

25 World Malaria Day Give thanks for the lasting impact of the ELCA Malaria Campaign and work with Lutheran companions and partners in Africa over the past five years to prevent and treat malaria, and pray our commitment and support to fight malaria continues through the health-related work of ELCA World Hunger.

26 Trusting in the mercy, new birth and living hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we give praise and thanks to God for our salvation and faith.

27 We remember in our prayers the eight young adults and coordinators, Matthew Bishop and Jen Engquist, serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Cambodia.

28 Give thanks to God on Arbor Day for the beauty, life-giving qualities, resources and habitats provided by trees, woodlands and wilderness forests, and pray for wisdom and renewed commitment to steward and protect these gifts entrusted to our care.

29 We remember in our prayers the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Alaska synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

30 We remember in our prayers the Northeastern Minnesota and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

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.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

—APRIL 2017—

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 Thank God for the gifts of laughter, humor, comedy and wit that give us joy and sometimes catch us by surprise by revealing the struggles and pains of humankind from new angles.

2 Pray for all who grieve the death of a loved one, friend or neighbor that they find caring support among friends, family, communities and congregations and know the healing and hope we have in Jesus Christ.

3 We remember in our prayers the diverse gifts, life stories and challenges of our Arab-American brothers and sisters, especially during Arab-American Heritage Month, and ask God's blessings for the members and leaders of ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern congregations and ministries.

4 Pray God will equip, sustain and inspire people—of all ages—who serve as volunteers, participate in service learning experiences, travel on mission trips and commit to long-term volunteer service programs across the U.S. and globally.

5 We pray God hears our cries for forgiveness, mercy and loving attention both for our personal lives and circumstances and those of our neighbor.

6 Give thanks for artists who reveal through their art and creativity the mysteries of salvation, faith and the wonder of God's creation.

7 Pray for the 15 ELCA missionaries serving in Slovakia, especially for their work and partnerships in parish ministry and teaching.

8 Pray for the ELCA Justice for Women program and its work addressing sexism through our Lutheran theology, connecting our theology with specific issues in the world, encouraging men and women to work together, and encouraging congregations in their work of serving women and girls.

9 *Palm Sunday* We pray that through Jesus' suffering and death we glimpse and welcome the boundless depth of God's sacrifice and love for all people and creation.

10 Pray for strength and faith to accept the challenges and complexities of following Jesus and giving witness to God's presence and activity in the world today.

11 Pray for the courage to follow the example and spirit of Jesus as hope-filled, humble servants called to serve our neighbor and undeterred by personal sacrifice, self-interest or fear.

12 Give thanks for the work of ELCA Disability Ministries, congregations, agencies, schools and outdoor ministries serving children and adults of all abilities and with special needs.

13 *Maundy Thursday* When we gather as people of God around the meal of God's word, bread and wine, pray for a renewed sense of unity in Christ, nourishment for the work of loving one another and blessings for being sent into the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.

14 *Good Friday* We thank God that we are not abandoned to waste away in helplessness and misery but that our despair turns to hope and joy in the triumph of Jesus over sin and death on the cross.

15 Pray to be ever-awake, alert and receptive to God's word, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and reminders of our baptismal calling to be disciples and followers of Jesus Christ in a world hungry for true hope and healing.

16 *Easter Sunday* Alleluia, Christ is risen! Praise God with a joyful heart, knowing God's word is true and frees us from sin, death and darkness that we may live each day as servants bearing good news for all.

17 Mary Magdalene, though caught in a swirl of emotions and questions, told others of what she saw and heard at Jesus' empty tomb. Pray the Spirit will move us beyond our doubts, embarrassments and reluctance and fill us with a desire and boldness to share our faith with friends and strangers alike.

18 Ask God to help our faith communities be safe, welcoming, grace-filled places for honest, lively conversations, especially when we find ourselves divided by politics, opinions, circumstances and the complexities of life.

19 Pray for the special work and ministry of intentional interim ministers and interim executive directors who help support and guide congregations and outdoor ministries through times of transition.

20 For wherever there is war and conflict in the world, pray for peace and healing; where people live under oppression and persecution, pray for justice and protection; for people, nations and situations forgotten or ignored, pray we remember and are moved to thoughtful, caring involvement.

21 We remember in our prayers the Lutheran churches in Costa Rica and Honduras, small churches with a bright witness and strong commitment to serve the most marginalized and impoverished people in their countries.

22 *Earth Day* The earth is a gift and treasure—the handiwork of our Creator—sustaining all life. Ask God for the will and wisdom to care for the earth and all its resources and give us courage to make difficult decisions that may involve sacrifice, changing attitudes and behaviors, and thinking beyond our immediate desires and needs for the sake of the world.

23 When we wrestle with doubt, even disbelief, we turn to God asking for forgiveness, reassurance of the Spirit's presence and activity within us, and the reviving of our faith.

24 We remember in our prayers the five young adults and their coordinator, the Rev. Kristin Engstrom, serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Senegal, and ELCA missionaries the Rev. Chad and Natalie Rimmer working with leadership development.