

26 Throughout Lent, we pray the Holy Spirit will move us from self-absorption to attentiveness to the world around us, from being self-serving to serving our neighbor without expectation of reward or recognition.

27 Though we live in a culture of abundant options, flexibility and self-gratification, we ask God for the strength and discipline to be obedient to God's Word and faithful in following Jesus.

28 We remember in our prayers the faithful work of pastors Kirsten Fryer and Michael Parker, ELCA missionaries serving in parish ministry and theological education in Egypt.

29 For the sake of Christian unity, sharing the gospel, mutual encouragement and serving our neighbor, we ask God to help us move beyond our apprehensions and further our relationships and conversations with people of other denominations, faiths and traditions.

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 2016

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 We remember in our prayers communities and states recovering from or experiencing unexpected flooding and severe weather this winter.

2 *Presentation of Our Lord* Jesus, our Lord and savior, grew and matured in our midst for our sake and salvation. We pray that we will mature and become strong in faith, filled with wisdom, and that God's love and mercy will be upon us throughout life.

3 We remember in our prayers the ministries of pastors Bradn Buerkle, Ben and Margit Coltvet, and Arden Haug, ELCA missionaries serving in Russia.

4 We hold in prayer our leaders gathered for the Conference of Bishops, that they will be inspired and sustained by the Holy Spirit and help guide our church in its mission in a world full of complexity and challenges.

5 We remember in our prayers all throughout history who have lost their lives for the sake of the gospel and the proliferation of peace and justice.

6 Theologians in our church help us reflect on, better understand and apply Scripture and our faith in daily life. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide, inspire and stir curiosity in their studies and teaching.

7 *Transfiguration of Our Lord* God's glory is great and cannot be contained. We give thanks that God's power, presence and mercy are so clearly revealed through the light of Christ.

8 We remember in our prayers *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* and pray for generous support of new and expanded churchwide ministries and leadership around the world, in the name of Jesus Christ.

9 On this Shrove Tuesday, we humble ourselves and pray for forgiveness in God's presence and ask that God create in us generous hearts and caring spirits that consider especially the needs of our neighbors who are hungry and living in poverty.

10 *Ash Wednesday* We come to God in humility and prayer today, drawn by the life and sacrifice of Jesus in whom we find new life and worth.

11 We give thanks to God for the compassion of congregations providing warm, safe shelter for the homeless and hospitality for those seeking the comfort of welcoming communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

12 For nations entangled in war, we pray for lasting peace and an end to violence and hatred. We also pray for those who have been displaced and driven out that they may return safely, rebuild together and heal.

13 The new Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities is a collaboration of 26 colleges and universities. We pray that our higher education institutions thrive in serving the academic and spiritual needs of their students and contribute to the enrichment of communities and society.

14 In our daily prayers, we ask God to grant us strength, courage and faith to recognize and resist all that tempts us to stray from God and our pilgrimage with Jesus.

15 We remember on this Presidents Day the president of our nation and the leaders who serve with him that they may act with wisdom, justice, concern for people of all backgrounds and for the well-being and unity of our diverse communities.

16 As followers of Christ, we pray for a growing understanding of what it means to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow as imperfect disciples trusting in God's love and forgiveness every step of the way.

17 We ask God to bless the evangelism work of the Rev. Mawien Ariik and the refugee ministry of the Rev. Wal Reat, ELCA missionaries in South Sudan.

18 On this day in 1546, Martin Luther died at the age of 62. We give thanks for the ways in which Luther instructed and inspired Christians to be centered in Scripture, prayer, education and God's unconditional love.

19 We pray for the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and do God's work in the world.

20 We give thanks for and ask God's blessings on the work of Lutheran Services of America and its network of 300 organizations, especially for its work in support of parents and children involved in adoption and foster care.

21 In baptism, we are called, gathered and claimed by God. We give thanks to God for gathering us in community for mutual care, encouragement and sending each other into the world to share the gospel.

22 Krystle Moraska-Madrussan and Ignacio Madrussan serve as coordinators for young adults serving in Argentina and Uruguay. We pray for their support and their work with the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

23 We remember in our daily prayers our best and worst human qualities and offer ourselves as we are to God – in need of and grateful for God's undeserved love and forgiveness.

24 Ten young adults are serving in health care, children's ministry, outreach, community development and elder care in South Africa as Young Adults in Global Mission. We ask God to daily bless and encourage their service.

25 We give thanks for the women of the Deaconess Community who use their diverse gifts and training to serve in a variety of community and church contexts in response to God's call and the needs of the world.