

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 supporting LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces in your congregation again in 2020! There will be several opportunities to present this bulletin insert to the members of your congregation:

Armed Forces Sunday – May 17

Memorial Day Sunday – May 24

Independence Day weekend – July 5 (Sunday)

Veterans Day – Nov. 11 (Sunday prior is Nov. 8 and Sunday following is Nov. 15)

Or the Sunday of your choice

Please pick a Sunday of your choosing. We simply want to give thanks to God in honoring 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 and sermon helps

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: lcms.org/armedforces.

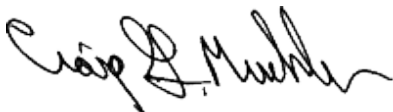
The LCMS has many active-duty military chaplains. We also have many chaplains serving in Reserve units, National Guard units, the Civil Air Patrol and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In addition, we have two Directors of Religious Education (DRE). We have chaplains deployed overseas in combat environments, 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 lives 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 in their communities and congregations.

We continue to recruit, train and endorse LCMS chaplains. We provide our chaplains with Lutheran worship and educational materials. We fund the travel of our chaplains and their wives to attend annual training seminars for education and fellowship (they are often stationed miles from Lutheran churches and/or Lutheran clergy and don't have the opportunity to receive the care they need and deserve).

We are grateful that your congregation will join many of our LCMS congregations in observing a Ministry to the Armed Forces Sunday, a Sunday where we specifically remember and honor the men and women of our armed forces who have answered the call of their country and our Lord Jesus 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 (Retired)
Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces

