

being a fervent believer in Jesus Christ, follower and public witness. We pray our lives will also be transformed through faith to make us spirited witnesses to God's powerful love and presence in the world.

22 We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in Madagascar—Kirsten Laderach, Hannah Kaitschuk, the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela. We pray God will encourage and further their work in theological education, evangelism, interfaith dialogues and the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

23 By grace we have been saved through faith. We praise God for this gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and for welcoming us into the body of all believers through our baptism.

24 We pray for the Moravian Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and do God's work in the world.

25 We remember in our prayers grandparents who surround their grandchildren with love, care, attention, and words and actions that witness to God's gift of love through Jesus Christ.

26 We ask God to teach us the differences between want and need, between greed and generosity, between self-interest and mutual care.

27 We give thanks for our partners in doing God's work in the world, especially companion churches in other countries, The Lutheran World

Federation, the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical and inter-religious organizations.

28 We pray that we will—in the name of Jesus Christ—stand for justice for the oppressed, work to feed the hungry, welcome strangers as friends and demonstrate unwavering concern for all in need.

29 *Conference of Bishops* We remember in our prayers our 65 synod bishops gathered in Chicago to discuss our mission in the world and advise our church. We pray the Spirit will guide their efforts and God will grant them strength and wisdom in their work back home with their congregations, leaders and communities.

30 *Jerome, translator, teacher (died 420)* We give thanks to God for people who have gifts of speaking, writing and translating languages for the sake of serving others and sharing God's word in our diverse world.

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PRAYER VENTURES

SEPTEMBER 2016

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 remember in our prayers college and university students, seminarians and leaders studying through the ELCA International Leaders and International Women Leaders programs. We pray the Spirit will guide their studies and discernment and prepare them for lives of service and enriching communities.

2 We turn to God in prayer as we face daily experiences and threats of violence and terror in the world and ask that we not be discouraged or seek vengeance but that God will renew our hope and faith and guide us to solutions that lead to peace, healing and justice rather than deepening hatred and division.

3 We give thanks to God for the season of fall and the ways in which it reminds us of new beginnings, abundant harvests that feed the hungry, anticipation of change and hope.

4 Being a disciple and follower of Jesus is not an easy endeavor. We ask God to strengthen our

resolve to follow, no matter the cost, and grant us courageous faith alongside the challenges, doubts and questions we experience.

5 We ask God to bless the labors of those who work to sustain their families and contribute to their communities, and we pray for new opportunities, fair wages and a sense of value for people who are seeking employment.

6 We remember in our prayers, especially during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, those who live with the darkness of loneliness, isolation of mental illness and question the value of their life. We pray the healing love of God displaces the darkness and that we learn to better recognize the pain of people around us and respond with skillful care and the embrace of community.

7 God knows us and knows our ways and yet shows us mercy and love. We pray that our actions, words and ventures speak clearly of God's love and presence that others may also know this good news.

8 We remember in our prayers the Rev. Michael Fonner, Leslie Weed-Fonner and Elizabeth Hendrickson, ELCA missionaries serving in Nairobi, Kenya, and ask God to bless their work in parish ministry and communications.

9 ELCA Campus Ministry serves students, faculty and staff at more than 180 colleges and universities and partners with congregations serving 400 campuses nationwide. We pray God will bless their ministries of bearing witness

to God's grace and promoting community, discipleship and service.

10 We pray God will grant those pastors seeking or awaiting new calls or who are discerning their ministry and vocation a special measure of patience, clarity and alertness to the Spirit's guidance.

11 It is God that seeks us, gathers us in and gives us the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. We give thanks and praise in our prayers for God's undeserved attentiveness and mercy in our lives.

12 We give thanks for the special work of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association and for their support of Lutheran educators, ELCA schools and early childhood centers.

13 We remember in our prayers rostered and lay leaders who preach and teach the gospel and pray the Spirit fill them with a love of Scripture, wisdom, an enduring desire to learn and enthusiasm for sharing what God reveals for the world's sake.

14 Our congregations are blessed with Sunday school teachers and Bible study leaders committed to faith formation, witness and connecting God's word with daily life. We ask God to help us affirm their faithful service and cultivate their skills.

15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month* We give thanks for and honor the gifts and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans, and we pray for the growth of ELCA Latino ministries as they

share the gospel and serve their neighbors in many different community contexts.

16 We give thanks for God's abundant love and patience with us and for creating in us faith and abilities that enable us—even with our personal flaws, weaknesses and appalling histories—to serve as leaders, workers and witnesses sharing the good news.

17 *Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen* (died 1179) We remember in our prayers women throughout history who have influenced the church, served as leaders and spiritual guides, and witnessed to the gospel through their faith, service and vision.

18 We ask God, in the midst of our wealth and abundance, to remind us of our neighbors living in poverty, hunger and illness and to not turn from their needs but to love, serve and respect them as our brothers and sisters in Christ, created in God's image.

19 We remember in our prayers civil servants, legislators and politicians and pray their work, deliberations and decisions consider the diversity of humanity, factors that contribute to communities flourishing and the well-being of people with critical needs.

20 We persist in bringing to God our concerns for peace and reconciliation in the world, especially where wars and violent conflicts continue to cause suffering, destruction and loss of life.

21 *Matthew, apostle and evangelist* Matthew grew from being a distrusted tax collector to