

25 *James, the Apostle* James left his familiar life as a fisherman to follow Jesus. We pray for the same faith to follow and serve God, no matter the uncertainties, where it takes us or the risks involved.

26 In a world with hunger, we pray that we not forget that Jesus has not left us hungry and wanting and that we are called to be caring and attentive to all who live in poverty and hunger – physically and spiritually.

27 Trusting in God for our daily needs, we pray for a spirit of generosity that moves us to share freely our resources and care for our neighbors in need.

28 For the musicians who proclaim the gospel through music and song, we give thanks and pray their creativity will inspire others to offer their gifts to the glory of God.

29 In song, proclamation and prayer, we rejoice in God's wonderful deeds of grace and mercy throughout history.

30 We pray that people drawn or forced into violence and war against their neighbors may come to know God's love and concern for all people and nations and be transformed by faith for acts of peace and compassion.

31 We give thanks to God for more than 500 new congregations that have been planted, organized and have joined the ELCA since its beginning, and we pray for our continued growth and witness to the gospel 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.



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PRAYER VENTURES

JULY 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 More than 3,500 summer staff members are currently serving at 132 Lutheran outdoor ministry sites. We pray God's Spirit will guide and sustain them in their work to nurture the faith of children, youth and adults.

2 We remember communities around the United States that have experienced damage, suffering and loss from severe weather, especially in Texas and Oklahoma, and pray for recovery, healing and resilience.

3 *Thomas, the Apostle* We remember Thomas in our prayers today, that we may follow and proclaim Christ as he did, as human beings living boldly with both faith and uncertainty.

4 Seventy-nine young adults have accepted the call to serve in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. We remember these young adults in our prayers as they prepare for a year of service and witness around the world.

5 As we are sent into the world to do God's work, we pray that we serve with confidence in God's work through us and with humility as people who need each other to spread the gospel and accomplish change in the world.

6 We pray that God will place caring, faith-filled adults in the lives of child soldiers that they will experience healing through God's love and forgiveness and life anew without coercion and violence.

7 We give thanks for the generosity of God's people enabling ELCA World Hunger to offer domestic hunger grants in support of ministries that serve people on a daily basis.

8 Abundant summer crops and harvests are a wonder and blessing. We give thanks to God for the food that sustains us and the people who plant, grow, harvest, prepare and share it for the well-being of all people.

9 We ask God to equip the church, our governments and agents of change to create causes for hope and bring resources for peace and reconciliation into places of turmoil in the world.

10 We give thanks for the 352 ELCA ministries under development – a sign of a healthy church and God's presence in the world.

11 We pray that youth and adults traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering will have safe journeys and that they will be prepared for their experience of being the church gathered for worship, learning, witness and service.

12 Through us, God speaks words of peace, love, justice and faithfulness that challenge violence, hatred and self-interest in the world. We pray that we find courage and strength in the risen Christ to be faithful witnesses in the face of all challenges and risks.

13 We remember in our prayers young people of color gathered in Detroit for the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event to claim their story as a part of God's story, to move toward healing and wholeness as leaders in the church and the world.

14 We remember in our prayers the young people gathered at the Definitely-abled Youth Leadership Event in Detroit and pray that all youth living with disabilities might grow as faithful, wise and courageous witnesses and leaders.

15 This week we pray for the thousands of young people participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering, for God's Spirit to stir their faith and help them discover their call to serve locally and globally.

16 We remember Detroit and all cities recovering from economic crises and pray for their healing and an upwelling of creativity and vibrancy in their neighborhoods.

17 Fifty-six percent of all ELCA new-start ministries are among ethnic-multicultural communities, and 27 percent are in communities where people are living in poverty. We pray that these ministries and members will flourish as the body of Christ.

18 Lutherans and Roman Catholics in the United States have been in dialogue for the past 50 years. We ask God to sustain our commitment to ecumenism as members of the body of Christ and to deepen our mutual understanding for the sake of God's mission in the world.

19 Youth groups are returning home from the ELCA Youth Gathering today. We ask God to return them home safely, eager to live and serve – with the entire church – as followers of Jesus.

20 We pray for worship leaders and church musicians attending the Worship Jubilee in Atlanta that they may strengthen their gifts and be renewed in their calling to be God's living voice today.

21 For families who vacation during the summer, we pray they will experience renewal of body, spirit and relationship through sabbath rest.

22 *Mary Magdalene* We pray that we may follow Mary's example and rush to give witness to the real and risen Christ who gives new life, hope and healing to the world.

23 During the ongoing earthquake recovery in Nepal, we pray for the rebuilding of communities, adequate resources and safe shelter, restoration of hope and generous support for the work ahead.

24 In all that we do as individuals and as the church together, we pray that the word of Christ will dwell in us richly and guide our every word and deed.