

Prayers of Intercession for Companion Synod Sunday, June 1, 2008

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Brief silence.

Thank you, gracious God, for making the church bigger than we are. Thank you for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that remind us of your presence and power in all the world. Strengthen the ministries of your people in Tanzania and the United States. Guide the ELCT and the ELCA in the coming months as we choose leaders for our churches. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Thank you, gracious God, for creation that surprises, threatens, and amazes us. It provides all our needs in body and nourishes our spirits with peace. Guide us to protect and care for this world you give us. Protect it when poverty forces people to strip the land for survival. Protect it when our abundance makes us careless. Bless the farmers of Tanzania and our Synod with fertile ground and abundant crops. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

It seems so unjust that we Americans would be born to these United States and their abundance and others nations with poverty. Thank you, gracious God, for the gift of our nation. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. Thank you for the gift of Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School in Tanzania that through its ministry a life of poverty no longer haunts the future of the students there. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We are attacked from all around by evil that would destroy the life you give us or rob it of the joy you intend, creator God. Especially today we raise up those ravaged by HIV/AIDS in Tanzania, their orphans, widows, widowers and grieving families. Give hope to those who suffer in village and city, and through us bring help of care, medicine, and education to our brothers and sisters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have called us out of the world into this congregation of your disciples. Make clear the way you would have us go, the work you would have us do, the love you would have us share. Especially bless our relationship with other Christians in the world as we support and share ministry with our companion, the Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Bring success to our well drilling efforts, growth to the Igumbilo girls' school, strength to the medical ministry of Ilembula Hospital, medical centers and clinics, to the newly-emerging Center for Agricultural Development, and success to congregations connected as companions. Hear us, O God.

Other intercessions.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.