

26 We give thanks for Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann and Paul Gerhardt, hymnwriters, who all worked in 17th century Germany in times of war and plague, and who our church commemorates on this day. Inspire all who offer their gifts of music in glorifying God.

27 Bless all our congregations and ministries that are invited to celebrate Global Church Sunday this fall, with the goal for deepening our church's connection and common mission within Christ's global church.

28 We give thanks for the apostles, especially Simon and Jude, who we celebrate today. As they were faithful and zealous in God's mission, so may we with our faith and devotion make known the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

29 Our faith liberates us to embrace each person in their wholeness. We give thanks for the ELCA's Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team, and its mission of assisting our church in becoming more culturally diverse and anti-racist.

30 We give thanks for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, ELCA members and our companions overseas who help reduce the number of deaths from this preventable, treatable disease. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world—together.

31 We thank you, God, that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. On this day when we celebrate Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, guide the planning and efforts for the ELCA's observance of 500 Years of Evangelical Reformation in 2017.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

OCTOBER 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 Guide the U.S. president, his counselors and all men and women in authority that they may be just in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty.

2 We pray for the 63 ELCA young adults who have begun a year-long journey in which they will live, learn and serve with ELCA companion churches and partner organizations overseas.

3 We give thanks for the Lutheran, Anglican and Episcopal leaders and their recent pastoral message on climate change. As Christians, we are united in our concern for the well-being of our neighbors and of God's good creation.

4 In gratitude for the lives of saints, especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, and Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, whom we commemorate today and in whom God reveals God's love for the world.

5 We celebrate and give thanks for our church's five-year comprehensive campaign, "*Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*," which seeks to raise funds to sustain and grow the ministries of the ELCA.

6 Inspire us with the memory of William Tyndale, translator and martyr, whose faithfulness led to the way of the cross, and whom we commemorate today.

7 We give thanks for your servant Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, who was faithful in the care and nurture of your flock. We pray that, following his example and the teaching of his holy life, we may by your grace attain our fullness in Christ.

8 We give thanks for ELCA's Good Gifts, designed to help grow this church, fight hunger and transform lives. We are a church that is freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

9 We pray for 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 With gracious and open hearts and minds, we give thanks to ELCA members and congregations for their commitment to engage in an important study and conversation this fall, centered on the invitation to Holy Communion.

11 Merciful God, help us reach out to those who are stumbling in deep, dark sadness, and who have thoughts towards suicide. As a community of faith, guide us as we bring awareness to this very real and tragic epidemic, so that those who suffer may find hope and meaning for their lives.

12 We give thanks for all those who lead in worship. We are a church that, through worship, are fed and sent in the name of Christ for the sake of the world.

13 On this Day of Thanksgiving in Canada, we give thanks for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. As members of The Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada share a vision of "living and working together for a just, peaceful, and reconciled world."

14 We give thanks for ELCA Vision for Mission and its call to do God's work with our hands. Gifts to Vision for Mission help open doors to new ministries, revitalize existing congregations, share the gospel with others and grow the church for the sake of the world.

15 We praise you for your servant Teresa of Avila, teacher and renewer of the church, whom we commemorate on this day. Like Teresa and the saints who walked with her, raise up in our own day teachers and prophets inspired by you with voices that give strength to our church.

16 We pray for unaccompanied and migrant children arriving in the United States, as a result of risk factors causing them to leave their home countries. As members of the ELCA, we are called to love and welcome all.

17 Inspire us with the memory of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch and martyr, whose faithfulness led to the way of the cross, and whom we commemorate today. Bless all women and men who have given their lives in witness to your love and truth.

18 Let us celebrate Luke, whom we know as the author of both Luke and Acts. Guide us as we meet God in Scripture, where God's relationship to and intention for humankind is revealed.

19 Gracious God, cycles of violence seem never-ending. Lead us from prejudice to truth and deliver us from hatred, cruelty and revenge.

20 In a living example of caring for our neighbor, we give thanks to those who, through the ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response, are responding to unaccompanied and migrant children with grace and compassion.

21 God of wisdom, we give thanks for the incredible work being done across this church and beyond to make faith formation among our children and youth a relevant, meaningful process.

22 We give thanks for the thousands of ELCA members who served their communities as part of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday in September. Help us remember that we truly are the body of Christ together in service.

23 Inspire us with the memory of James of Jerusalem, martyr and whose faithfulness led to the way of the cross, and whom we commemorate today. Like James, give us courage to bear full witness with our lives to Jesus' victory over sin and death.

24 Guide those who lead and participate in the Book of Faith Initiative, which strives to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world.

25 Help us discover ways of walking with and serving alongside people who are living with HIV and AIDS. Ground us in your love and forgiveness, as we are called to discern what it means to be a church that is HIV-positive.