and other believers throughout history and pray we likewise will be self-sacrificing, fearless witnesses and servants of Jesus Christ in the world.

24 Pray that God will teach us, help us understand and open our hearts and eyes to God’s word and commandments that we may follow in God’s ways.

25 We remember in our prayers the deaconess community and women who have been called to Word and Service ministry as deaconesses. We pray the Spirit will guide and sustain them in their commitment to justice and mercy, bridge-building with others in mission and public witness to the gospel.

26 Transfiguration of our Lord Give thanks to God for revealing to us Jesus Christ as Son of God and Son of Man, our Lord and Savior, the promised Messiah, our salvation and light. Pray we not keep the good news to ourselves or become arrogant as Christians but willingly respond to God’s sending us into the world to share the gospel.

27 Turn to God in praise and thanks for the gifts of faith and clarity that enable us to recognize and embrace the good news of Jesus Christ amid false promises, prophecies and distractions that would lead us away from the truth.

28 Shrove Tuesday On this day, we humble ourselves and pray for forgiveness and ask God to create in us generous hearts and caring spirits that we may attend to the needs of our neighbors who are hungry, living in poverty and long for hope.
in Argentina and Uruguay. Pray for their well-being, that their service
and witness touch many lives and their partnerships help strengthen
God’s mission in the world.

7 Pray the Holy Spirit will turn our trust to God’s wisdom and truth
when we are tempted to rely on human teachings, wisdom, opinions
or ways of thinking.

8 We praise the Lord, our source of joy and happiness, and steady
light of hope and reassurance where there is darkness.

9 Pray those who continue to wage war and commit human atrocities
in Syria will lay down their weapons and self-interests and redirect
their energy and resources to establishing peace, reconciliation,
creating a just and compassionate government, and rebuilding safe,
prosperous communities for millions of refugees and internally
displaced Syrians to return home to.

10 The Presbyterian Church (USA) has been a full communion
partner of the ELCA since 1997. Thank God for our deepening,
maturing relationship and the work we do together in the world
sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

11 Laughter and humor are gifts from God. Smile and give thanks to
God for people who help us laugh and see joy in life and for those
whose humor helps break through our uneasiness with difficult
issues, opening us to self-reflection and different perspectives on life.

12 We ask God to remove any hesitations, stubbornness or pride
we may have that prevent us from approaching people with whom
we have conflict, differences or grudges, or who have wounded us
and that we will take initiative to seek reconciliation, forgiveness
and healing.

13 In a world of conflict and division, even among people of faith, we
ask God to strengthen our commitment to ecumenical and inter-faith
relationships and conversations that lead to reconciliation and unity
for the sake of the world and in the name of Jesus Christ.

14 Reflecting on God’s unconditional love and forgiveness for all
people, pray for a deepening and always maturing understanding of
love and what contributes to healthy, growing relationships.

15 We remember in our prayers people who are
still grieving and recovering from loss of life, home or livelihood
because of natural disasters and severe weather and pray they find
comfort, strength and hope in God’s presence and the support of relief
workers and volunteers who continue to accompany them.

16 Give thanks for the joy that comes from studying God’s word,
discerning God’s will for us and walking in God’s ways.

17 Throughout the coldness of winter, we pray all those who are
cold, without adequate income to pay for heat or who are homeless
find warm shelter, assistance and the welcoming comfort of caring
neighbors.

18 Death of Martin Luther (1546) Give thanks for the life, bold faith,
fervor for the gospel and teachings of Martin Luther, whose impact
continues to influence and challenge the church and Christians today.

19 Pray to have the boldness and courage of faith and compassion
taught by Jesus, that we may live and act far beyond the constraints
and expectations for justice, love and mercy taught by society.

20 Presidents Day We give thanks for the peaceful transition of
leadership our nation has known in its history, and pray our nation’s
leaders, and we as citizens and people of faith, work to ensure
the voices of all people are heard and valued in the day-to-day
deliberations and decisions made by our leaders and government.

21 The Rev. Michael Fonner and Elizabeth Hendrickson are ELCA
missionaries in Kenya, and the Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo and
the Rev. Brian Palmer serve in Liberia. Pray for their ministries,
witness and the skills they bring to our partnerships with companion
churches for sharing the gospel and serving neighbors in need.

22 Nearing the mid-year for many teachers, teacher assistants,
educators and professors, pray for their continued strength, creativity
and enthusiasm as they teach and care for their students – children,
youth and young adults of diverse needs, abilities
and backgrounds.

23 We lift up and give thanks to God for followers of Christ who
have lost their lives for their faith and have inspired the church