



LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

SEPTEMBER: EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

As school students make their way back into classrooms after their summer break, let us pause to give thanks for Lutheran schools.

On April 26, 1847, twelve pastors representing fourteen congregations and nineteen elementary schools met at St. Paul Lutheran Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, to sign the formal documents that would join them together into what is today called The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. These pastors and their congregations fled Germany seeking the freedom to practice and follow confessional Lutheranism. Thank God for the founders.

It was a priority that each congregation establish elementary schools in order to train the children in the Lutheran faith, educate them in the language and subjects needed for success in life, and to immerse the children in the values of their Lutheran heritage. Although established primarily for the sons and daughters of the congregation, every school openly welcomed children from the neighborhood. Thank God for open doors.

Today the schools of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod remain faithful to these original purposes and open their doors to the children of the neighborhood whose parents want what the Lutheran school offers for their children. Thank God for parents.

Lutheran schools have been a tremendous benefit to the neighborhood, the church, and the state as graduates live out their vocations in service to God and their neighbor as parents, farmers, church professionals, first responders, leaders, and the like. Our country is better with Lutheran school graduates in it. Thank God for graduates.

Today Lutheran schools face a major challenge to their sustainability. It is the high cost of education. Schools faced with increased costs of salaries, benefits, facilities maintenance, technology, utilities, insurance, and other school related expenses raise tuition to the point that they price themselves into extinction. Lack of money forces schools to eliminate grades, services, or their very existence.

There is an answer. It is called "Parental Choice," the continued use of designated education funds that are directed not by bureaucrats, politicians, or school officials, but by the parents of the students. This method whereby designated educational funds follow the students allows for parents to take charge of the education of their children and for those who wish to partake in Lutheran education, insures the future of Lutheran schools.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty asks for your partnership in praying for Lutheran schools and a solution to the obstacles they face. Governmental policies and lack of finances not only diminish Lutheran school opportunities, but also our culture.

Let Us Pray:

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. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, since You have committed the care and nurture of children to Your people, graciously enlighten those who teach and learn at Lutheran schools that they may know the truth and trust in You all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, keep all Lutheran schools under Your care. We ask that You would guide and direct all those who support them in finding ways to continue to offer and expand Lutheran education across our nation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

PRINT – PERSONALIZE – Pray

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for the schools of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Not only do we ask that you would pray, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

Please see:

<https://www.tinyurl.com/lcmsschool>

for a directory of Lutheran schools near you.

The LCRL would like to share that you are praying for these schools. We plan on informing them that there are many people praying for their ministry. In order to do that, we need your help.

Please let us know the name(s) of the school(s) you prayed for AND the number of people who prayed. For example: if you pray with your family of 3 for a specific Lutheran school, please send us the count of 3 for that school. If you publish a prayer request for a Lutheran school in your church bulletin and pastor prays with 234 people in attendance, then use the number 234. Please count all numbers and send them by September 25.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NUMBERS TO:

LCRLPray@gmail.com

Please include the location of the school you are praying for so that we can encourage tat school.

Please feel free to personalize this bookmark with the name(s) and location(s) of the school(s) that you will pray for in September, cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference.

Lutheran School

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