

26 Day of Thanksgiving On this day of thanksgiving, we are glad and rejoice in the great things God has done for us and all people throughout history.

27 We remember in our prayers this week the people who work and serve us, day and night. We give thanks for their service and pray they will also have time for renewal and celebration with family and friends.

28 In our prayers we ask to know God's ways, know God's truth, trust God's mercy and be faithful in following God's path.

29 First Sunday of Advent We remember in our prayers this Advent season the prophecies and promises God has fulfilled in the gift of Jesus Christ, son of God, son of man – our salvation.

30 St. Andrew's Day Just as Andrew risked everything and left everything familiar to follow Jesus, we too pray for the faith and trust to follow Jesus and live our baptismal calling every day.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

NOVEMBER 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 All Saints Day Today we remember and honor saints, martyrs and loved ones who have gone before us. We pray for people who are in mourning and despair, and we give thanks for Jesus' victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

2 We remember in our prayers the gifts and witness of nearly 5,000 American Indian and Alaska Native members of the ELCA, 30 native congregations, new ministries and the work of the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association.

3 For everything God has entrusted to our care – our time, talents and resources – we give thanks and ask the Holy Spirit's guidance in using all we have to God's glory in service to our neighbor and the sharing of the gospel.

4 We pray for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and do God's work in the world.

5 Nearly 10,000 ELCA congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region reach out to all people and serve all people in Jesus Christ's name. We pray God will bless the work of our church, strengthen our faith and guide us through the Holy Spirit.

6 We remember in our prayers the people and communities suffering loss of life, home and livelihood as a result of the fires in the Western states, especially California. We pray for their safety and recovery and give thanks for the self-sacrifice of firefighters and disaster response volunteers.

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.

7 We give thanks for and ask God's blessings on the ministry of Karen Anderson, an ELCA missionary working with health care and human rights efforts in Chile.

8 Jesus' humble sacrifice was for the sake of our broken world. We give thanks for the new life and freedom we have in Jesus and pray that we will live and serve freely for the sake of others in his name.

9 We pray for God's blessings on the long-term response work being done in earthquake-affected areas of Nepal through Lutheran Disaster Response with The Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief and United Mission to Nepal.

10 We remember in our prayers ELCA military chaplains in ministry with men and women who are serving in the U.S. military here and overseas, in areas of conflict and peace.

11 *Veterans Day* On this day, especially, we remember in our prayers and give thanks for the sacrifice and service of men, women and young adults who have served in the military.

12 We ask God to watch over the children, spouses and families of all those who are serving in the military and that they may find the comfort and care of a congregation, a community of faith.

13 Through baptism we are bound to Christ and the community of all believers. We give thanks for the forgiveness of sins, new life in Christ and the encouragement we receive from our brothers and sisters in Christ for our lifelong baptismal journey.

14 We pray for boldness to go into our communities and invite our neighbors to worship with us. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer, may we together be nurtured in faith and sent out restored into the world.

15 Unsettled by turmoil, danger and suffering in our world, we pray to be reminded of God's presence and goodness that ultimately brings healing and deliverance. We pray that we will not cower in fear but will instead urge one another to acts of goodness and hope in the world.

16 We remember in our prayers the lives and stories of people, communities and nations whose tragedies we have forgotten or have

let slip from our attention. We ask God's forgiveness and pray that we will re-enter their stories and re-engage ourselves as caring brothers and sisters in Christ.

17 We ask God to bless the lives and physical labor of those who grow, harvest, build and create for our wellbeing, enjoyment and development.

18 ELCA missionary Jeffrey Truscott teaches at the seminary in Singapore preparing church leaders for surrounding nations. We give thanks for his ministry and the far-reaching witness of the Lutheran Church in Singapore.

19 We believe all are invited to open Scripture and join in conversations of faith and God's work in the world. We ask the Holy Spirit to make us eager witnesses to our faith and to the stories of God's love that have changed our lives.

20 As we further explore the universe and planets, we pray that we are mindful of God, the creator of all that exists, and that humility, respect for creation and appreciation of God's handiwork will guide our scientific endeavors.

21 We continue to pray for the welcoming and settling of refugees in Europe and elsewhere. We ask God for the strength and wisdom to meet this human crisis with compassion and respectful solutions.

22 *Christ the King Sunday* We give thanks and praise to God today for Christ the King, our lord, ruler not of territories, force or political dominance, but of truth, mercy and all creation.

23 We pray that the leaders and governments of our world will set aside self-interests and the pursuit of power and influence in order to practice justice, mercy, mutual concern and care for all people.

24 Many people travel great distances to be with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving together. We pray their journeys will be safe and their holiday joyful.

25 As we feast and celebrate, we remember in our prayers those who are not at our tables and who suffer from hunger, poverty and loneliness. We pray that we will be generous and welcoming and reach out in love to our neighbors in need in the manner and spirit of Jesus.