

A Litany for Dwelling in the Word and Sister Congregations

Called and gathered by the Holy Spirit to be disciples of Christ in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, we are shaped by God's Word and live in ways that build up the body of Christ and our sister congregations. We proclaim

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people. (John 1)

The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart.(Romans 10)

As we dwell in your Word, O Lord,
Let it give light within us.

As we dwell in your Word, O Lord,
Open our hearts and minds to your Spirit.

As we dwell in your Word, O Lord,
Guide our imaginations and thoughts.

As we dwell in your Word, O Lord,
Help us hear one another.

As we dwell in your Word, O Lord,
Build in us our faith.

We are a synod serving You, O Lord,
We seek to know each other better and better.

We are a synod serving You, O Lord,
Guide us in sharing your word with each other.

We are a synod serving You, O Lord,
Help us know our partners as we dwell in your Word.

As together we dwell in your Word O Lord,
Help us to grow in faith, love and partnership with our sister congregation __ (name)_____.

As together we dwell in your Word O Lord,
Renew all our congregations with your Holy Spirit.

Oh Word of God incarnate, as we dwell in your word through this coming year, draw us closer to you and give us hearts open to your Spirit's movement. Lead us as your people, united across our congregations, conferences and synod. Guide us and our sister congregations in service and dedication to letting your word grow and be active in us. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Today, May 31, Pentecost Sunday, is the day we launch an emphasis on being the church together in our synod, conferences and congregations. We encourage one another to participate in the Sister Congregation Process and in a deep “Dwelling in the Word.” During the year ahead, we will discover ways to share common texts and to grow deeper in the Word and Spirit along with our sister congregations. We offer the following Litany to be used in each congregation as we begin. It can be used at one of several places in the service. Best place would be as the sending before the benediction, second choice would be as the kyrie, third as part of the prayers of the people.

(Litany and song prepared by Pastor Richard Hertenstein, Dean Northwest Conference)

Holy Spirit Come to Us

Holy Spirit, come to us,
Help us all your guidance trust.
Open up your Word we pray,
Help us all discern the way.
Come Spirit guide us.
Come Spirit guide us.
Come Spirit guide us,
As in your Word we grow.

Tune: Jesus Loves me ELW 595
William Bradbury 1816-1868
Text Richard Hertenstein