

to respond generously to people in need in our communities and globally.

**25** Worship leaders, assistants and musicians help us celebrate, pray, grow in faith, center ourselves in God's Word and presence, and connect our faith with everyday life. For their leadership and guidance, we give thanks.

**26** We remember in our prayers people who have few resources and not enough to sustain their lives and families and pray that we freely share our bounty with others while also working creatively with them to foster self-sufficient, thriving communities.

**27** *First day of Advent* Entering the season of Advent, we offer prayers in anticipation of celebrating Jesus' birth and, at the same time, prayers of thanksgiving for the fulfillment of God's promises and the love and new life we experience daily through Jesus Christ.

**28** As God's children, we pray that our understanding and practice of stewardship reflect God's intent for humanity and all creation and that we value, respect, share and use wisely all that God has entrusted to our care.

**29** We remember in our prayers places in the world recovering from earthquakes, draught, severe weather and other disasters, and we offer our thanksgiving and encouragement for the emergency relief work and presence of Lutheran Disaster Response and The Lutheran World Federation.

**30** Just as the disciples who were fishermen dropped their nets and followed Jesus at his invitation, we pray that we too are willing and quick to follow Jesus and learn to share boldly the good news—the gospel message—with the world.

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*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](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

NOVEMBER 2016

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*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 God's faithful people, saints who have gone before us—recently and throughout history—sharing the gospel, furthering the mission of the church, demonstrating love and justice in the world, and serving as bold witnesses to Jesus Christ.

**2** Our words, actions and attitudes influence people more than we realize. We ask God's forgiveness when we fail to give witness to our new life in Christ and pray the Spirit will rekindle our faith and witness each day that all may experience the good news of Jesus Christ in us and through us.

**3** During National Adoption Awareness Month, we remember in our prayers infants, children and youth in need of safe and loving homes, and we give thanks for parents who open their hearts, lives and homes to them through adoption and foster care.

**4** We remember in our prayers the Rev. Brian Palmer and the Rev. Linda Johns Seyenkulo, ELCA missionaries serving in Liberia in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Liberia and working with theological education, curriculum development and leadership training.

**5** We ask God to lead us out of the darkness of mistrust, blame, hatred, racism, violence, misunderstanding and division and into the light of God's Word and along God's paths of peace, goodness, justice, healing and humility.

**6** *All Saints Sunday* We lift up in prayer and celebrate the lives of people who have influenced and encouraged—intentionally or indirectly—our lives, faith, maturing and discernment of how to serve our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ.

**7** Being sinners and saints, we pray God knows our desire and efforts to follow God's ways and Word, be faithful, do good in the world and serve our neighbor, and we pray for God's forgiveness, steadfast love and help in our moments of weakness and failure.

**8** *Election Day* We pray today that our nation will exercise civility, wisdom and mindfulness of the diverse needs of our communities and neighbors as we choose a new president and leaders. We pray that we will move forward—together—in constructive ways, with our visions, plans and actions guided by God's Spirit.

**9** Youth and family ministers attend to the spiritual, social and emotional needs of youth. We give thanks to God for their ministry and special skills and pray the Spirit will guide their work and that we will support and nurture their leadership in our congregations.

**10** We remember in our prayers the gathering of the ELCA Church Council in Chicago and ask God to bless and inspire its work and decisions for the sake of God's work in the world through our church and each of us.

**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 U.S. military in the interest of freedom, peace and justice here and throughout the world.

**12** We ask God to watch over the children, spouses and families of all those who serve in the military and that they find comfort and care in congregations, supportive communities and chaplains serving the U.S. military and Veterans Affairs hospitals.

**13** In these difficult, frightening and seemingly chaotic times, we pray that we not lose our focus on God's promises, love and forgiveness.

**14** We give thanks to God for second-career pastors who, in the course of their lives and work, have sensed and responded to God's calling to serve as ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament in the church.

**15** We trust that God's love is steadfast and faithful, and we pray that God will look upon us and judge us with forgiveness and mercy, though we are undeserving.

**16** We remember in our prayers regions of the world where there is conflict and war, and we continue to pray for peace, reconciliation, healing and the emergence of leaders who are guided by wisdom,

compassion and commitment to the well-being of those they are called to serve.

**17** Our church partners with ministries and organizations that care for people who live in poverty and hunger, who suffer injustice, who are imprisoned, who suffer illness and who are recovering from tragedy and disasters. We ask God to broaden our awareness of these needs and efforts and move us to greater involvement.

**18** We pray the Spirit will deepen our relationships with other Lutheran churches and open doors where division and conflict prevent conversation, cooperation and unity. We pray that one day we will embrace each other and work together as brothers and sisters in Christ, united in the body of Christ for the sake of the world.

**19** We ask God's help and wisdom in pursuing our goal of 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 of the ELCA.

**20** We offer praise and acknowledgment in our prayers for Jesus Christ—the true Messiah, our savior, the son of God—our real hope and salvation.

**21** We remember in our prayers the Rev. Philip and Lou Marie Knutson, the Rev. Tessa Moon and Jon Leiseth, and Allison Westerhoff, ELCA missionaries serving in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. We ask God to bless their work and grow the ministries of the partner churches and organizations they serve alongside.

**22** As humans, we find ourselves still asking questions about the nature of Jesus. In our curiosity, doubts and searching we ask God to continue to reveal and reassure us with the truth of God's Word and to strengthen our faith as we encounter God's divine mystery.

**23** For people traveling to be with friends and family on the holidays, we pray for safe travel and joyful gatherings; for those who are alone, we pray they are welcomed in and know the joy of hospitality and community; for the many who work through the holidays, we pray our expressions of appreciation and blessing will lift their spirits and remind them they are not forgotten nor taken for granted.

**24** *Thanksgiving Day* We give thanks and praise to God in our prayers for all that we have received that sustains us, contributes to our joy and fullness of life, equips us to serve our neighbor and enables us