

people in prison or living with a record of imprisonment, those without adequate health care, communities in economic crisis and people living in poverty.

**25** *Presentation of the Augsburg Confession (1530)* We give thanks and recognition in our prayers for all who have, throughout history and in the present, thoughtfully and prayerfully helped us understand Scripture, our faith and God's mission for us in the world.

**26** Jesus keeps us focused on God's purpose and work in the world. We ask God to forgive us and center us in the gospel when we wander, are distracted by our own needs or interpret God's Word for our own advantage.

**27** We are grateful and relieved for the freedom we have in Christ and pray that we use it responsibly in daily service to others and God's will.

**28** Planning has begun for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. We ask the Spirit to inspire the work of Gathering volunteers, leaders and churchwide staff who seek to encourage the faith, lives and service of young people and to support the ministries of adults who work with youth.

**29** *Saints Peter and Paul* As Peter and Paul gave their lives in witness to the truth of Jesus Christ, we pray that we too will reply to God's call to share the good news by committing ourselves to lives of faithful witness and self-sacrificing compassion in the world.

**30** Six young adults are serving in Hungary through the Young Adults in Global Mission Program. We pray that God will bless their work with local congregations and organizations in areas of elder care, Roma ministry, music, education, homeless ministry and parish ministry.

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*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](mailto: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.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

JUNE 2016

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*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 pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Caribbean region and for the faithful work and witness of the ELCA congregations, ministries and leaders serving in diverse contexts of culture, language and geography.

**2** We remember in our prayers the Nebraska, Central States, Allegheny and Central/Southern Illinois synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**3** We remember in our prayers the Southwest California, Sierra Pacific, Southern Ohio, Delaware-Maryland, North Carolina and Montana synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**4** We remember in our prayers the Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Greater Milwaukee, Lower Susquehanna and West Virginia-Western Maryland synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**5** For God's attentiveness to our prayers of joy, praise, sorrow and desperation, we give thanks and welcome with humility God's constant, undeserved love and concern.

**6** We remember in our prayers the Upstate New York Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**7** Christian churches and organizations play a growing role in peacemaking in Israel-Palestine. We ask God to strengthen the Christian presence in the Holy Land and to guide and sustain all endeavors for peace and reconciliation.

**8** Thousands of young adults are serving campers of all ages and abilities in Lutheran outdoor ministry programs across the country. We ask God to bless their witness, inspire their leadership and sustain their faith and energy throughout the summer.

**9** We remember in our prayers the South Carolina Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**10** We remember in our prayers the Western North Dakota, Southwestern Minnesota, Indiana-Kentucky and Metropolitan Chicago synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**11** We remember in our prayers the Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, La Crosse Area, New England, Florida-Bahamas and Virginia synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**12** Through our faith and baptism, we have a new identity in Jesus Christ. We pray that God's Spirit will help us live into our new identity and purpose of unrestrained love, mercy and forgiveness.

**13** We pray for families and individuals traveling and vacationing this summer, that they will travel safely and be receptive to the surprises and blessings of new experiences, people and cultures.

**14** We remember in our prayers the 14 ELCA missionaries serving in education and parish ministries in Slovakia. May God bless and sustain their service and the work of the church in Slovakia.

**15** Seasonal workers provide hospitality and care for travelers, tourists, guests and strangers. We give thanks for everything they do on behalf of others and pray that we respond with care, respect, gratitude and generosity for their service and work.

**16** We remember in our prayers the Grand Canyon, Northern Illinois and Northwestern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**17** We remember in our prayers the Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Upper Susquehanna synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**18** We remember in our prayers the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**19** We ask God to bless all fathers and stepfathers with wisdom, patience and love for their children, that their children will grow up strong in faith, secure in knowing they are loved, cared for and prepared for life.

**20** For the wonders, beauty and life-stirring energy of summer, we give thanks and praise to God, the source of nature, all living things and the universe.

**21** Thirteen people serve as ELCA missionaries in Japan, teaching, working in parishes and equipping new leaders for the church. We pray that God will bless their witness and the work of local ministries and churches in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

**22** We continue to pray for the efforts to bring about peace, healing, rebuilding and new life for Syria and its people, and we remember in our prayers all who work unceasingly and in situations of personal risk to help create hope and lasting change.

**23** We ask God to guide and energize the work of those who are planning this summer's Churchwide Assembly and the Grace Gathering in New Orleans, that participants will be united in Jesus Christ, encouraged in faith and strengthened for service and mission.

**24** During this time of polarization and conflict in our nation, we remember in our prayers the people whose daily realities and needs we often forget, including those who are homeless, immigrants,