

26 We pray for the African Descent Lutheran Association, people of God rooted in the gospel and redeemed by Jesus Christ, committed to living out their faith by expressing their love for one another and affirming themselves and their cultural heritage as gifts to the church.

27 For some people and families, every day is like a journey in the wilderness. Pray that they may find direction, sustenance, hope and the accompaniment of caring faith communities.

28 Lent leads us – invites us – to have conversations about faith, our humanness, what it means to be Lutheran Christians, and the good news of Jesus Christ. We pray that God’s Spirit will guide our discussions and free us to be curious, respectful and attentive to each person, and inspired to action.

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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PRAYER VENTURES

FEBRUARY 2015

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 Give thanks, especially during Black History Month, for our sisters and brothers of African descent participating in God’s work of restoring, reconciling communities in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

2 Remember the Za’atari Refugee Camp in Jordan, a ministry of The Lutheran World Federation that was hit hard by unusually severe winter storms this past month.

3 We are a church together. Remember in your prayers the congregations, ministries and leaders of the Sierra Pacific, Arkansas-Oklahoma and Caribbean synods of the ELCA.

4 We pray for the warmth and safety of people and communities facing severe cold, snow and flooding during the winter months.

5 As outdoor ministry leaders seek staff across the country for their summer programs, pray for young adults to carefully consider their invitations and opportunities to serve.

6 The need for safe, warm shelter for people who are homeless is particularly critical in the winter months. Send us forth to be your people in the world, inspiring and sharing resources so that all may have dependable shelter.

7 We pray that God's Spirit of justice, peace and reconciliation will turn the hearts and minds of nations, leaders and factions to peaceful means of resolving conflicts and wars, and rebuilding communities and nations.

8 We pray for healing among people suffering in the current flu epidemic, and we give thanks for the skills and commitment of the health care professionals who care for us.

9 Gracious God, we ask that wisdom, compassion and justice will guide the leaders of the United States and Cuba, as they work toward new diplomatic relationships, reconciliation, healing and the reunification of families.

10 For men, women and young adults considering preparation for full-time ministry in this church, we pray for their discernment and that they might use their unique skills and life experiences to share the gospel wherever they serve.

11 Remember the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, including our response to floods in Malaysia, continued response to flood recovery in Serbia and Bosnia, and support to returning child migrants in Honduras.

12 We pray that the 2015 ELCA Definitely Abled Youth Leadership Event in Detroit will bless and

empower young people with physical, cognitive and emotional differences, so that they might grow as faithful, wise and courageous leaders in our church.

13 We give thanks for the generosity of ELCA members who provided nearly \$400,000 in humanitarian assistance to support ELCA partners serving the thousands of unaccompanied minors arriving to the United States from countries in Central America.

14 Continue praying for all those who work to dismantle systems that dehumanize, oppress or divide people by their color, culture, language, abilities or beliefs.

15 *Transfiguration of Our Lord* By the miraculous and simple actions of God in the world, we are moved to offer thanks and glory for the light that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, shines in the world.

16 We pray for God's Spirit to enrich the lives and faith of the youth, parents and adult leaders preparing for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit.

17 *Shrove Tuesday* Many of us know the comfort of abundance and feasting. Let us not fear self-contemplation and sacrifice that grounds us in the spirit of Jesus Christ and his compassion for all humankind.

18 *Ash Wednesday* As we mark ourselves with ashes and the sign of the cross, we admit our wrongdoings and our human weaknesses. Remember the forgiveness and new life we have in Jesus Christ.

19 During this season of Lent, ask for the Spirit's guidance to follow Jesus' example of humility, sacrifice, service and strength in the face of life's challenges.

20 We pray for the eight young adult volunteer missionaries serving communities, churches and social ministries in Mexico this year through the ELCA Young Adult Global Mission program.

21 We are a church together. Let us pray for the congregations, ministries and leaders of the Southwestern Washington, Northern Great Lakes and Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA.

22 *First Sunday in Lent* The water and word in baptism mark a turning point in life – the beginning of a new life in a community of faith in the world. Remember and give thanks for your baptism and for where God has led you in the days and years that followed.

23 Water is a gift, a necessity for life for humanity and creation. We pray for relief and creative solutions during the drought being experienced in the western part of the United States, and in areas of Central America and Africa.

24 We pray to be willing, trusting and eager-to-learn followers of Jesus through trials and temptations to the cross and new life.

25 We pray that our Lenten traditions and practices serve to strengthen our faith, ground our lives in Jesus' life and sacrifice, and draw us closer to God.