

22 Often torn between the pressures to choose sides in society, politics, relationships and the world, pray that the Spirit works in us to remind us daily of our responsibilities in the world to one another, and that our ultimate loyalty is to God and God's ways.

23 Pray for peaceful, diplomatic resolutions to current conflicts and wars in the world and for reconciliation, healing, relief and solutions that work toward the end of suffering and injustice.

24 Pray for the publishing ministry of our church – 1517 Media – and its publishing partners; give thanks for their resources developed in support of the mission and ministry of congregations, schools, leaders and members.

25 Rejoice and be glad in the Lord's creative work, magnificence, strength, mercy and justice.

26 Pray for the work of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, our opportunity to invest in the future of this church, deepen relationships and expand ministry opportunities that serve our neighbors and communities in the United States and around the world. Give thanks for the generosity of our members and the sharing of gifts that help us realize the goals of the campaign.

27 We ask God to inspire us through the Spirit to support one another as brothers and sisters loved by God and to encourage one another to go into every corner of the world as witnesses to the hope and love we experience through faith in Jesus Christ.

28 Pray for the Spirit to stir our wisdom and vision as a church that we will move into the future with a commitment to God's work in the world, growing the church, equipping new leaders, serving our neighbor and excitement for sharing the gospel in creative ways we have yet to imagine.

29 *Reformation Sunday* With humility and gratefulness, give thanks to God that we are justified and saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and that our salvation isn't dependent on our actions, attitudes or quality of faith.

30 The truth and light of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has set us free from sin and all that holds us back from living as children of God. Rejoice and praise God for giving us the gift of forgiveness and new life and gathering us together in the body of Christ!

31 *Reformation Day* Give thanks for how God has shaped and guided the church throughout history, especially as a result of the Reformation movement and Martin Luther's faith and teachings. Pray that we continue to reflect, learn and change with the guidance of the Spirit and God's word, for the sake of our neighbor, to be faithful to God's mission in 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 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 *World Communion Sunday* (Global Church Sundays) Each year, more than 225 ELCA missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, serve in more than 40 countries around the world. We remember in our prayers and support these servants of Christ working alongside companion churches proclaiming the gospel, raising up leaders, caring for people in need and developing new ways of being church together.

2 Give thanks for our sisters and brothers – bishops, pastors, deacons, people of God – who walk the way of the cross with other courageous and faithful people to stand against bigotry, hatred and violence; to stand with those who are intended victims; and to stand for justice and mercy, peace and equality for all people – beloved children of a just, merciful and loving God.

3 We remember in our prayers congregations, church-related organizations, rostered ministers and candidates for rostered ministry engaged in the call process, a time of thoughtful assessment and prayerful discernment about their work together in ministry and mission.

4 *Francis of Assisi* We pray our daily lives reflect humility, generosity, love and respect for our neighbor, all living things, natural resources that sustain us and the environment – gifts from our loving God, source of all that exists.

5 Give praise and thanksgiving for God's mercy and forgiveness, and pray for a deepening, clear understanding of God's ways and word.

6 Ask God to bless and guide the Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team working within the ELCA – in all its expressions, agencies and institutions – toward full partnership and participation of African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino people in the life and mission of this church.

7 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global church companions in Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Scotland, and ask God to move us to support and encourage their work in sharing the good news of the gospel, caring for the needs of the human community and equipping leaders.

8 Through baptism we are joined with Jesus, Son of God, our Savior and hope, and the community of all believers in a new life and reality grounded in the good news of forgiveness, mercy and salvation. Give thanks!

9 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global church companions in Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Jamaica. Pray their ministries will be blessed as they work alongside companion churches and institutions sharing the gospel, training leaders, strengthening and growing the church, and serving the needs of communities.

10 Give thanks for our elders. Pray for openness to understanding the changing needs and dynamics of adults as they age. Pray for wisdom on how to best accompany and care for elders in ways that safeguard their dignity, recognize and utilize their gifts in the church and communities, encourage their journey of faith and attend to their physical, spiritual, intellectual and social needs.

11 God's caring presence and attention is not deterred by our times of unfaithfulness, hypocrisy, selfishness or forgetfulness. As sinners and saints, we ask God's forgiveness and pray for renewed faith.

12 Lutheran Services in America represents over 300 health and human services organizations reaching 6 million people annually, touching the lives of 1 in 50 people in the U.S. each year. Pray the work of these organizations will thrive and their staff and volunteers be encouraged, supported and equipped for serving the needs of families, individuals and communities.

13 In God's word and Scripture we find commandments, guidance and examples for living in God-pleasing ways, making decisions that consider the needs of others and loving God and neighbor with all our heart. Pray that our minds and hearts are open to God's word and teachings and that we are eager to follow God's ways – no matter how difficult or uncomfortable.

14 Give thanks for the beauty of fall, the signs of seasons changing and the abundance of creation entrusted to our use and care.

15 We pray that we are eager, articulate witnesses to God's love and mercy, never hesitating to share the good news of Jesus Christ with friends and strangers alike.

16 Give thanks for ELCA Mission Builders, people who travel the country using their God-given skills to help ELCA congregations, schools, outdoor ministries and social ministry organizations construct or improve their facilities for the sake of mission and serving their communities.

17 Pray for mindfulness to include in our thoughts and prayers the positive things we see and experience in the world, inspiring examples of people serving others and the little signs of light that give us hope and reassure us of God's loving presence and activity in the world.

18 We remember in our prayers the 340 ELCA new-start ministries under development in the United States and the Caribbean, and the local leaders, directors for evangelical mission, bishops and synods seeking to grow God's church and extend a welcome to all God's people.

19 As the media and our attention are drawn to and distracted by situations unfolding daily in the world, pray that we never forget or neglect the places of ongoing struggle and conflict, people in great need who live beyond our communities, and communities working to recover from disasters – natural and human made.

20 With joy and awe, recount God's wondrous works from the beginning of time, and give thanks for God's enduring love.

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 that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty.