

21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 Ask God to deepen our understandings of abundance, generosity, stewardship, compassion and neighbor.

23 *Thanksgiving Day* God is good, loving and generous, providing abundantly for humankind and all living things. Give thanks for the blessings that sustain us, and pray we are generous in sharing our resources, shelter, food, care and hospitality with our neighbor.

24 Lift up in prayer people who serve a role in planting, tending, growing, harvesting, transporting and preparing the food that sustains us and gives us joy, and pray for renewed commitment to doing everything possible to eliminate hunger in the world.

25 Our lives are fleeting and fragile. Give thanks to God for the life we have and the days we are blessed with, and pray we live each day mindful of and driven by our baptismal journey of faith, service, witness and compassion for our neighbor.

26 We pray we treat one another, especially people living in the margins of society or in contexts removed from our daily experience of life, with the same love, concern and mercy God has shown us.

27 Give thanks and praise to God for always being our strength and refuge, our hope and joy.

28 Pray for God to deepen our faith and reveal to us daily the power, glory and love we have come to know in the risen Christ, Lord of the church, creation and universe.

29 We remember in our prayers the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities, a collaboration of the ELCA churchwide organization and our 26 colleges and universities dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and the development of the whole person in body, mind and spirit.

30 *Andrew, Apostle* Andrew dropped his fishing net and familiar livelihood to follow Jesus. Ask God to help us discern what we can drop or reprioritize for the sake of following Jesus as a disciple, servant and witness to the gospel that others may believe and follow too.

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

NOVEMBER 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 *All Saints Day* Today we remember and honor saints, martyrs and loved ones who have gone before us and made an impact on our lives, the church and history. Pray for people who mourn the loss of someone they love or value that they find healing through the support given by friends, family and faith communities, and comfort from faith in Jesus' victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

2 *National American Indian Heritage Month* We give thanks for the gifts and witness of 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, all grounded in reconciliation and the mutual building up of the saints – people of all backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities, congregations and unique needs.

3 Pray for relief and recovery from the widespread destruction caused by recent hurricanes and storms across the Gulf Coast and Southeastern states, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other locations in the Caribbean. Pray

our concern translates into actions, gifts, support and empathy for people and communities engaged in the long, hard and sometimes discouraging work of rebuilding and recovery.

4 Remember in prayer the young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Australia and their coordinators, the Rev. Kim Crawford and the Rev. Henry Martinez, that God will bless and further their witness and service alongside leaders of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

5 Ask God for clarity in discerning which leaders, teachers and prophets to trust and listen to, for the wisdom to know whom to follow and emulate as humble, disciples of Christ and to know that we have one teacher who is unfailing and trustworthy in leading us in God's ways and truth – the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

6 Give thanks that our church believes that cultural, ethnic and racial differences should be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be – blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination – and pray for courage and self-reflection to face and change the uncomfortable things within ourselves, culture and society that selectively cause suffering and harm of others.

7 On this day when elections are taking place across our country, we pray the Spirit of God will guide our church and members in defending human dignity, standing with poor and powerless people, advocating justice, working for peace and caring for the earth in the processes and structures of society.

8 When we experience criticism or oppression for our faith and living from the gospel, pray for renewed faith and trust in God's light and truth that lifts our spirit and encourages us forward as bold disciples serving our neighbor and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

9 We remember in our prayers leaders gathered for the ELCA Church Council, that they are inspired and led by the Spirit in all they do and in helping our church pursue and keep before us God's work in the world.

10 Though our celebration of the Reformation may seem marked in time and history, we ask God to help our church to be always open to change, growth and reform centered in Scripture and the gospel for the sake of doing God's work in the world.

11 *Veterans Day* While war and conflict between nations and people are unfortunate aspects of our human nature and weakness, we pray God will continue to reveal and shine a light on God's paths and ways of peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual concern. Give thanks and recognition for the sacrifice of men, women and young adults who choose to serve – and have served in the past – our country in pursuit of global peace, justice and the well-being of all God's people.

12 Pray that every aspect of our life in the present is influenced and guided by our faith and God's word, making us determined and equipped to serve our neighbor and share the gospel now.

13 Pray for the people and communities recovering from the strong earthquakes in Mexico, and ask God to guide the work and partnerships of Lutheran Disaster Response and our ecumenical partners accompanying people during this time of loss and rebuilding.

14 Remember and give thanks for the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997, and ask God to deepen our partnership and bless our work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

15 In our striving for wisdom, we ask God to instill in us a lifelong desire and openness to studying God's word and learning and to help us become wise yet humble teachers, leaders and examples in our congregation and community.

16 Pray for the members, congregations and leaders of the Caribbean and Florida-Bahamas synods facing the long-term process of rebuilding and caring for storm-ravaged communities and people who have experienced great loss and ongoing challenges. Ask God to strengthen and sustain them for supporting one another, reaching out to and caring for neighbors, sharing hope and witnessing to God's enduring love and presence.

17 Pray the Spirit will stir in us a love of telling our children, grandchildren, family, friends, coworkers, strangers and the world stories of the wondrous things God has done.

18 We remember in our prayers people who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless, praying they find safe shelter and that our congregations are caring communities assisting people with housing, food, employment and services necessary for daily life while respecting their dignity and desire to be self-sufficient.

19 Pray we are not consumed with maintaining the status quo, defending institutions to preserve comfort or familiarity, or hiding the resources God has entrusted to us but that we freely use our blessings and assets and take risks for the sake of mission, service, witness and purposeful change.

20 Give thanks for the faithful work and witness of ELCA missionaries Lucas Peters (Thailand), the Rev. Eric and the Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo (Malaysia), the Rev. Jeffrey Truscott (Singapore) and the Rev. Suk Yeon Lee (South Korea).