

DEAR FELLOW SAINTS OF GOD,

Thank you for your ongoing support of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Ministry to the Armed Forces!

Please prayerfully consider celebrating LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces in your congregation again in 2025. There will be several opportunities to present this bulletin insert to the members of your congregation:

Armed Forces Day – Saturday, May 17, 2025, and can be observed on the preceding or following Sunday.

Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, 2025, and can be observed on the preceding or following Sunday.

Independence Day – Friday, July 4, 2025, and can be observed on the preceding or following Sunday.

Veterans Day – Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, and can be observed on the preceding or following Sunday.

Any Sunday of your choice

Please pick a Sunday of your choosing. We simply want to give thanks to God and to honor the men and women and their families who faithfully answered the call to serve in our nation's military.

To assist you in planning your observation, we have enclosed:

- ***Bulletin inserts***
- ***A packet of liturgical materials on this year's theme***
- ***Forms to add or correct names and addresses of military personnel from your congregation***

The enclosed worship materials also are available for download from our website at lcms.org/armedforces.

The LCMS has many pastors who are serving on active duty and in the Reserves, the National Guard, the Civil Air Patrol and the Coast Guard Auxiliary as chaplains. Currently, we have chaplains deployed overseas in combat environments, including Reserve/Guard chaplains mobilized from their parishes, as well as chaplains serving within the United States to support contingency operations.

Ministry to the Armed Forces continues to support the Operation Barnabas project. This effort has grown into a network of care responding to the unique needs of military-connected people. The vision of Operation Barnabas is that every military-connected person would live in the hope and peace of God's love and mercy as revealed in Jesus Christ. Called by Christ's love, Operation Barnabas engages, empowers and equips LCMS faith communities to provide hope, healing and support to military-connected persons living in their community and in their congregations.

We continue to recruit, train and endorse LCMS chaplains. We are defenders of their religious liberty so that all LCMS military personnel are "free to be faithful" in the free exercise of their religious liberty. We provide our chaplains with LCMS worship, devotional and education materials. We sponsor annual training seminars for theological reflection, education and encouragement for our chaplains and their wives, since they are often stationed miles from an LCMS congregation and/or LCMS clergy.

We are grateful that your congregation chooses to join many others in observing a Ministry to the Armed Forces Sunday — a Sunday where we specifically honor the men and women of our armed forces who have answered the call of their country and our Lord Jesus Christ to serve in this honorable vocation. We stand by them and will support them. Thank you for joining in that support.

IN CHRIST'S SERVICE,



Chaplain Craig G. Muehler
CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret.)
Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces

