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 Our prayers are filled with awe and thanksgiving for the power and majesty of God reflected in all of creation, the universe and each other—wonderfully created, diverse human beings.

2 In this new year, we ask God to open our hearts and minds to newness and change, knowing that whether we succeed, struggle or fail in our endeavors, the love and forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ never waivers.

3 Mentors encourage, teach by example and walk alongside us. We give thanks to God for mentors who inspire our faith and help us develop skills, wisdom and confidence for navigating the complexities of daily life.

4 We remember in our prayers synod bishops gathered for the Bishops’ Academy that they grow in faith and wisdom as leaders of our church and are strengthened in their support of one another for the work and ministry to which they have been called.

5 The wonder and joy of the birth of Jesus continues long after Christmas. We give thanks and praise daily for God’s everlasting, undeserved gift of love.
Epiphany of Our Lord We give thanks and praise to God for revealing to the world Jesus Christ, Son of God— our true salvation, hope and light.

As the newness of Christmas gifts wears off, we ask God to center us in the lasting gifts of faith in Christ, caring relationships, supportive communities, and love and forgiveness—given and received.

Baptism of our Lord Through the waters of baptism and word of God we are welcomed lovingly into the body of Christ and set forward on a new path as children of God. We pray the Holy Spirit will remind us daily of our baptismal mission, stir our faith and be an ever-present guide for us as we share the gospel and serve our neighbor.

We remember in our prayers college and university students who are on winter break, involved in J-term studies or service learning that they be renewed for continuing their studies, know the mutual blessings of community service and further discern how God is calling into use their deepening knowledge, experiences, skills and passions.

For people—who suffer with depression, especially during this time of the year, we pray for relief, hope, appropriate skilled care, supportive relationships and communities, and healing.

We give thanks to God for traditions of the past that still carry meaning and value for us and for traditions that are shifting or being newly formed as the world changes and we are moved by God’s creative power and presence.

The ELCA strategy for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) is rooted in concern for the plight of children forced to flee their communities, particularly in Central America and Mexico. We ask God to help us be bold and wise in our compassion and actions, responsible partners in finding solutions and work together as welcoming congregations for the sake of those who are most vulnerable—children and families.

We remember in our prayers our elders, those who are ill, and people who struggle with mobility who are homebound or living in places of care and pray that we are mindful of including them in the life of our congregations and affirming their value as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Uncertain of what awaits us each day and what the year ahead holds for us, we ask God to grant us courage, hope and wisdom for facing the challenges and tasks that take us by surprise.

Just as Jesus’ disciples shared their experiences and introduced others to him as the promised Messiah, we pray that we are enthused to go out of our way to share with people our faith and the good news of Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day We remember in our prayers people, past and present, who stand and advocate with humility and courage for the rights, well-being and value of all people—God’s people—who suffer injustice, mistreatment, neglect or oppression.

We offer thanks and praise to God for being our salvation, light, strength and shelter throughout life and in every circumstance.

We pray we are not hesitant to live as active, concerned members of society, that our actions, words and influence reflect God’s word and will for the world.

In the conversion of Paul we see God at work in the least likely of people. We pray that we recognize