

26 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Gracious God, we remember the Christian communities in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. We give thanks for the vitality and growth of the churches and we lift up to you ELCA synods who work and pray with them.

27 Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Remember in your prayers the Rev. Martina Helmer-Pham Xuan, the new ELCA Global Mission regional representative in Europe.

28 Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

On the day that commemorates the death of Thomas Aquinas, remember and give thanks for the teachers, both formal and informal, religious and secular, who have helped you become the person you are today.

29 Pray for Julie Rossate and the Rev. Jeff Vonwald, ELCA missionaries who are regional coordinators in the Holy Land for the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

30 Offer prayers for all of our ELCA congregations. Ask God to grant them peace and grace.

31 Give thanks for the lives that have been saved, many of them children, because of the ELCA Malaria Campaign and for the continuing generous donations from this church's members and congregations.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

JANUARY 2014

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 Name of Jesus

On this first day of a fresh, new year, take time to remember and give thanks for those who, in the name of Jesus, provided guidance and support during the past year. As we turn to the new year, give thanks for God's love and grace, which will deepen the joys and lighten the sorrows of the coming year.

2 Give thanks for the service of Kathryn Lohre, ELCA director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, upon the completion of her two-year term as president of the National Council of the Churches of Christ. She was the council's first Lutheran president and the youngest woman to hold the office.

3 Pray for the Rev. John and Barbara Lemond and their service as ELCA missionaries in Hong Kong.

4 Give thanks for the generous contributions by ELCA members to the aid effort in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan. Also remember in your prayers the countless people who lost loved ones in the storm and those who must rebuild their lives after losing everything.

5 Second Sunday of Christmas

God of mercy, we remember the gift of peace. We ask you to grant your peace upon, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. May your power of love be known.

6 Epiphany of Our Lord

As we remember the welcoming of the magi on their visit to the Christ child, also remember the many ELCA congregations working to ensure that they provide a welcome place where all can feel involved and nurtured in their faith lives, such as St. John's Lutheran in Brookfield, Wis.

7 Give thanks for the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and the ELCA congregations that partner with it, for the warm welcome and vital assistance provided to refugees coming to the U.S.

8 Pray for God's guidance for congregations calling a new pastor as the members transition from what was to what will be.

9 Pray for the ministry of house churches — such as Mustard Seed Ministries in the Denver area — in which discussions and meals in people's homes become new avenues for worship.

10 As winter sets in in many parts of the country and heating bills rise, pray that local food pantries — many of which are sponsored by ELCA congregations — will receive the support needed to meet demand.

11 Remember in your prayers the parish ministry in Tokyo of the Rev. Gail Mundt, an ELCA missionary.

12 Baptism of Our Lord/First Sunday after Epiphany

Lord of life, we remember with joy the baptism of Jesus. We lift up and rejoice with our sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land as they celebrate the opening of the new Evangelical Lutheran Pilgrimage and Retreat Center at Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan.

13 Pray for the theologians and biblical scholars of this church, that God will sustain them in their vocations and open the church to their insight and wisdom.

14 Remember in your prayers the five members of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program who are serving for a year in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

15 Pray and give thanks for the retired pastors of the ELCA and the new ways they now serve God in their retirement.

16 Remember in your prayers the work in theological education of the Rev. Stephen Hultgren, an ELCA missionary in Australia.

17 Pray that the restorative power of worship with their ELCA congregations will help those whose lives are experiencing difficult times.

18 Confession of Peter

As the ELCA and its ecumenical partners participate in the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which begins today, pray for Christians everywhere to better understand and reflect the implications of "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Good and loving God, grant your wisdom and love upon the people of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, that they may live in peace and harmony.

20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Give thanks for the progress, however inadequate, that our nation has made in healing some of its racial wounds, but pray that, with Christ's love for all as a model, the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. will be realized sooner rather than later.

21 Pray that the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative will help bring the Bible into people's daily lives and enrich their faith by doing so.

22 Pray for the ministry of the Rev. Allan and Marie Krahn, ELCA missionaries in Brazil.

23 Give thanks that we are freed in Christ to be stewards of the gifts God has provided, not only in our finances but also in our time and talents and love for our neighbors.

24 Pray for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network and all those who are traveling to the annual "Extravaganza" which is being held this year in St. Louis. The four-day conference draws together between 500-750 adults who work with youth in ELCA congregations.

25 Conversion of Paul

Give thanks for the power of the Holy Spirit in our faith lives as we, like Paul, travel our individual roads to Damascus.