**Joint Zoom Prayer Session**

**September 14, 2024**

**Program Details**

1. The session will be held on Saturday 14 September on Zoom beginning at 7:30 AM Central Time and 3:30 PM TZ time. People may begin to log on 30 minutes earlier.
2. Bishop Paul will serve as our Zoom host. The invitation and link has been sent to Meru and to our membership.
3. Let us use the time before the session to resolve any technical issues prior to our start time.
4. Bishop Paul will open our session with greetings, comments, and a prayer.
5. We will alternate our prayers on each other's behalf beginning with one of our GMS members offering a prayer addressing one of the Diocese’ requests, then a DME member will pray for one of the GMS’ requests, and so forth, until all prayers have been shared.
6. Bishop Kitoi will share comments and a prayer.
7. We will conclude with the Lord’s Prayer (Please mute your devices so everyone can hear the leaders—asante sana)
   1. In Kiswahili
   2. In English

**2024 PRAYER REQUESTS FROM DME**

**GMS Prayers to Address Them**

1. **PARTNERSHIP**
2. Sustainability and growth of our partnership
3. More DME parishes to get partners
4. Pray for youth and children

**Prayer: READER - Sue Johnson**

Loving Lord, we give you thanks & praise for our beloved partnership with the people of the Diocese of Meru. Together we have learned how to share our lives, cultures, joys, and challenges. We are grateful and humbled by our partners’ example of steadfast faith and trust in you. Please continue to bless and guide us all as we seek to grow by adding partner churches and parishes, and send your Spirit, Holy God to the churches of the Greater Milwaukee Synod that they may take that leap of faith to join with us and experience the amazing gifts of partnership.

Heavenly Father, we also pray that you will protect, nourish, and guide the children and youth in Meru. Strengthen parents, teachers, church leaders, neighbors and partners to bring young people to faith in your son, Jesus Christ, and to give them opportunities to learn and grow into lives of meaning and purpose. In Jesus’ name we pray. AMEN

1. **WEATHER**
2. Enough rainfall for pastures and crops
3. Good harvest for food stability

**Prayer: READER – Andy Toth**

Creator of this good Earth, and all that is in it, we confess and ask forgiveness for our part in hastening global climate change which has contributed to the frequent drought and other extreme weather events that have occurred in Meru over the past several years. We ask that you bless the efforts of all who farm the land in Meru and throughout Tanzania by sending rain and sunshine as needed to yield hardy and nutritious crops, as well as to provide enough food for the animals. We pray that our partners may be confident that the availability of food will be steady and reliable, without throwing them into further economic hardship, which in turn affects all the ministries of the Diocese, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

1. **DIOCESE INSTITUTIONS**
2. Schools and health facilities debts
3. Committed staff

**Prayer: READER – Ruthann Rohde**

Merciful Lord, we come to you with the heavy issue of many of the Diocese’ schools and health facilities carrying heavy debts due largely to the persistent effects of the Covid pandemic and over three years of drought on the economy. We give you thanks for improved conditions this year, but significant debt remains, especially in the payment of salaries and securing needed supplies. Miraculously Lord, many of your servants have continued working diligently in schools and health care despite missing many paychecks. We praise and thank you for giving them such servant hearts and also for the friends and family of their community who so willing share their own resources when times are tough. Still, we know that debt weighs heavily on our partners’ hearts. Please help us work together on this big challenge. And continue to bless and encourage all who work with integrity and honor in the Diocese Institutions. In Jesus’ holy name we pray. AMEN

1. **ELECTIONS**
2. Fair elections: - We have local government election in this year 2024 and General election
3. Peace stability in Tanzania and the world

**Prayer: READER – Deb Kohler**

All-knowing and all-powerful God, Ruler of Heaven and Earth, with every passing year it seems our world is plagued with more warring factions and nations. Please surround those people who are most affected by the ugliness of war with your love. Be with all the citizens of the Earth as we strive to listen to each other and be more tolerant and less afraid of differences. Show those entrusted to high positions of leadership that so much more can be accomplished through peaceful means than violence. Our dear partners this year Lord will be having local elections. We pray that these elections be conducted fairly and transparently without disruption so that all will know the results are the will of the majority. And then, please grant those elected the fortitude and wisdom they will need to serve in a way that is pleasing to you. In the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN

1. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
2. Ask God to give us investors at Makumira farm plots and Huduma House

**Prayer: READER – Diane Voit**

God of abundance, we thank you for all you have given us, knowing that your desire is for us to have life abundantly. Our partners in Meru are seeking to use your gifts to generate income for their many mission projects. It is a bold undertaking in a place with significant economic hardship. Lord, we earnestly ask you to encourage our friends and to send them investors to rents spaces at their Huduma House which houses small businesses. Likewise, please bring investors to rent plots on their Makumira Farm property as well. May these investors not only provide income to the Diocese, but also a decent living for themselves.

As we celebrate 25 years of the Mt. Meru Coffee Project with a delegation visit in October, we pray for God’s continued blessings on the coffee project as we pray for more people to drink the coffee that is grown by the farmers on Mt. Meru.

Bless all the efforts of the faithful people of Meru so that they may have enough of whatever they need to live in security and with dignity. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ. AMEN

1. **HEALTH**
2. Mpox – may God prevent us and the world from mpox (monkey pox); HIV/AID and others diseases

**Prayer: READER – Lynn Hooper**

Gentle healer God, gracious Father, we thank you for the amazing gift of our bodies and good

health. We have seen the unimaginable devastation of the corona virus, and it remains in our

minds and hearts. Our concern is great when new illnesses are discovered and old ones

resurface, sometimes with greater impact. We ask you to protect our Meru partners and

everyone in the world from such diseases—especially HIV/AIDS and Mpox, which has recently

appeared in Tanzania’s neighbor, Democratic Republic of Congo. Such diseases, while

terrible wherever they appear, are often more devastating in areas with limited and/or non-

accessible health care. We fervently pray that you will walk with us during each time of

strife. May you continue to help us with these health concerns, and all needs associated with

them. In your holy name, Christ Jesus, hear our prayer. AMEN

**2024 Prayer Requests from the GMS sent to the DME:**

1. WEATHER
   1. Disasters—specifically the destructive effects and loss of life due to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and forest fires
   2. Harvest
2. POLITICAL STABILITY
   1. Fair Elections--our national elections will be held on November 5th this year.  We will be electing a president and vice president, and several members of Congress, as well as many other local races.
   2. Peaceful Transitions of Power
   3. Peace in the world--particularly in Ukraine, the Middle East, and anywhere where there is war
3. FOOD SECURITY
   1. Enough for All
   2. Affordable
4. EDUCATION
   1. Youth
   2. Avoidance of gangs and drugs
   3. Strong families
   4. Educational opportunities
   5. Increased equality across our schools
   6. Committed teachers
   7. Affordability
5. PARTNERSHIP
   1. Expansion to include more GMS partner congregations
   2. Encouragement for our GMS churches to deepen their relationships with our DME partners and to explore how best to walk together and support each other’s ministries
   3. Continued commitment to promises made in our covenant agreement as partners