

23 Give thanks to God for the grace, new life and purpose we receive in baptism, and pray that remembering our baptism serves to keep us grounded in the good news of our salvation and call to join one another in doing God's work in the world.

24 Pray for young people of color and those whose primary language is other than English who are gathered for the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event in Houston to celebrate their uniqueness, immerse themselves in Scripture, serve in the community, learn from teachers and elders, spread joy in fellowship and praise God who makes us one in the body of Christ.

25 Pray that The tAble, a pre-event to the ELCA Youth Gathering, blesses and empowers young people who live with a range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities that they might grow as faithful, wise and courageous witnesses.

26 Offer up prayers filled with thanks and praise for God's love, power and wondrous works for the benefit of humankind.

27 Remember in prayer the thousands of youth and adults beginning their experience of learning, worship, witness, celebration and service at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

28 Give thanks for the 12 ELCA missionaries serving in Tanzania with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and its health care and education programs, theological education for leaders, and water resources and development work throughout East Africa.

29 *Peter and Paul, Apostles* Responding to God's call to follow and give witness to the good news of Jesus Christ, Peter and Paul left the familiarity of their occupations to become apostles who shared the gospel through their witness, preaching and writing. We ask God to so inspire us to be faithful and bold followers, witnesses and leaders sharing the light of Christ in the world.

30 Many seasonal workers – of all ages – serve behind the scenes and in roles with little recognition or appreciation during the summer. Give thanks to God for their labor and contributions to the community and ask the Spirit to move us to regard them with respect, gratitude, generosity and mutual hospitality.

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 2018

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 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Lower Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, South Carolina, Southeastern, Montana, Sierra Pacific and Southwest California synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

2 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Southern Ohio, Allegheny, West-Virginia-Western Maryland, Florida-Bahamas, North Carolina, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and Eastern North Dakota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

3 Pray that travelers, vacationers and students on break will be renewed in their faith, life, work and relationships through experiences of sabbath, rest and play this summer.

4 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Upstate New York Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

5 Pray our church continues to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees through the presence and work of The Lutheran World Federation and other partners, that people who have been displaced from their homes and countries devastated by conflict and war have shelter, food, access to water and sanitation facilities, education and skills training, psychosocial support and other services; pray for an end to this humanitarian crisis and a lasting diplomatic resolution of this conflict.

6 We ask God to stir in us humility, wisdom and eagerness to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord through our faith and all we do.

7 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Central States, Central/Southern Illinois and New England synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

8 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Northwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Minnesota, Metropolitan Chicago, Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa and La Crosse Area synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

9 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Northwestern Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, Northeastern Pennsylvania and Virginia synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

10 We pray the Holy Spirit will equip and inspire us to live lives that can't be ignored or go unnoticed, lives that cause people to ask who we are, what motivates us and how they too can share in our faith, joy and hope – not for our own recognition, gratification or legacy, but for God's glory.

11 Vacation Bible schools, day camps and outdoor ministries share the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ with children and youth in neighborhoods and communities across the country. Pray for the Spirit to inspire and equip leaders, volunteers and outdoor ministry staff in their work with young people, that their impact will be deep and enlivening.

12 We ask God to grant us courage, wisdom and persistence in fighting racism, working for reconciliation and healing, and recommitting our church to work for racial justice and inclusion, to work against white privilege, and to be a church that truly welcomes all.

13 Give thanks for the service and witness of the ELCA missionaries and eight young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Israel, Jerusalem/West Bank, Jordan and Palestine, working with our companions to grow the church, support Lutheran schools and engage in issues of peacemaking, reconciliation and interfaith dialogue.

14 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Grand Canyon, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southwestern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

15 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Northern Illinois, Upper Susquehanna, Caribbean and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

16 When life seems dark, our problems deep and insurmountable or we long for forgiveness, pray to the Lord and trust God's word, steadfast love and power to save.

17 Ask God to help us be attentive and receptive when we listen to parables, stories, metaphors and artistic expressions that catch us off guard, break through our assumptions, connect faith to daily life and deepen our understanding of God's truth and wisdom.

18 Remember in prayer parents and children during the summer months, a time when challenges of child care, hunger and meaningful, safe activities for youth can be complicated and acute; pray for wisdom and inspiration in creating services, programs and activities that support and strengthen families in your community.

19 Peace Not Walls is an ELCA campaign working for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel. Ask God to bless and further our work in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, The Lutheran World Federation and The National Interreligious Leadership Initiative on the Middle East to promote dignity, respect for human rights, mutual understanding among religions, healing and reconciliation in the Holy Land.

20 It's sometimes tempting to underestimate our influence and impact in the world as children of God, followers of Jesus. Ask God to encourage us through the presence of the Holy Spirit to be confident and bold in bearing the good news of Jesus Christ and living, acting and advocating for the well-being of all people and communities.

21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 Remember in prayer the congregations, youth, parents, leaders and synods preparing for and traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.