

*Executive Proclamation*  
*State of South Dakota*  
*Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, throughout history, America has faced trials and triumphs. Americans have responded in prayer, seeking courage, 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; and,

*Whereas*, from the first gatherings of our Founding Fathers, elected officials have not only prayed but have also joined those they serve and represent in prayer; and,

*Whereas*, a National Day of Prayer has been a part of our heritage since it was declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775, and it is also a Public Law. It was 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. It 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. Neighbors come together to join their hearts and voices in reading sacred Scriptures and attending services to seek God; and,

*Whereas*, we express our faith and exercise our freedom in prayer. We 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, Kristi Noem*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2024, as

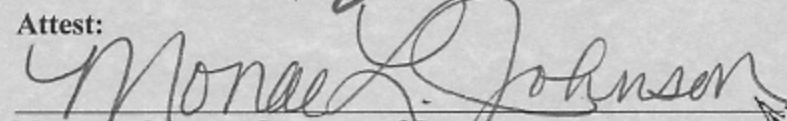
**THE DAY OF PRAYER**

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

  
Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:  
  
Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State