

judgment and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

22 Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised tax collector to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

23 We give thanks for the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program and the eight young adults who have been called to serve in Madagascar. Stay with them, Lord, as they live, learn and serve.

24 We give thanks for the Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA which seeks out, supports, nurtures and sends exemplary pastors and seminary students to serve as federal chaplains or chaplain candidates for the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions.

25 Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin. Grant that we who are reborn to new life in Jesus may live in righteousness and holiness all our days.

26 Welcoming God, with gracious and open hearts and minds, we give thanks to the members and congregations of the ELCA, who are invited and encouraged this fall to engage in an important study and conversation centered on the invitation to Holy Communion.

27 We give thanks for the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program and the six young adults who have been called to serve in Rwanda. Stay with them, Lord, as they live, learn and serve.

28 God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them,

keep us from those things that harm us and guide us in the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

29 Everlasting God, you have wonderfully established the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that as Michael and the angels contend against the cosmic forces of evil, so by your direction they may help and defend us here on earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God whom we worship and praise with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, now and forever.

30 Gracious God, we are a church that is “Always Being Made New.” We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, which serves to establish a strong culture of stewardship in which this church will be well-positioned to do God’s work in Jesus’ name throughout the world for decades to come.

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

SEPTEMBER 2014

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 give thanks for the work and ministry of the Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, newly-called director for worship formation and liturgical resources at the ELCA churchwide organization. May his passion for worship and liturgy benefit and impact worship across this church.

2 We pray for unaccompanied and migrant children arriving in the United States. As members of the ELCA, we are called to love and welcome all, especially children who have arrived on our doorstep harmed, hungry and poor. In caring for our neighbor we give thanks to those who, through Lutheran Disaster Response, are responding to the arrival of these children with grace and compassion.

3 Touching people’s lives for the flourishing of human community is the moral imperative that shapes ELCA’s global relief and development work. We give thanks for our church’s contributions that support the next phases of disaster response work in the Philippines, after Typhoon Haiyan struck there this past November.

4 Lord of all creation, guide us by your Spirit to take seriously the pursuit of justice and peace. We pray for the well-being of all people but, above all things, give us faith in you that we may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

5 Merciful God, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus. Look with compassion upon those who are in grief and sorrow. Comfort them with your gracious consolation. Grant them a sure trust and confidence in your abiding love, even in the valley of the shadow of death; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 We give thanks for the start of new Sunday school and adult forum programs in our congregations. May we experience a year of learning and growing together. As your Son came to us as a teacher, bless us as we may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life.

7 O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

8 We give thanks for “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, and the opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

9 We pray for the West African nations that are struggling with Ebola outbreaks of unprecedented severity. Through ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign we walk together with our Lutheran companions all over the world as they respond to hunger, disaster and disease with compassion and action.

10 We pray that peace will come to the community of Ferguson, Mo., and to the family of Michael Brown. Peace is founded on the knowledge that in Christ, there is no “other,” only brothers and sisters.

11 As we pray for peace and unity in Iraq, we ponder the words from Psalm 133: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.”

12 We pray for all those affected by the August 24 earthquake that struck near Napa, Calif., and give thanks for our Lutheran Disaster Response network, as it provides help to the impacted communities beginning the process of recovery.

13 We pray for the continuation of the present cease-fire in Gaza that has opened a window for humanitarian assistance. We give thanks for the healthcare ministries of Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, ministries supported by ELCA members and congregations.

14 O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

15 Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing and eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

16 We give thanks for Women of the ELCA and to all who participated this past July in the Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, N.C. It is in the community of women where participants find support and creative ways in which to carry out the mission of

this important organization of our church, mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. We pray that the conversations begun in Charlotte will grow and expand across the church.

17 We give thanks for the colleges and universities of the ELCA, where students are educated for a sense of calling or vocation, opening the path toward a meaningful life of contribution to the common good.

18 Almighty and everlasting God, whose providence guides your people in diligent service, bless the officers and enlisted women and men of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, as they perform the duties of their calling. Give them not only true love of country but also love of you and an understanding of your love for all people; so that, relying upon your guidance, they may courageously defend our nation, promote justice, honor, and unity among our people and be a means of fostering mutual respect and understanding among all peoples of the world; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

19 Gracious God, as a church we are committed to identifying, preparing and supporting faithful, wise and courageous leaders through our eight seminaries. We ask that you continue to strengthen the training and preparation of our future pastors and other leaders in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and to inspire and equip members to participate in God’s work in the world.

20 God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

21 Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful