



Welcome to the *Powered by Love* Stations of Prayer...

Thank you for your prayers for Elk River Lutheran Church, its people, and the mission we share. God bless you for participating in this prayerful event!

A Prayer Vigil

The word *vigil* comes from a Latin word that means “wakefulness.” Throughout the history of the Christian Church, the faithful gathered the evening before major church feasts and festivals to pray continuously and participate in devotions throughout the night. Before we engage in the final “Powered by Love” worship and celebration, we join in this long-lived tradition of spiritual preparation. We seek God’s presence, guidance, and wisdom for our lives and the mission of this congregation.

Instructions: Ten Stations

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the faithful follow the path of Jesus in praying through the 14 “Stations of the Cross.” In our prayer vigil we borrow from that tradition of moving from place to place, pausing at each location, or “station”, to reflect on another aspect of our mission and life together.

Ten stations have been provided to guide and focus your prayers. Each has a candle and a placard for identification. This printed guide will lead you to each station. It will provide you with a theme, as well as appropriate Scripture verses and other thoughts to accompany your prayer and reflection. Please go at your own pace, taking time for a deeper effect from this reverent journey. If at any time you wish to simply sit in a pew or chair to pray, skip a station, or spend more time at one station than another, feel free to do so. The stations and readings are best viewed as gifts to help your prayer and devotions rather than a dictation of the “right way” or “only way” to pray. Please note that near the end of your vigil time, we offer the option for you to be prayed for by another brother or sister in Christ.

THE STATIONS

I. Table of Light

In the church entrance, a large mirror lies flat on a small table, covered with individual votive candles. While each individual candle may seem insignificant on its own, the accumulation of many is a remarkable and powerful sight.

- You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:14-16*

Prayer Suggestion: *We praise you, Lord, for the opportunity to be in Your presence, to take this time apart to draw closer to You, to celebrate what it means to be part of a faith community gathering in this special place.*

II. Sanctuary

Just inside the sanctuary doors, symbols of those things commonly used in worship are displayed. Candles, a hymnal, a Bible, an offering basket, nametags, pencils, bulletins, etc. all point to the activities that take place when the people of Christ gather.

- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; and His steadfast love endures forever! *Psalms 107:1*

Prayer Suggestion: *Give thanks to the Lord for this house of worship, and the people who gather here. Remember whoever it was who first brought you to church, or whoever it was who first took the time to explain their delight at being a part of a community of faith. Thank God for that person.*

III. Prayers of the People and for the World

A large panel is mounted upright, on to which have been affixed small tags bearing a variety of prayer concerns. In front of the panel, a small table has pens and additional tags for individuals to write their own concerns and prayer requests, to be added to those already displayed.

- The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. *Psalms 6:9*
- Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. *James 5:13-18*
- Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. *Matthew 7:7-8*
- If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to prayer made in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house that my name may be there forever, and my eyes and my heart will be there perpetually.
- But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me! *Psalms 66:19-20*

Prayer Suggestion: *As you look over the displayed prayer requests, offer up your intercessions to God for those individual needs. Write down your own needs, concerns, cares, and celebrations, too, so that others may join in prayer on your behalf.*

IV. Baptismal Font

Chairs face the font. The Christ Candle is lit.

As people of God, we are rooted deeply within the waters of baptism. Baptism reminds us that despite the faults of yesterday we are deeply loved children of God who are daily raised to new life in Christ Jesus. You are invited to dip your fingers into the water of baptism, make the sign of the cross on your forehead remembering that the sins of yesterday are gone, and we are a hope-filled people who are reborn into new life through baptism.

- Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. *Romans 6:3-4*
- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*
- For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we are all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. *I Corinthians 12:12-13*
- In Holy Baptism our gracious God liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church, which is the body of Christ. As we live in Him and with His people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God. *From the Rite of Baptism*

Prayer suggestion: *The moving water suggests that the Spirit is on the move in this place, in this church, in this Sacrament, an unrelenting flood that impacts all in its way. How have the Baptismal waters changed or influenced the path of your life? In what ways does your Baptism continue to call you, every day, to be, think, and act differently? Pray that the Spirit that brought you into eternal life might affect a powerful, Christ-centered change in this temporal life, too!*

As you depart from this station please take a marble with you, a visible sign to carry out into the world that you are loved, washed clean, and daily called to new life.

