25 We remember in our prayers the Rev. Phillip Baker and the Rev. Rosanne Swanson, ELCA missionaries serving in Indonesia. Pray that their ministries will be blessed as they work alongside companion churches and institutions sharing the gospel, training leaders, strengthening and growing the church, and serving the needs of communities.

26 We pray that God's saving power through Jesus Christ will be known throughout the world, that all may praise God and sing for joy.

27 Pray that when asked about our faith or who Jesus is, with the help of the Spirit, we reply enthusiastically in our own words – imperfect or insufficient as they may be – that Jesus is our Savior and the Son of the living God through whom we are loved, forgiven, opened to God's word and ways, set free on a new path in life and promised eternal life.

28 The world is vast and its people often unknown to us, despite technology and worldwide media. Trusting that we all have one Creator and Savior, we pray that the Spirit of God will move in us and among us, bringing us closer together that we will no longer be strangers but familiar and welcoming brothers and sisters in Christ.

29 Sing and shout prayers of thanks and praise to God for all God has done, taught us, blessed us with, revealed to us for the strengthening of our faith, and the countless ways in which God is present with us and equipping our congregations for every challenge and opportunity we encounter.

30 We remember in our prayers the ELCA missionaries serving in Hong Kong: the Rev. Jenna Bergeson, the Rev. Wayne Niemen, the Rev. Christa Vonzychlin and the Rev. Carolyn Schneider. Pray that God will bless and further their ministries working alongside companion churches and institutions training and encouraging leaders for ministry, sharing the gospel, and strengthening and growing the church.

31 Pray to God with humility as a servant and living sacrifice, asking for insight into the gifts and skills we each bring to the church and how – together – we can put them to use for the growth of the church and for the sake of our neighbors who cry out for good news, hope, comfort, connection and healing.

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.
ministers to meet colleagues for fellowship, share ideas and be refreshed and
renewed for serving the church.

8 We pray – we plead – with God to help us end terror and violence in the
world and to lift from us any fear, suspicion, anxiety, anger and even apathy
that dwells in us.

9 Give thanks and praise to God for being attentive to our prayers, for being
slow to anger, compassionate, loving and merciful with us.

10 Pray that every congregation will discover, use and carefully manage their
diverse assets, resources of their community and abundance for growing the
church, serving their neighbors, equipping and nurturing their members, and
doing God’s work in the world.

11 On this observance of International Youth Day, pray for children and youth
that they experience the benefits of education, health care, clean water and
stable food sources, and safe and caring environments to grow up in. Pray
that they may know the joys of living, playing and dreaming as young people
unencumbered and undiminished by persistent worry, violence or hopelessness.

12 We remember in prayer children and youth beginning a new school year
and pray that with the help and inspiration of parents, teachers and caring
adults in their lives, they will grow in faith, intellect, wisdom, confidence,
curiosity and hope as maturing children of God.

13 Pray that when we are overcome by fear and terror, feel vulnerable and
alone, helpless and ill-equipped, we remember and trust that God is ever-
present, powerful and active in our lives and world.

14 Give thanks for nurses who attend with skill and compassion to our
physical, emotional and spiritual needs in diverse communities, contexts
and situations.

15 Mary, Mother of our Lord We are in awe of how God uses people like
Mary who are humble and poor to reveal God’s presence in the world and
accomplish great things. Give thanks, praise and glory to God for the many
ways in which we are called and sent into the world to share the good news
of Jesus Christ and serve as humble witnesses of our faith.

16 Writers, poets, editors and bloggers inspire and inform us and stir our
faith; praise God for the diversity of the body of Christ and for the gifts,
isights and imagination they exercise and share with the church and world.

17 Ask God to help us understand and value the spirit of the teachings,
movements, insights and leaders throughout history that have contributed to
the shaping and growth of the Lutheran church. Pray that we continue to be
dynamic, growing and unafraid of change as we listen to God’s word, discern
God’s will and strive to be nimble and faithful in our plans, preparation and
work as disciples – today and for the future.

18 Elijah listened for God in a wind storm, earthquake and fire but instead
heard God in the silence and calm that followed. Pray for patience and
discipline that amid our busy, loud, attention-grabbing world we also create
places and times for stillness and calm in which we do nothing but listen and
talk with God.

19 There is hope in the progress being made to halt the spread of HIV
through prevention, treatment and care and in eliminating the stigma and
discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive. Give thanks for
the progress and pray for generous support and continuing commitment
for the work of supporting children who’ve lost parents or guardians to the
disease, training pastors in HIV and AIDS counseling, getting medicines to
remote rural health clinics, making free HIV testing available, preventing new
infections and transforming this church into a safe space for people living
with HIV and AIDS.

20 Ask God to help us be persistent and faithful in prayer for our own lives
and for the needs of the world.

21 We unite in prayer, fasting and advocacy with our brothers and sisters
in Christ of The Episcopal Church that our nation, elected leaders, public-
service agencies and communities will address with compassion, wisdom
and concern for justice the cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry
people who are living in poverty.

22 The Lutheran church has a rich history of education for children, youth
and adults. Give thanks to God for our early childhood education centers,
elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, lay
schools of theology and lifelong education programs related to the ELCA.
Pray they flourish and continue to influence and enrich the lives of the
people they touch.

23 Pray to God with a joy-filled and grateful heart, knowing that God’s
promises and mercy are immeasurable and trustworthy with life-giving
blessings to savor and share.

24 We give thanks to God for the challenging work of teachers, principals,
custodians, cooks, student teachers, administrative staff, counselors, librarians,
nurses, bus drivers and all who play influential and supportive roles in the
education, well-being and development of our children and youth.