deuteronomy 6:5

Most holy God, we Your Church call upon You to set aside a faithful servant who loves You with heart, soul, and might to minister to the saints of the North American Lutheran Church and be a fervent witness to the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAY TWO

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

-Ephesians 6:10-12

Almighty God, You have armed Your Church well. Therefore, we are bold to call upon Your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to provide strength of character and unyielding fidelity to Your servants that one may stand out to be called our next Bishop to serve Your Church and the world through faithful living and ardent praise of You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAY THREE

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

-Mark 1:35

God of Promise, as Your Son ascended to Your right hand, he promised to be with us always. This assurance we ask for the leaders of the Church, that they may walk with You and dwell in Your presence. Instill trust in them as they find time to pray to You and trust in Your mercy and promises; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAY FOUR

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

-James 1:5-6

Most faithful God, we ask for Your wisdom as it is promised that it will be given. May we use this wisdom faithfully trusting that it comes from You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

 DAY FIVE

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

-Ephesians 5:21 (NRSV)

O God, bring forth a spiritual leader who submits to Christ, and is a servant who exemplifies love for the Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

 DAY SIX

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

-Ephesians 5:25b-27

Father, You sent Your Son to purify the Church and make it holy and without blemish; as leaders in his Church make us strong biblical witnesses to what You have done in, with, and through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

DAY SEVEN

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

–Ephesians 5:23

Gracious, eternal God, You have given us the gift of the Church, the bride of Christ, to be in a loving, faithful relationship to Christ the bridegroom. Send us a servant who will illustrate the faithfulness of the Church to her groom that the joy of this holy union may be a blessing to the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAY EIGHT

*The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
to bring good news to the poor...
...to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.
that they maybe called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.*

–Isaiah 61:1a, 3

Lord God, You sent Your Spirit that we may know Your presence among Your people. By this same Spirit, You have anointed Your Church in the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus; our mourning has turned to joy, that in our new-found life in Christ, we may be righteous plantings of the Gospel to display Your glory to the world. Amen.

DAY NINE

*...to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.*

-Isaiah 61:3a (NRSV)

Father, You adorn us with a beautiful headdress and garment of praise in times of anxiety. We pray for strength to persevere in prayer, especially for the servant whom You will call to be our next Bishop, that he or she may be one who encourages us to wear the garment of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

DAY TEN

As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

-John 17:18-21

Holy Father, You sent Christ into the world that we may know You. We pray for our Bishop to be sanctified in truth and love so that the word of his or her mouth and the meditations of his or her heart may be pleasing to Your glory; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY ELEVEN

*Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.*

—Psalm 91:9-11

Almighty God, anoint a priest for the priests to serve as a sentinel for the Church militant. Protect Your holy spaces; keep them dwelling places for the Lord and a holy ground in which to serve that the plagues of the world not enter them, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

DAY TWELVE

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

—Psalm 9:9-10

You, O Lord, do not forsake those who seek You. Raise

up leaders who gain their strength from knowing and trusting in You; we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY THIRTEEN

And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

-Ezekiel 22:30

Almighty God, we seek a faithful leader who supports the Church by being a hedge around the Gospel. Where there are cracks in the walls of faith, may our new Bishop stand steadfast and bind up the weakness as a witness to the power of the Gospel who is Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

DAY FOURTEEN

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need.

-Philippians 2:19-25

O Lord our God, You have called us to be a family in Christ; therefore, be with our new Bishop who, like a parent, may direct and encourage us in faith, life, and witness to the Gospel. Amen.

DAY FIFTEEN

Philippians 2:19-25 (see Day Fourteen).

O Lord our God, provide a servant leader who is genuinely concerned for Your Church and for all fellow workers in the Kingdom of God, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY SIXTEEN

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

-Galatians 6:14

Lord, we pray that our new Bishop, like Paul, will boast in the glory of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY SEVENTEEN

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

-Romans 5:3-5

We give You thanks, Holy Father, that through suffering and testing You give Your people endurance, character, and hope that Your love may be poured into our hearts. Thank You for the gift of prayer and this time of discernment as we prepare to elect a new Bishop who will understand times of suffering, that the ultimate love of God, Jesus Christ, may be proclaimed with unending joy. Amen.