V. Pews

A small section of sanctuary seating is designated for this station.

- Be still, and know that I am God! *Psalms 46:10*
- My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. *John 10:27*
- Listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. *Deuteronomy 30:20*
- Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. *John 6:68*

Prayer Suggestion: *Sit and listen for the Spirit's leading. Sit and hear. "Speak, O Lord – your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life!"*

VI. Offering Plates/Credence Table

Offering plates or baskets with coins and currency are displayed. In one offering plate, a round mirror reflects the image of the one in prayer as a reminder that they, too, are a gift of great value, worthy of being dedicated to God's service.

- We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a person's gift is prophesying, let them use it in proportion to this faith. If it is serving, let them serve; if it is teaching, let them teach; if it is encouraging, let them encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let them give generously; if it is leadership, let them govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let them do it cheerfully. *Romans 12:6-8*
- Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *Matthew 6:19-21*

Prayer Suggestion: *As you look into the mirror, take time to reflect on, and be thankful for, your many gifts in life. Pray for God's guidance as you consider which of those gifts can be used for God's purposes. Remember the hymn: "Take my life that I may be, always – only – all – for thee!"*

VII. Pulpit – Word

A large Bible rests atop the pulpit, a reminder that through the preacher's words, God's Word takes life.

- Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” *Matthew 4:4*
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. *John 1:1-2, 14*
- The grass withers, the flower fades; but the Word of our God will stand forever! *Isaiah 40:8*

Prayer Suggestion: *Do you remember a sermon that genuinely touched you, that made a difference for how you understand your relationship with Jesus, and your relationship to those around you? In what other ways does the Word of God come to you? Thank God for the many ways the Spirit reminds us of our blessings and our duties in Christ Jesus.*

VIII. Table – Meal

At the altar table, the Communion vessels and elements have been set out. The table is set; see, smell and taste the mystery of the Eucharist!

- So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. *John 6:53-56*

Prayer Suggestion: *And old saying declares that “We are what we eat.” What then does it mean to eat the Body of Christ, except that we become that Body, hands and feet and mouths to know and do His will in the world. Thank God for the gifts we receive in this Sacrament: sins forgiven, the promise of salvation, a renewed sense of reconciliation with others, a community of faith in which you have a place, a shared mission and purpose in life!*

IX. Music

Near the piano, a display of music and instruments has been created. You'll hear music very quietly playing)

- Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God! *Psalm 100: 1-3a*
- Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. *Psalm 96:1-3*
- Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. *Psalm 33:1-3*
- For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. *Isaiah 55:12*

Prayer Suggestion: *You may hum along with the music as you gratefully reflect on the voices and instruments lifted to God during worship. Reflect as well on the other sounds that fill our lives: a baby crying, the noises of work, of nature, rain, birds, children laughing, planes overhead. Each can be a celebration of God's goodness, and God's will being accomplished in the world. Thank God for the sounds of praise and creation.*

X. Prayer Partner

A member of the Spiritual Life Team is seated in a quiet area ready to pray with and for individuals or couples. To receive prayer, please go to that location and the host will meet you. If you prefer not to participate in this way, please exit quietly through the Fellowship Hall doors.

As you leave, please consider...

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- Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. *Psalms 127:1*
- As you walk out of the church building, please take a moment to reflect on where you believe God is leading the people of Elk River Lutheran Church.
 - Is the Spirit of God leading us here?
 - Envision our future: what are your hopes and dreams for our ministry together? How will God transform us in the coming years? How will we, through our church, work to transform the surrounding community?
 - Who may we see come through our doors? What might God want them to experience?

God, help us to know and do your will. Guide our hearts, minds, and wills in your way. It is your love that powers us! Amen!