

International Student Ministry *prayer* January/February 2023

*For the start of the new semester*

- May God open the doors for ISM sites and individual Christians to connect with and warmly welcome the thousands of international students and scholars who will arrive in the US in early January.
- May the Holy Spirit prompt curiosity and questions about spiritual matters in the lives of international students and may they turn to Christian classmates, acquaintances, friends, and total strangers to seek answers.
- May all Christians who have contact with international students be wholesome witnesses in word and deed.
- May God guide ISM site leaders and volunteers as they plan and facilitate Bible studies, ESL classes and conversation groups, and other activities that help international students connect with Christ.

*Bessie Fick*

*ISM Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Trinity Lutheran*

- That the Lord would guide us to opportunities to invite students to church and Bible studies and to opportunities to speak of our hope in Christ.
- That the Welcome Meal for international students in January will provide opportunities for us to connect with students.

*Marcia Mitwede*

*University Lutheran Chapel, Austin, Texas*

- Thank the Lord for the wonderful volunteers in our ministry and the opportunities we have to serve the international community.
- Ask the Lord to guide in classes and activities for this semester.
- Ask the Lord to continue to give us open doors to proclaim the Gospel.

*Upcoming Conferences*

- For God to bring together a committee to work on the In-Depth Bible Seminar May 2023 and another to work on the Equipping Conference May or June 2023.

- For wisdom in planning for these two events and for God to prepare those who will attend.
- For Sue as she shares the vision for reaching international students and scholars at the Best Practices in Ministry Conference in Phoenix Az. February 16-18.

*General*

- Pray that all people would come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ for their eternal salvation in heaven because Jesus died for their sins.
- May all of us look for ways to connect well with international students and scholars, listening to them, learning from them, following up on concerns they mention, and having wisdom about connecting parts of their stories to God's story of grace, salvation and hope.
- Praise God for the book of Devotions being put together by Karol Selle using stories from eight ISM leaders and volunteers. Praise God for all who have contributed to this. Pray that it will be a blessing to all who read it after its release at the LWML Convention.
- Praise God for the support given by LWML at national, district and local levels to ISM Inc.
- Pray that LWMLs at all levels will continue to share their time, talents, and treasures with international students and with ISM groups near them.

*Connecting on special days*

- May God guide each group planning Valentines Day activities in ways to share about God's value of marriage, God's grace for healing troubled marriages, and the immeasurable love he has for each person he has created.
- Praise God for the opportunities there are to invite international students and scholars to attend special services on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and into Lent.
- May God grant courage and grace for Christians who have been connecting with an international student for some months to first mention

these services and this season of repentance, and then invite their friend to perhaps join them.

- May God help all of those who invite internationals to a church service to take time to explain aspects of the service in the days before they attend, and to spend time after the service answering their many questions.

*Christ Centered Grants*

- Praise God for the many international students and scholars who were blessed by the Thanksgiving Dinners hosted by the International Friendship Center in Madison, the International Student Ministry of St. Louis, the International Student Ministry of Pittsburgh and other places.
- Pray that the Christians who met international students at those meals would continue to send them texts, meet with them and develop longer term relationships.
- Pray for the Chinese New Year event that will offer opportunities for building relationships and sharing truths about Christ hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church and Chinese Mission of Santa Cruz, Ca.
- Pray for wisdom in purchasing and distributing Christian resources to international students for University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder, Co., Redeemer Lutheran Church in West Lafayette, In. Campus Lutheran Church in Columbia, Mo., and International Student Ministry at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville.
- Pray that the several relationship building dinners with students from India planned by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pittsburg would serve to deepen relationships and open doors for sharing about Christ.
- Pray that the whiteboard camera purchased by International Friendship House in East Lansing, Michigan, would be a blessing to those who participate from around the world in Bible studies and ESL classes. †