

27 We pray that God's Spirit will inspire and guide young adults who have returned from their year of service with Young Adults in Global Mission and that their gifts and experiences be used in ministry wherever they are.

28 The apostles Simon and Jude are examples of faithful and committed bearers of the gospel. We pray that in our daily lives we will have the same boldness to share the good news of Christ Jesus.

29 As we continue to struggle with violence in our communities, we ask for God's mercy and healing and for new wisdom and insight for finding lasting solutions and peace.

30 We give thanks in our prayers that we are justified and saved by God's grace as a gift through faith in Christ Jesus – a gift to all people of all nations.

31 *Reformation Day* We give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit in guiding and renewing the church throughout history, and we pray that we are attentive to God's word, prayerful in our discernment of truth and responsive to the needs of the world.

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

OCTOBER 2015

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 and give thanks for the ministries and leadership of our synod bishops as they gather for the Conference of Bishops in Chicago.

2 We give thanks for the faith, gifts, service and achievements of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members and their families, and pray that our congregations are welcoming, safe places for everyone to thrive.

3 We remember women who are fighting or recovering from breast cancer, that they have access to the health care and support they need and that their faith will be a source of strength and hope.

4 For the blessings of creation and God's love for every human being, we give daily thanks and praise to God.

5 We remember ethnic and language specific ministries that proclaim the gospel in a diverse world and encourage new leaders for God's work in the world.

6 We remember people with disabilities and ask that those who seek employment may find or be placed in jobs that are appropriate, use their gifts and are affirming and fair.

7 We pray that we are examples of compassion and peace for our children, youth and students and that they in turn will build relationships of respect and kindness with their peers.

8 We give thanks to God for the generosity of people supporting *The Campaign for the ELCA* and its role in supporting the creation and renewal of diverse, vibrant and growing communities of faith focused on God's mission.

9 We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. We thank God for companion synod relationships connecting Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods and congregations – relationships that nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry.

10 Domestic violence remains a troubling and wounding problem in the United States and world. We pray for the protection and healing of victims, effective prevention and education efforts, safety for families and advocacy for gender equality and respect everywhere.

11 It is not by living good lives that we inherit eternal life, but only by God's love and mercy through Jesus Christ. We pray this good news fills us with joy and the desire to serve others with love and mercy.

12 We offer to God our prayerful songs, full of thanksgiving and stories of God's wondrous deeds.

13 We pray this day for ELCA missionaries who serve in partner church seminaries around the world and ask God to bless their work of helping prepare and inspire new leaders for the church.

14 We pray for the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and serve in the world.

15 We ask God to guide and deepen the faith practices of individuals and congregations, especially the practices of invitation, prayer, study, worship, generosity, encouragement and service.

16 We remember in our prayers, with joy and hope, the first class of International Women Leaders pursuing higher education this fall with scholarships through *The Campaign for the ELCA*.

17 Our prayers are filled with thanksgiving for Jesus Christ, our Savior, who took upon himself the pain and punishment of death we deserved and gave us the gift of new life – eternal life.

18 Our understanding of power and authority is turned upside down by Jesus. We ask God to teach us humility and sacrifice, and open our hearts to lives of service in the world.

19 We remember in our prayers the leaders, students and faculty involved in ELCA campus ministry on college and university campuses and with partner congregations across the nation.

20 We pray that God's unwavering presence and hope be known wherever people and communities continue their long-term recovery from devastating natural disasters.

21 Just as Simon Peter learned the humility of being a disciple and the importance of service as he washed the feet of Jesus, we, too, ask God to teach us humility through serving our neighbor and giving all glory to God.

22 As brothers and sisters in Christ who know no borders or boundaries to our compassion, we pray that God will strengthen our resolve to care for immigrants and refugees seeking safety, self-sufficiency and places of hope.

23 We pray for new college students, that they may find the support and encouragement of a faith community, grow in their faith and discover new opportunities for service.

24 Like the blind beggar Bartimaeus, we ask for God's mercy and healing in our lives that we may have the faith and strength to follow and be agents of healing – in the name of Jesus Christ.

25 *Reformation Sunday* We give thanks for the faith and wisdom of Martin Luther and pray that we continue to learn and grow as the body of Christ – the church.

26 Fall is a time for environmental education in many schools and outdoor ministry centers. We pray that we will grow in our understanding of how to care for creation – our earthy home – as part of our lifelong baptismal journey.