

Circling the Campus in Prayer

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” Colossians 4:2

Let us join in circling our campus in prayer. This is a circling prayer you could do on campus, perhaps before or after a meeting time when you are on campus or on a Sunday... walking the campus while pausing to pray. If you can't physically be on campus, you could use a campus map at you “finger walk” and pray or you can imagine each place in your thoughts.

1. Begin in front of the church offices...

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...

We pray for our pastors and church staff, as well as our Church Council, that you strengthen and guide them to model what it is to walk in the way of Jesus... that you give them wisdom, discernment, and attunement to the leading of the Holy Spirit...

We also pray that our front office door be a place of hospitality where church members, seekers, those who are struggling, delivery people, and guests are looked upon with grace and greeted in kindness...

2. Walk up to the memorial garden on the west patio...

We thank you for all the followers of Jesus who now worship you in heaven, remembering our loved ones.... Thank you for the faith in Jesus that they passed on to us, even as now seek to pass on the faith to generations after us. Thank you for our Ascension Foundation (all donors, all trustees) and the many blessings we can give through the endowments and scholarship funds to help people near and far...

3. Head towards the east sanctuary doors (facing the ECC), walking in front of the sanctuary, and pausing to pray...

We pray for a tent of protection around our campus, that anyone wishing harm would not come to this place. We pray for the seekers driving by, that a spark of light would draw them to our campus. We pray for the neighbors across the street, that they would see our church as a blessing in this neighborhood...

4. Proceed to the sanctuary doors facing the ECC...

We give thanks for our beautiful sanctuary. We pray for peace, joy, and safety for those gathering in-person and we pray those who continue to watch remotely feel connected to the community. We pray for every single member of our church... (especially right now for... *note: if someone is on your heart and/or you want to use the weekly prayer list, you can insert that here*). We pray that the love and grace of God will dwell richly inside of them. We pray that the weekly gathering of worship will help us all to live in the spirit of worship every day. We pray that as we practice confession and forgiveness in the sanctuary, we will also practice it in our daily lives. We give thanks for all of our musicians, the Altar Guild, and the Worship Committee. We also give thanks for our tech team and pray that live stream worship will continue to bless our members as well as people we don't even know all across the country...

5. Proceed to the front of the Early Childhood Center, pausing at the bricks...

We give thanks for One Ascension, for the stories and legacy of these bricks. We thank you for our Early Childhood Center and pray that all the children and families who walk through these doors will feel the love of Jesus and grow in that love. We pray for the safety of all of our little children and that they will be filled with wonder and awe and joy as they learn and grow. We pray that families will be nurtured here and disciplined here so that they can help raise their children to be fully alive in God. We pray that you equip and empower our ECC director, teachers, staff, and school board...

6. Walk the pathway around the side of the preschool to the modular and future garden and outdoor gathering area... pausing in front of the modular...

We give you thanks for creativity and hands-on learning and this modular space where our day school students will explore engineering and science and math and technology. Bless the vision and all the next steps of what is to come in the sand and dirt that surrounds this place... a flourishing garden, a greenhouse, an outdoor kitchen, a place to gather for worship and campfires, and outdoor learning areas...

7. Walk across the parking lot towards the back gate, pausing in the middle of the parking lot to note the apartments around us and pray...

We give you thanks, God, for our neighborhood. Help us to forge relationships with our neighbors in the apartments around us. May we listen deeply and hear how we might be better neighbors to them. May they come to see us as “their church” even if they don’t go to church. May they have a sense of care and pride and thanksgiving for being neighbors with us...

8. Proceed to the back gate, pausing before you enter...

We thank you, God, for our staff and volunteers who care for such a big campus, who keep our campus safe and functioning and thriving. We thank you for our cleaning crew, for those all too often forgotten who do the important work of cleaning the toilets, mopping the floors, and sanitizing the surfaces...

9. Walk to the lunch picnic tables and pause to pray...

We thank you for our elementary school. Give our principal the strength and wisdom needed to lead our 21st century learning community into a vibrant future. We pray for all the teachers, staff, and school board. We pray that our students will be safe, that they will be eager learners, that they will live by the fruits of the spirit in all of their relationships, and that they will be fully alive in Jesus. May our students lead, serve, and inspire in this caring, Christian community. We pray for all the parents of the school, that they feel a love and thanksgiving for this place and that they, too, are nurtured in their own growth and learning and discipleship as Christ-like parents.

We also pray for our Sunday School teachers and students and our children’s ministries and all our church families. May this be a place where we learn and practice raising young people who know who you are, God, and who know themselves and who have servant hearts and a faith that sticks...

10. Walk towards the donut stand and pause there, noting both the library and the gym - and envisioning, too, Founders Hall and the Bethlehem Room...

We give thanks for our library and the wonder of books and pray that our whole Ascension community will always be a place of life-long learners who see the world through a biblical viewpoint, who each day hold the Bible in one hand and the news in the other but interpret all through the lens of faith. We pray for all the Bible studies and Life Groups and fellowship that take place in the Library and Founders and the Bethlehem Room and the gym. We pray for our seniors and for Lunch Bunch. We pray for all the groups that rent and use our space, like recovery groups and scouts. May all feel welcome on this campus and may all enter these grounds with reverence and respect, leaving this space and each other better than we found it...

11. *Go down the steps past the gym - towards Colina Middle School - and out the gate and pause in front of the youth room doors...*

We pray for the junior and senior high youth ministries, for confirmation, and for our young adults. May this be a room where young people are rooted and grounded in love, and come to know that the story of scripture is part of their story... that this be a place of welcome and safety, a place of freedom to explore big questions, a place of fun to laugh and giggle, a place of comfort for when times are hard, a place to grow in sync with the guiding light of Jesus Christ...

12. *Return to the front of the church offices...*

We circle this campus in prayer, God, as we imagine you holding us in your hands. May we lean into you on good days and bad days, whether things are easy or hard. Help us to be a place of kindness, justice, and humility. Help us resolve conflict in positive ways. Help us to be theologically grounded and financially stable. Let our mustard seed faith move mountains. As we love and care for this place, help us to step onward and spread your love and light. We thank you for our Community Concerns Team (including our food pantry, Harbor House, LSS and Many Mansions) and Global Ministries Team, (including Fair Trade, ELCA hunger, Lutheran World Relief, Bread for the World, Jubilee, and all our global partners) and for all the service and work and life that happens beyond the boundaries of this campus. Help us to be good stewards of your creation. May we, Ascension Lutheran Church, School, and Foundation, know Christ and make Christ known, as we “invite, grow, and serve.” Amen.