



# PRAYER VIGIL and FASTING

They are all around us. People who live day by day outside the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are all around us. Statistically we are told that 47% of the people who live within the region of the Southeastern District are unchurched. That is almost 1 of every 2 people. They are here and they are loved by the Father who so loves us that He gave up His only Son so that we could live each day - today, tomorrow and eternity in the precious grace and love that He has for us.

How do we reach the unchurched, the unreached? How do we help them hear the Gospel message? It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that their hearts and minds will be open to the transforming power of the Gospel. Just as the Holy Spirit moves within us to share the Good News, we will become messengers, letters of Christ, written with the Spirit of the living God (2 Corinthians 3: 1-3). Messengers who are committed to praying for the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, sharing the Gospel, and inviting them to “come and see” (John 4:29).

Holy Cross in Clayton, North Carolina recently held a prayer vigil. They were beginning a campaign to build their own facility and decided to have a 24-hour prayer marathon. This vigil began on Saturday morning and ended on the morning of “Commitment Sunday.” Members signed up for one-hour prayer increments, a tent was set up on the property where the building will go. Members were encouraged to come and pray for the church and the appeal. More than 75 people participated and there were people praying on the property continuously. Rev. Bill Beyer shares: “It was a very moving and spiritually uplifting experience for everyone. In fact, strangers passing by stopped to pray and bring coffee.”

What a way to pray God right into the hearts of others! Just what we want to do during this season of Easter. We want to vigorously pray for work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the lives of those who are unchurched and unreached.

You are encouraged to dedicate time during the season of Easter for a Prayer Vigil. The resources included in this packet contain a design for a 6-hour vigil and fast. The Prayer Vigil can be shaped to meet the needs of those within your congregation. You may choose to do a shorter 3-hour event. Members of the congregation may be encouraged to set one evening a week aside during the Easter season to pray through a single session. You may encourage people to pray during the days between Ascension and Pentecost. However you shape it, we encourage you to do so...commit to a time of prayer so that we are a people *ABLAZE!* and communities *ABLAZE!* with the love of God as He makes us His through the blood of Christ Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Note: These resources can be downloaded at [www.se.lcms.org](http://www.se.lcms.org)