

25 We remember refugees fleeing areas of persecution and conflict in the Middle East and North Africa, and pray for their safe passage, restoration of their hope, and peace in their homelands.

26 We give thanks and praise to God, creator of everything, as we experience the wonders and complexity of nature throughout the summer months.

27 Confronting the persistent racism and classism in our nation, we pray for peace in communities suffering turmoil, and that God will lead us all to reconciliation, healing and new understanding in our life together.

28 As a faith community that defines no one as an outsider, we pray that we are eager to share the gospel, sincere in welcoming others, and willing servants of Christ in the world.

29 Peter and Paul, faithful servants of God and leaders in the church, brought their human weaknesses and strengths to their ministry. We pray that we may also trust in God's grace and live as bold witnesses to the gospel.

30 We remember in our prayers California and areas of the West suffering from severe draught, and we ask God for rains to restore the waters so precious and necessary for life.

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

JUNE 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 The 33 congregations, 4,414 members, and leaders of the ELCA Caribbean Synod share the good news of Jesus Christ among diverse cultures and languages. We pray for their work and growth throughout that region.

2 We pray that the Holy Spirit fill us with compassion, acceptance and God's sense of justice as we live the joys and challenges of being a diverse society and creation.

3 We remember in prayer the thousands of young adults in training to serve children, youth, adults and campers with special needs in our 132 outdoor ministries this summer.

4 We are a church together. We remember in our prayers the ELCA Central States, Alleghany and Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assemblies, that the Spirit will guide their members and leaders in God's work and service in the world.

5 We remember in our prayers the ELCA Montana, Indiana-Kentucky, Western North Dakota, Southern Ohio and New Jersey Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

6 We remember in our prayers the ELCA New England, West Virginia-Western Maryland, Virginia, Lower Susquehanna and Southeastern Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

7 It is Jesus Christ, the son of God, in whom we trust to defeat all evil and death. For this we give thanks to God, and pray for confidence to share the good news and do God's will in the world.

8 We pray for The Episcopal Church, an ELCA full communion partner, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and serve in the world.

9 As young people seek summer employment, we pray that they may find safe, fair and meaningful work in their communities.

10 The plight of migrant youth from Central America continues to be a concern. We pray that we may follow Jesus as welcoming, caring servants to all – especially the poor and suffering – and find ways to help bring about lasting changes in the violence and poverty from which these young people flee.

11 Today we honor the apostle Barnabas and how he welcomed Paul as a new convert. We pray that we may also welcome those who are new to faith in Christ and our faith communities.

12 We are a church together. We remember in our prayers the ELCA Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Grand Canyon Synod, that the Spirit will guide their members and leaders in God's work and service in the world.

13 We remember in our prayers the ELCA Southwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Iowa and La Crosse Area Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

14 We give thanks for the small, immense and mysterious ways that God is present in the world, and for the ways in which the Holy Spirit cultivates faith, even in life's seemingly most difficult and barren circumstances.

15 For people who are grieving losses and recovering from earthquakes, tornadoes, flooding and natural disasters, we pray for relief, resources for rebuilding communities and the life-giving hope that comes with faith in God's presence and love.

16 During these long days of summer, we are reminded of the one true light – Jesus Christ – who breaks through all darkness and gives new life to all creation. For this we give thanks and praise to God.

17 More than 3 million people were affected by the May 2014 cyclone that hit Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. As they continue to rebuild their lives and communities, we give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response's assistance with long-term relief and recovery efforts.

18 We are a church together. We remember in our prayers the Florida-Bahamas and Caribbean Synod Assemblies, that the Spirit will guide their members and leaders in God's work and service in the world.

19 Juneteenth is the celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. We pray that we continue to strive tirelessly for racial equality and justice in the world – for all of God's children.

20 We remember in our prayers the ELCA Northern Illinois, Upper Susquehanna and Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

21 This weekend we remember in our prayers fathers who have nurtured the development and faith of children in every generation, and fathers who yearn for support and guidance in their lives and parenting.

22 We give thanks for our partnership with Lutheran World Relief to fund projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, projects that include agricultural production and food security, income generation and disaster risk reduction.

23 Planning teams are making final preparations for the Youth Gathering in Detroit. We pray for their good work and the success of the Gathering.

24 *Commemoration of John the Baptist* Today we honor the witness of John the Baptist, and pray that God grant us the same untiring passion for inviting the world to know and have faith in our savior, the true messiah, Jesus Christ.