

25 *Ascension of our Lord* It's tempting to fix our gaze and attention heavenward, eagerly awaiting the day when we will be liberated from this life and place. We pray the Spirit will redirect our attention and energies to the work and ministry we have been called to and entrusted with here and now—serving our neighbor, sharing the gospel and equipping disciples.

26 Pray for courage and boldness of faith and conscience to do good in the world, stand for justice and peace, and live by Jesus' example, even in the face of criticism, social pressure or ridicule.

27 We remember in our prayers the Southeastern Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite its leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

28 Give praise and thanks to God for the gifts of eternal life, faith and hope—undeserved as they are.

29 *Memorial Day* On this day, we remember and give thanks for men and women who have served in the armed forces and sacrificed their lives for ideals of justice, peace, freedom and well-being for our country, other nations and people who suffer oppression and injustice in the world.

30 Pray for the 74 million Lutherans, Lutheran churches and ministries worldwide, and The Lutheran World Federation, ecumenical and interfaith partners working together with the ELCA sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbor and cultivating reconciliation, justice and peace among all people and nations.

31 Pray for students—of all ages—preparing for summer vacations, seasonal employment, summer studies or graduation that they find opportunities for rest, renewal, play, learning and service as children of God with valued gifts and skills to share with the church and world.

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PRAYER VENTURES

MAY 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 *Philip and James, apostles* We pray the stories of the disciples who heard Jesus' invitation and followed will inspire us to follow and serve too, trusting that God will put our unique abilities, interests and traits to work for the mission of the church and the sake of the world.

2 Pray for leaders gathered at the ELCA Worship at the Center event in New Haven, Conn., that each will be inspired and further equipped to guide us when we gather around word and sacrament to mark occasions in human life and the life of the church.

3 There are more than 100 Asian congregations and ministries in the ELCA. We remember ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries in our prayers and ask God to bless their outreach with distinct, unique groups and communities of people as part of a common yet diverse Asian community.

4 We remember in our prayers the Sierra Pacific, Southeast Michigan and Southeastern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

5 We remember in our prayers the Oregon, Rocky Mountain and Minneapolis Area synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

6 We remember in our prayers the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Southwestern Texas and Southeastern Minnesota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

7 Thank God for the sacrifice and gift of Jesus Christ in which we have life abundant given freely, new life that is trustworthy and true.

8 We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries and young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Madagascar, that God will bless and further their witness, service and work with our global church partners.

9 Turn to God in prayer, thankful and relieved that in God we have a loving, attentive shepherd who guides us day and night through life's difficulties, complexities and threats.

10 ELCA Global Mission Gatherings equip us for God's work in global and local realities. Pray that participants and event leaders grow in understanding of who our neighbors are and our mission in the world and are inspired to share their passion, insights and commitment to action back home with their congregations and communities.

11 We remember in our prayers the New Jersey, Metropolitan New York and Pacifica synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

12 We pray that all expressions and members of our church are mindful of the global refugee and migration crises and the injustices and conflicts that continue to grow in scope and complexity. Give thanks for the work of synods, congregations, agencies and global partners in sponsoring refugees, welcoming them, accompanying them, providing relief and advocating for them as they settle in our countries—compassionate work done in the name of Jesus Christ.

13 We remember in our prayers the 12 young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in the United Kingdom, that God will bless and further their witness, service and work with our global church partners.

14 *Mother's Day* We ask God to strengthen and be with all mothers—biological, adoptive, foster and surrogate—in the daily joys and challenges of parenting, passing on the faith, protecting and guiding their children throughout life.

15 Give thanks to God for being patient, concerned and persistent with us when doubts, questions and even disbelief tug at us.

16 Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods and congregations. We give thanks and pray for the growth of ways in which we nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

17 Jesus is the cornerstone and foundation of our faith, church and life. We pray we are faithful, willing servants of the church and witnesses to the world, drawing on the strength and spirit of Jesus Christ for the work of sharing the good news and serving our neighbor.

18 We remember in our prayers the Eastern Washington-Idaho and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

19 We remember in our prayers the Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Iowa, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Northwestern Ohio synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

20 We remember in our prayers the Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite its leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

21 For the enduring presence of the Spirit with us and in us, we give thanks and ask for guidance and wisdom in loving God and following God's word and commandments.

22 We remember in our prayers the Northern Great Lakes, North/West Lower Michigan and South Carolina synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

23 Ups and downs, problems, tragedies and ordeals are part of the fabric of human life. Pray for God's reassurance and renewing Spirit in every circumstance and life experience and that we are present and caring companions for people who hunger for hope, comfort, assistance, encouragement or simply friendship.

24 We ask God to spur our curiosity, knowledge and sense of responsibility as we seek to understand the mysterious workings of creation and the universe and as we create and use new technologies for the benefit of humankind.