

**24** Give thanks to God for the work of the Spirit in our lives and the church as we seek to do good in the world, pursue peace and love our neighbor.

**25** Pray for young adults finishing a summer of service in outdoor ministries that they will continue to be committed to learning, witness and service in their communities, schools, church and the world as leaders equipped with faith, skills, creativity and insights gained through outdoor ministry experiences with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

**26** Give praise and thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, in whom we have new life, salvation and hope.

**27** Remember in prayer people and situations – nearby and globally – that have slipped from our memory, prayers, daily conversations or media coverage; pray these people and concerns in the world live in us and are not easily forgotten.

**28** Faithful, generous volunteers are critical for doing God’s work in the world. Give thanks for volunteers who lead and staff programs and ministries in our congregations; pray they are inspired and sustained by their faith, find training and support for their work, and are moved by the Spirit to share their faith and the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

**29** Pray to be “strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power” when confronted by difficulties, threats or the darkness of evil and that we are always ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and pray for the needs and concerns of others.

**30** Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 2009. Pray for their church and ask God to further our respect for one another and work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**31** Give thanks for our long, rich tradition and commitment to faith-based education in homes, congregations, day care and early learning centers, schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, lay schools of theology and through online learning; pray for writers who prepare curriculum, educators, faculty, staff, volunteers and administrators who have responded to the call to serve children, youth and adults of all ages, abilities and needs.

*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.*



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## PRAYER VENTURES

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### AUGUST 2018

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*These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

**1** Remember in prayer the newly elected synod bishops, and pray they be strengthened and inspired by the Holy Spirit for serving and encouraging leaders and members of their synod’s congregations and ministries.

**2** Pray for unity among all Christians and that, as followers of Christ, we pursue and celebrate a unity that bridges differences and affirms we are of one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God.

**3** Sing and shout praise to God for the fullness and wonder of creation and nature, gifts that renew our spirit, inspire creativity, sustain life and reveal God’s power and love; pray we value and tend carefully these gifts entrusted to us for the sake of the world, all life and glorifying our Creator.

**4** Give thanks for the ELCA missionaries accompanying our global companions in Germany and Russia to help build the capacity of Lutheran churches for evangelism, mission and leadership development.

**5** In the spirit of Jesus' feeding 5,000 people, pray for generous responses to ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge, a year-long, youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the agriculture-related programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty.

**6** It takes the skills, dedication and work of many to run our schools – people who teach, cook, attend to special needs, drive buses, clean, counsel students, coach and more. Pray for everyone who has a role in the education, development and well-being of children and youth in our schools.

**7** The Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Network (LEIRN) is made up of volunteers representing the 65 synods of the ELCA. Pray for the work of LEIRN's representatives as models and advocates for ecumenical and inter-religious engagement in the life of the synod and this church.

**8** Remember in prayer all those who suffer daily from chronic pain and its physical, mental and spiritual effects; pray they find hope, effective treatments without addiction and relief from their pain.

**9** Continue praying for all who are recovering from natural disasters, severe weather, flooding and wildfires; ask God to stir an enduring hope, resilience and spirit of mutual care in people as they face the lengthy, difficult and emotional work of grieving loss and rebuilding lives and communities.

**10** Ask God to bless and further the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) in supporting, equipping and advocating for our 1,400 schools and early childhood centers and their 18,000 educators and employees serving and sharing the gospel with over 150,000 children and their families.

**11** Just as God has fed, nourished and sustained us in body and spirit, pray we too are generous with our resources, abundance and witness for the sake of our neighbors who are hungry or food insecure and for the sake of those who long for the hope and good news we know in Jesus Christ.

**12** Jesus' refusal to turn away hungry crowds reminds us that gospel-centered, faith-driven compassion and responses are not easily dissuaded by daunting problems or large-scale situations that might otherwise discourage our engagement. Pray for the Spirit to stir in us empathy, determination and an awareness of the assets around us that we can put to use in serving our neighbor.

**13** *Florence Nightingale (1910) and Clara Maass (1901)* Pray for all who work for the care, healing and comfort of those who are sick, injured or in the last stages of life, especially physician assistants, nurses, physicians, hospice staff, health educators, medics in the military, emergency responders and home-care providers.

**14** Pray for humility and courage to be imitators of God and put aside anger, bitterness, slander, dishonesty and cruelty, and be – as urged in Ephesians – kind, tenderhearted and forgiving of one another as God in Christ has been for us.

**15** Give thanks for the ways *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is strengthening and growing ministries of the church here and around the world. In this last year of the campaign, pray that the Spirit will continue to spark generosity, involvement and a clear sense of the amazing things we can accomplish together.

**16** Remember in prayer students of every age who are returning to school, that their hearts and minds are open to learning, study and change.

**17** Bless, praise and give thanks to God, for God is good and hears our every prayer, cry, joyful laugh and sigh.

**18** Pray our schools are safe, encouraging environments free from violence that children and youth can learn, mature, socialize and develop skills for life without fear, anxiety or worry.

**19** Give thanks for the gifts of God's grace, love and restored hope we experience in Holy Communion and for the promise that Jesus Christ is present in the word, bread and wine through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**20** Ask God to help us be aware and affirming of the vital gifts and assets of elders in our congregations and communities; pray we have the wisdom to call on their spiritual gifts, faith, interests, life experiences and insights for the mission of the church and serving our neighbor.

**21** The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

**22** Pray for help in discerning, living and walking in God's ways and wisdom, especially when we feel uneasy or uncertain of God's ways in the midst of popular culture, social norms, diverse values, current politics, peer pressure or other powerful influences in our daily life.

**23** Ask for the Spirit of God to be present and active in planning groups, staff and volunteers preparing for the beginning of fall congregational programs; pray these programs and ministries reach new people, deepen the faith of members, inspire people of all ages to serve neighbors in need and help grow the church.