DAY EIGHTEEN

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

–Ephesians 6:13-15

Almighty Father, source of everlasting light, we ask that our new Bishop not only bear the armor of God but display the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit and shoes by which to lead us in this life of faith and service to You; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY NINETEEN

Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”

–Matthew 4:10

Lord God, bring us a Bishop with a strong worship life that encourages the spiritual life of our leaders, that they may be strong in spirit and grounded in the Gospel of our salvation, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

DAY TWENTY

And [Jesus] could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

–Mark 6:5-6

Almighty and everlasting Father, provide the North American Lutheran Church with a Bishop who is an agent of healing, who strengthens faith during anxious times of the Church, and who seeks out those who desire to hear the healing power of Your Word, in Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

DAY TWENTY-ONE

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

–Colossians 1:28

Holy God, grant us a Bishop who encourages mature faith, discipleship, and proclaims the Gospel with boldness, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-TWO

But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

–Mark 5:36

Lord God, our refuge and strength, bring us assurance of Your presence in, with, and through Christ. We pray that You provide a leader among us to serve as our Bishop in the years to come who will not fear, but believe in Your mighty act of salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

 DAY TWENTY-THREE

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

–Ephesians 6:18 (NRSV)

Almighty and merciful God, we are bold to ask for a Bishop with a prayerful spirit, who keeps alert to the needs of this Church and of Your people throughout the world, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

 DAY TWENTY-FOUR

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel.

–Colossians 1:3-6a

God of all nations, we give thanks for the prayers of all people who call upon Your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; may the Gospel that has come to us bring hope to the world as we bear the message of truth in thought, word, and deed. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

You did not choose me but I chose you and I appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

–John 15:16

Holy Father, apart from You nothing is true, nothing is holy. Grant us a Bishop who stays close to the vine that he or she may not wither in their leadership but continue to grow stronger and be firmly grounded in their discipleship, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SIX

But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

–1 John 2:27-28

Lord Jesus, all authority is Yours; therefore, we are bold to ask for a servant leader who, by Your anointing power and in the authority You have given Your Church, teaches all that You have commanded and does not shrink from shame but has confidence in Your saving love. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

–1 Corinthians 9:27

Lord God, may our Bishop be disciplined by Your Word to keep a balanced life, make wise lifestyle choices, be mindful of healthy mind, body and soul, get sufficient rest that he or she may be renewed to balance the stress of ministry and the blessing of family as an example of godly leadership, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

So then, let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

–Romans 14:19

Holy Lord, joy marks Your presence; therefore, we pray that joy fill the hearts of Your people who are free to call upon Your name and that division, strife, or misunderstanding may not hold sway over us and peace reign eternal, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-NINE

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

–Romans 12:18

Deliver us, O Lord, from strife and unify the North American Lutheran Church, its staff, its council, its deans and pastors, its laity, and its neighbors, that the enemy will not be allowed to create division, discord, or enmity among us, especially as we gather to do Your will in this world for the glory of the Kingdom to come. Amen.

DAY THIRTY

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me
beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and
your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

–Psalm 23

Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, in the waters of Baptism You gave us life from Your death and resurrection; anoint Your Church that we may feast at the banquet table of Your salvation and have no fear of sin, death, or the devil. Lead us in right paths that we may dwell in the house of Your Father forever and ever. Amen.

OTHER RESOURCES

Suggested Hymns

Be Thou My Vision.....	WOV 776
Bow Down Your Ear, Almighty Lord	LBW 286
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord	LBW 163
Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire.....	LBW 472, 473
Come, Oh, Come, O Quickening Spirit.....	LBW 478
Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid.....	LBW 164
Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove	LBW 284
Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading	WOV 687
Great God, Your Love Has Called Us	WOV 666
God is Here	WOV 719
He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!.....	LBW 501
I, the Lord of Sea and Sky	WOV 752
Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult.....	LBW 494
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song	WOV 685
Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying	WOV 775
Lord, You Give the Great Commission.....	WOV 756
O Holy Spirit, Enter In.....	LBW 459
O Lord, Hear My Prayer.....	WOV 772
Rise Up, O Saints of God!	LBW 383
The Church of Christ, in Every Age	LBW 433
Veni Sancte Spiritus.....	WOV 686

With One Voice: A Lutheran Resource for Worship.
© 1995
Augsburg
Fortress.

Lutheran Book of Worship.
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Scripture Readings

Exodus 3:1-12.....	God calls Moses
Numbers 27:12-23	God calls Joshua
Judges 5:7-15.....	Song of Deborah and Barak
1 Samuel 3	God speaks to Samuel
1 Samuel 16:1-13	David anointed by Samuel
Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	Send forth your Spirit
Psalms 139:1-18, 23-24	Lord, you have searched me out
Luke 5:1-11	Jesus Calls the first Disciples
John 20:1-10.....	Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene
Acts 1:15-26	Matthias added to the disciples
Acts 2:1-12	Filled with the Spirit
Acts 9:36-42.....	Dorcas restored to life
Romans 8:22-27	Praying with the Spirit
Ephesians 6:18-20	Praying in the Spirit
1 Timothy 3:1-7.....	A Bishop
2 Timothy 1:6-14.....	Hold to the standard of sound teaching
James 2:18-26.....	Faith
Jude 1:20-22	Pray in the Holy Spirit

