

**25** Lift up in your prayers this church's effort to accompany and equip 1,000 congregations in their renewal efforts through ELCA synods – one of the goals of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.

**26** Give thanks for the many supporters of the ELCA Vision for Mission whose contributions help open doors to new ministries, revitalize existing congregations, share the gospel with others and grow the church for the sake of the world.

**27** As the new school year begins, remember in your prayers the ELCA campus pastors who daily reach out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus.

**28** Remember in your prayers ELCA missionaries the Rev. Erik and Tauna Roth and their parish ministry in Tokyo.

**29** Remember in your prayers those students who are beginning seminary this fall. Pray for God's guidance as these future leaders of the ELCA prepare for a life of "God's work. Our hands."

**30** Remember in your prayers the 64 new participants in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program who this month begin a year of accompanying our brothers and sisters in eight country programs around the world.

### **31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Merciful God, fill us when we are empty. Strengthen us when we are weak. Warm us in your love so that we may love our neighbors as ourselves. Help us serve our brothers and sisters worldwide for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

AUGUST 2014

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*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 the safety of all people threatened by violence in the conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, including the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Pray for an end to the violence and that negotiations for a lasting peace will be pursued.

**2** Pray for the state of our world, a world in which unaccompanied children flee across borders in search of better life. Pray for the ELCA members who are working through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran social service ministries to help find foster care for these children.

### **3 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Ever-loving God, quiet our souls before you, speak to us from your word and refresh us with the living bread of life that is Christ, through Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

**4** As stewards of God's creation, we pray with the leaders of the ELCA and The Episcopal Church that limits on carbon emissions be approved in an effort to limit climate change, which particularly threatens low-income communities that lack the resources and technology to adapt to rapid environmental changes.

**5** As they begin their six-year terms in service to this church, pray for the six new ELCA synod bishops who were elected at their 2014 synod assemblies: John Macholz – Upstate New York Synod; Gerald Mansholt – East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; Patricia Lull – Saint Paul Area Synod; Abraham Allende – Northeastern Ohio Synod; Terry Brandt – Eastern North Dakota Synod; Michael Rhyne – Allegheny Synod; and the nine bishops who were re-elected.

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*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](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.*

**6** Pray for the ministries of the ELCA that work with people who have served time in prison and now are trying to start a new life, such as Living Gospel Ministries in Philadelphia.

**7** Remember in your prayers ELCA missionaries the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela, regional representatives for West Africa.

**8** Lift up the participants in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program as they conclude this month their year of accompaniment with Lutheran companion churches overseas. Pray for God's guidance as they finish this journey and prepare for the next chapter in their lives.

**9** Remember in your prayers the ELCA military chaplains and the people they serve – people who are too often facing difficult days in which ending their lives may seem to them the only option. As we give thanks for their service, pray that God's unconditional love will become a light in their darkness.

#### **10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

We thank you, O God, for teachers throughout the world. Give them strength, patience and guidance as many prepare to begin a new school year; in the name of Jesus we pray.

**11** Give thanks that the ELCA Malaria Campaign has raised more than \$12 million toward its goal of \$15 million and that through the generosity of ELCA members, the campaign is making a difference in 13 African countries.

**12** Give thanks for the new worshiping communities of the ELCA, such as Faith in Action in Detroit, and the impact their ministries have on the daily lives of many.

**13** Remember in your prayers the six members of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program who will begin a year of service in Rwanda this month – the first group to serve in that country.

**14** Lift up the ELCA's Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries, which help us work toward realizing a truly multicultural church that works together to understand and address life's issues, complexities and questions.

**15** Remember in your prayers ELCA missionary Chandran Paul Martin, the regional representative in India.

**16** Pray for those who are hearing the call to turn their lives to service in the global church. May the Holy Spirit help them discern how they can do God's work by accompanying those in other cultures, be it as missionaries, health workers, teachers or other servants of God.

#### **17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

God of compassion and justice, we lift up those who are unemployed. May they find work and receive just payment for their efforts; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**18** Give thanks for the generous financial support ELCA members provide this church – from support for the local needs and ministries overseen by their congregations to providing aid in times of international disasters to supporting the growth and work of the global church.

**19** Pray for the ministries of the ELCA that help refugees fleeing difficult conditions begin anew in the United States, such as Welcome House at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in South Carolina.

**20** Lift up in your prayers the ELCA Lay Schools for Ministry program as it equips and supports people for ministry and service in their community, congregation and the world.

**21** Remember in your prayers ELCA missionaries in Japan Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, who are teaching English as a second language.

**22** Give thanks for the many ELCA congregations that have taken their ministry beyond their walls and immediate community by sponsoring an ELCA missionary or Young Adult in Global Mission.

**23** Pray for a world in which no one lives with daily hunger pains and the mission of ELCA World Hunger – providing solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty – would not be needed.

#### **24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

O Lord, we thank you for all ELCA missionaries especially those who have retired. They dedicated their lives to working and living with your people throughout the world. We thank you for their commitment, knowledge and faith; in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.