

A PROCLAMATION for THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- WHEREAS:** Throughout history America has faced trials and triumphs, and Americans have responded in prayer seeking courage and comfort, inspiration, and joy-filled celebration. Faith compels us to seek and cling to the Light in times of darkness and spread light to those in need.
- WHEREAS:** From the first gatherings of our Founding Fathers, elected officials have prayed and entreated those they serve and represent to join them in prayer, including the authors of our Declaration of Independence, wrote that they, "the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world..." and carried on to present day in Presidential Proclamations such as last year's invitation to "join him in asking for God's continued guidance, mercy, and protection.", and
- WHEREAS:** A National Day of Prayer has not only been a part of our heritage since it was declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775, but it is a Public Law established in the United States Congress in 1952 approved by a Joint Resolution and amended by Congress and President Reagan with Public Law 100-307 in 1988, affirming that it is essential for us as a nation to pray and directs the President of the United States to set aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May annually as The National Day of Prayer; and
- WHEREAS:** In every state across America the observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, with the theme, "Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World," based on the verses found in 2 Samuel 22:29-31, "For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness ... This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him." and
- WHEREAS:** Unified prayer is mobilized across America every first Thursday of May on the National Day of Prayer as neighbors come together to join their hearts and voices in reading sacred Scriptures and attending services to seek God for the city and country where we live, learn, work, worship, serve, and desire all to thrive; and
- WHEREAS:** We express our faith and exercise our freedom in prayer, then unite our hearts and voices in personal prayer and public gatherings across America with fervent praise, repentance, love, and humble intercession for our neighbor and nation, holding fast to the promises throughout the Holy Scriptures that the Lord hears and avails much as He answers the faith-filled prayers of His people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Greg Geels, Mayor of Sheldon, Iowa, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2024, as a National Day of Prayer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.



Greg Geels
Mayor