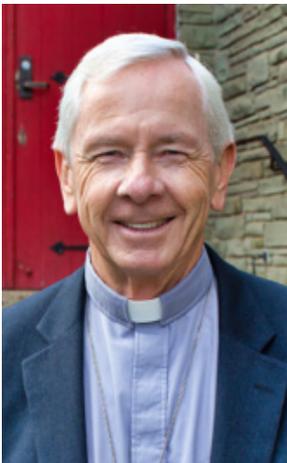
Bishops of the North American Lutheran Church



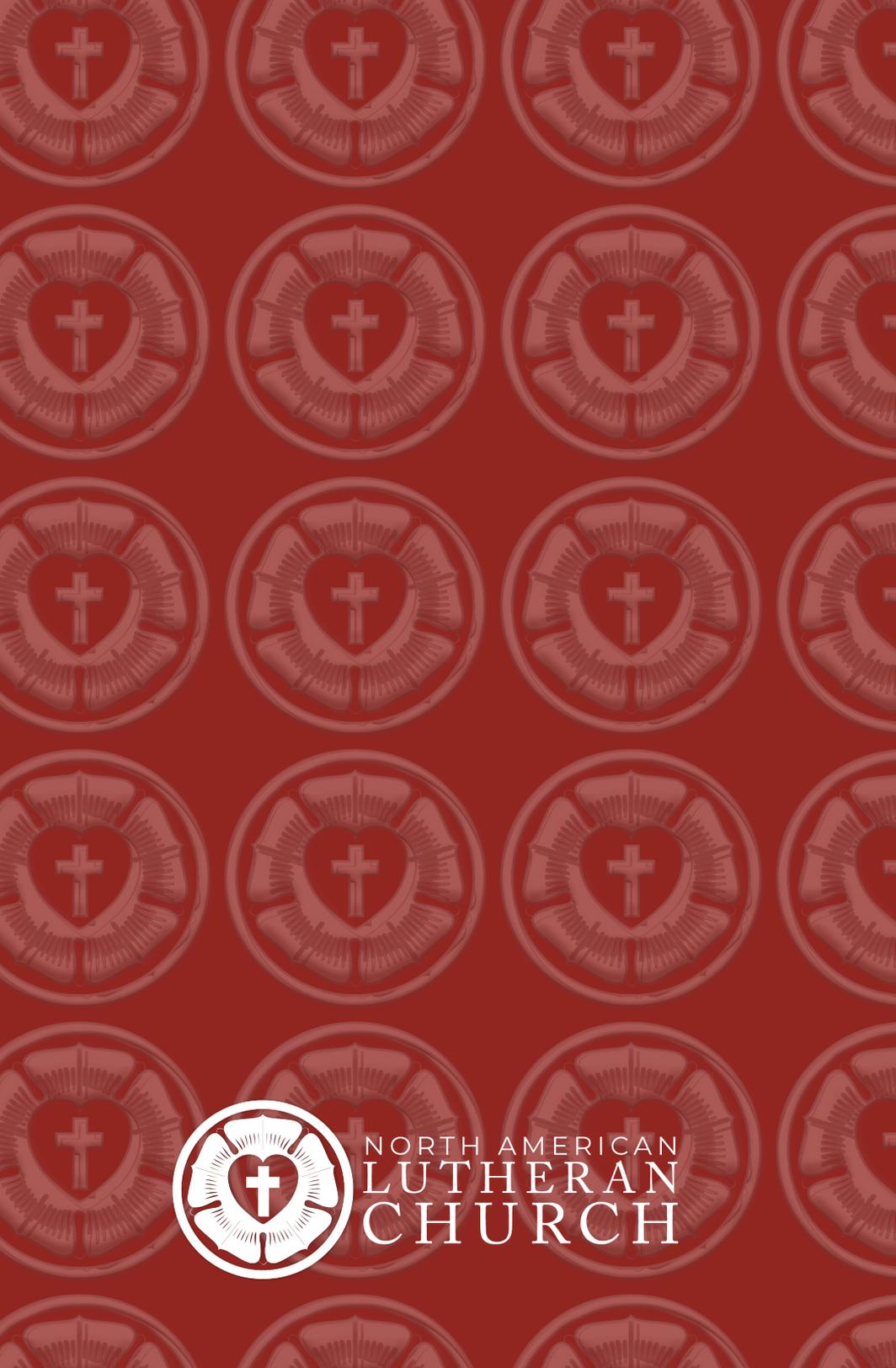
The Rev. Paull E. Spring
Bishop
2010-2011



The Rev. John F. Bradosky
Bishop
2011-2019



The Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo
Bishop
2019-2023



NORTH AMERICAN
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