

23 We remember in our prayers ELCA churchwide staff and leaders, including those who are deployed or work remotely across the United States and in the Caribbean region, that the Spirit of God will guide and sustain their service and witness.

24 God's perspectives of justice, fairness and reward are often different than our own. We pray the Spirit of God will open our hearts to and teach us true humility and justice as children of God called to serve our neighbor, especially those who suffer in poverty, illness, oppression and the isolation of rejection or exclusion.

25 Give thanks for and lift up by name leaders and volunteers in children, youth and family ministries, leaders committed to caring for young people, encouraging faith, helping them grow and mature, and supporting their parents and families.

26 Remember and give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner since 1997, and ask God to further our work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

27 Everyday there are countless occasions for blessing and praising God's name in prayer for God's greatness, wondrous acts, goodness, mercy and love.

28 Remember in prayer our 65 synod bishops, Secretary Chris Boerger and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton gathering for the Conference of Bishops. Ask God to inspire and guide them through worship, study and deliberation together, for the sake of the church and the world.

29 *Michael and All Angels* Among the mysteries of faith we wrestle with, we ask God to help us understand and give thanks for angels and heavenly beings – messengers of God – who throughout history have spoken for God, brought us good news, reassured

us and helped us understand God's will and intentions in our times of uncertainty, confusion and questioning.

30 Give thanks for the opportunities we have through our Mission Support to encourage, sustain and advance ELCA ministries and partnerships making a hope-filled difference in people's lives here and globally.

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 2017

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 Pray for newly elected synod bishops of our church: the Rev. Katherine A. Finegan, (Northern Great Lakes Synod), the Rev. Kristen E.M. Kuempel (Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod) and the Rev. Robert F. Humphrey (Virginia Synod). Ask God to bless their ministry and leadership and the congregations and synods they have been called to serve and encourage.

2 Give thanks and praise to God for the 96 volunteers who have accepted the call to serve with Young Adults in Global Mission in 2017-18. Pray their work and experiences alongside our global church partners will strengthen their faith and commitment to share the good news of Jesus Christ, grow the church and care for our neighbors – everywhere.

3 Following Jesus is sometimes difficult and even frightening. Pray for faith, courage and humility to put our needs and fears aside that we may follow and serve with confidence in our salvation, the promises of God and God's assurance that we are never alone.

4 Give thanks to God for the 14 interns who served in the ELCA churchwide organization this past summer. Pray they are inspired by their faith to continue serving the church and world with their unique skills, gifts and interests.

5 Pray that our actions and thoughts are guided daily by Scripture, God's ways, the teachings and example of Jesus, the influence of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the Spirit of God at work in and among us.

6 We remember in our prayers people working to recover from recent floods and wildfires and pray they experience the hope of God's enduring presence and love and receive the resources and support they need to rebuild their lives, homes, businesses and communities.

7 As fall programs and ministries take shape and get underway in congregations, we give thanks for the service, gifts and preparation of congregational teachers, leaders and volunteers who help make things happen.

8 We trust in the Lord throughout our baptismal journey and pray that God will use the encouragement and witness of our sisters and brothers in Christ to sustain us, stir our faith and help teach us God's ways of light, justice, peace, righteousness, wisdom and compassion.

9 Give thanks for the ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission serving in a variety of roles and contexts with our global church companions in Central and South America. Pray their work and witness will bear abundant fruit, stir faith and hope, equip new leaders and help grow the church.

10 When there is conflict, disagreement or a problem among us, we pray we are caring, honest and principled with each other for the sake of

healing, reconciliation, redirecting our lives or better understanding one another.

11 Give thanks for grandparents who touch our lives, share their faith, pass on wisdom and lessons learned in life, influence us through their example and add to the vibrancy of our communities.

12 We remember in our prayers the men and women of all ages and backgrounds who respond to God's call to lives of service and ministry and pray for those attending or entering seminary or participating in distributed learning programs that they continue to grow in faith, wisdom, enthusiasm and skill for serving the church and world.

13 Remember the words of Jesus to "love one another," and pray for his commandment to be in the foreground of our thinking, actions, decisions, relationships and worldview.

14 *Holy Cross Day* Pray that when we see or use the symbol of the cross we are filled with the hope and joy of faith in God's victory over death for us in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month* We give thanks for the gifts and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans and pray for the growth of ELCA Latino ministries as they share the gospel, encourage new leaders and serve their neighbors in many different community contexts.

16 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global church companions in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, and ask God to move us to support and encourage their work in sharing the good news of the gospel, caring for the diverse needs of the human community, and equipping leaders for ministry.

17 Ask God for a deepening understanding of what it means to forgive someone – especially when we would rather not do so – in the same manner God forgives us time and time again.

18 We continue to pray for refugees and immigrants in the world and that our nations and leaders will work together for the safety, well-being and stability of families and individuals fleeing regions of ongoing war, devastation and injustice.

19 Tormented and sold into slavery by his brothers, Joseph eventually embraced his brothers with forgiveness and kindness. Pray to be filled with the same spirit of forgiveness and compassion that filled Joseph, that there be no room in us for hatred, vengeance or rejection of people we feel have harmed or offended us.

20 Give thanks for and pray the work and advocacy of the ELCA and The Lutheran World Federation for gender justice helps our church and society recognize and change attitudes, values, practices, social structures and patterns that lead to intellectual, economic, physical or emotional harm of women and girls.

21 On this day each month, 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, programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty.

22 Pray for God to help cultivate in us mutual understanding, patience, forgiveness, a sense of community and an appreciation for diversity in the church and the world and that we experience the rich blessings of our unity in Jesus Christ.