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 On this day when we celebrate the holy name of Jesus, we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin again another year.

2 We give thanks for teachers and prophets with voices that give strength to this church.

3 We give thanks for the ELCA International Leaders – Women program and its commitment to the role and contribution of women in church and society.

4 As a church of moral discernment, we lift up the ELCA social statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries.” We are called to support civil rights organizations that fight to end racism and ensure justice for all.

5 We remember those whose lives have changed because of HIV and AIDS. We give thanks for our church’s commitment to addressing the root causes that contribute to the spread of HIV.

29 Guide those who lead and participate in the Book of Faith Initiative, which strives to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world.

30 Our faith liberates us to embrace each person in their wholeness. We give thanks for the ELCA’s Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team and its mission of assisting our church in becoming more culturally diverse and anti-racist.

31 We give thanks for the ELCA Malaria Campaign and our members and companions overseas who help reduce the number of deaths from this preventable, treatable disease.
We pray for West African nations struggling with Ebola. Through ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign, we walk together with Lutheran companions as they respond to hunger, disaster and disease with compassion and action.

We pray for the people of Iraq, who are displaced from their homes following the violent persecution of Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities by Islamic State extremists.

We pray for all who live in poverty in our nation and world. Help us as a society to not think of the poor as a problem to be solved, but as people to be loved.

Help us reach out to people who have thoughts toward suicide. As a community of faith, guide us as we bring awareness to this very real epidemic so that those who suffer may find hope and meaning.

We celebrate and give thanks for our church’s five-year, comprehensive campaign, “Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA,” which seeks to raise funds to sustain and grow the ministries of the ELCA.

We give thanks for John I. Williams Jr., who will become the 12th president of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., effective July 1, 2015. Muhlenberg is a college of the ELCA.

Today begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, when we are reminded of Jesus’ prayer for his disciples, “so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21).

We give thanks for Thomas Aquinas, teacher, whom we commemorate on this day, and all teachers who lead us to a fuller knowledge of the truth.