



Happy Birthday to The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod!

We are **174** years **April 26** and continue to reach out in witness and mercy in our life together, in Christ, for the Church and the world! Our roots run deep, tracing back to 1847 when Saxon and other German immigrants established a new church body in America, seeking the freedom to practice and follow confessional Lutheranism.

Initial members, which included 12 pastors representing 14 congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York and Ohio, signed the church body's constitution on April 26, 1847, at First Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, Ill. Originally named The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, the name was shortened to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1947 on the occasion of our 100th anniversary.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Almighty God,

You have promise to be with Your Church forever. We praise You for Your presence in our congregations and ask Your ongoing blessing upon all who gather in them. Dwell continually among us with Your holy Word and Sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.