

gifts help build up Christ's church by sending missionaries and volunteers, training leaders, planting new churches and growing existing ones.

29 Pray for the advocacy ministry of the ELCA as it works through political channels on behalf of the biblical values of peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

30 Remember in your prayers the health care ministry of Dr. Stephen and Bethany Friberg, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania.

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.



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God's work. Our hands.



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PRAYER VENTURES

—APRIL 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 Pray for God's guidance as our congregations adapt their ministries to the changing needs of our communities and the people who live in them, including the congregations of western North Dakota as they strive to do God's work amid the changes brought on by the local oil boom.

2 Give thanks for the \$700,000 in humanitarian assistance the ELCA is providing for those affected by the violence in South Sudan. Pray that the aid will help relieve some of the suffering in their daily lives.

3 Pray for the ELCA Young Adult Ministry as it helps young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 find inspiration, opportunities and resources to make God's work and faith a focus of their lives.

4 Give thanks for the many ELCA members, such as the participants of the Disaster Relief Ministry of St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Fridley, Minn., who roll up their sleeves and get to work helping communities recover after a disaster strikes.

5 Remember in your prayers the Rev. Jeffrey Truscott, an ELCA missionary, and his work at Trinity Theological College in Singapore.

6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Holy God, we thank you for the witness of Christians, known and unknown, in Poland, Belarus, Ukraine

and Romania. Be their guide and support, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

7 Give thanks for the ministries made possible by ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants, such as the Trinity Community Gardens program of Trinity Lutheran in Nampa, Idaho. While helping supply food banks with fresh produce, the program also provides education on food preparation and preservation.

8 Lift up in your prayers the programs of ELCA World Hunger, such as Act 2Day 4Tomorrow, that help bring youth together to learn about the role they can play in eradicating hunger and poverty in the world.

9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Pray for God's continued guidance for the six participants in ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program in Argentina and Uruguay as they continue their year of walking in accompaniment in the global church.

10 Lift up in your prayers *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, a five-year effort to expand the mission of this church and, in the words of the steering committee, "draw closer to Jesus Christ as we live more fully and deeply into our calling as a church."

11 Give thanks for the ELCA Fund for Leaders, which enables our church to attract men and women of tremendous promise to become pastors and rostered lay leaders through scholarships to ELCA seminaries.

12 Lift up the ministries of the Rev. Miriam Schmidt and Jeremy Blyth, ELCA missionaries in Bratislava, Slovakia, where they are Young Adults in Global Mission coordinators for Hungary and Miriam is the pastor of Bratislava International Church.

13 Sunday of the Passion

With great rejoicing and shouts of Hosanna! we say blessed are you who comes in the name of the Lord. Give us the courage to follow you on this Palm

Sunday as we prepare to walk in the shadow of the cross — moving from death to resurrection.

14 Monday in Holy Week

As we embrace each person in their wholeness, give thanks for the work of the Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team, which assists the ELCA in becoming more culturally diverse.

15 Tuesday in Holy Week

Pray for the many forms of spiritual education provided through this church, from Sunday school for preschoolers to adult Bible study, that people of all ages will be nurtured in faith, grow in knowledge and will be inspired and empowered to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

16 Wednesday in Holy Week

Give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Philip and Lou Marie Knutson, ELCA missionaries in South Africa where Philip is the regional representative for Southern Africa.

17 Maundy Thursday

Pray that in our daily lives, when it would be easier to give in to frustration and anger, we will remember Jesus' new commandment given to the disciples at the Last Supper — "that you love one another. Just as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

18 Good Friday

Living in a suffering world, we give thanks for the cross, a reminder that even in our darkest hours, as in Christ's suffering and death, God's grace and love prevails.

19 Vigil of Easter

On this night God brings us from death to life, through fire and water, from sorrow to joy. Give thanks to the Lord your God for the water of baptism and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

20 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! We offer you our thanksgiving and praise your holy name, O Lord of life.

21 Easter Monday

Lift up in your prayers the vision of the ELCA: We are claimed, gathered and sent by God to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the world.

22 On this Earth Day, give thanks for the ways ELCA members and congregations protect God's creation through the wise use of our earth's resources, such as congregations that have reduced their energy use by up to 10 percent by participating in the Energy Stewards Initiative.

23 Remember in your prayers the Rev. David and Alicia Brondos, ELCA missionaries in Mexico City, and their work in theological education.

24 As the 2014 ELCA Synod Assembly schedule begins and continues throughout the spring, give thanks for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the voting members of each of the 65 synods begin to make important decisions affecting their synods and this church.

25 Mark, Evangelist

On this World Malaria Day, give thanks for all the efforts supporting the ELCA Malaria Campaign and pray that the goal of containing the deadly but preventable disease in Africa will be reached.

26 Give thanks for the nearly 10,000 ELCA congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands where people of faith celebrate, learn and connect with one another through service and weekly worship.

27 Second Sunday of Easter

We lift up to you, Lord God, the members of the emerging Christian communities in Africa. We especially remember your people in Botswana, South Sudan, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

28 Give thanks for the many participants in ELCA Global Church Sponsorship program whose generous