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 First Sunday of Advent
Merciful God, as we light the first candle of Advent, we lift up our prayers – at altars, in homes and in waiting rooms – for the health of all your people. We also remember, on this World AIDS Day, all those who have died or currently live with or are affected by HIV and AIDS; though Jesus Christ, our healer and lord. Amen

2 Pray for the continued support and success of the ELCA Malaria Campaign, which has added the countries of Namibia and Burundi, for a total of 13 countries in Africa where strides are being made in containing malaria.

3 Remember in your prayers new ELCA missionary in Hong Kong Abraham Peterson, who teaches English at the Lutheran Theological Seminary to students from all parts of Asia.

4 John of Damascus, theologian and hymn writer
Lift up the efforts of many in this church working to include people living with intellectual and
developmental disabilities in our worship services, including Susan Lindberg's All Right Ministry in Wayland, Mass., which strives to create worship experiences where all can participate.

5 Pray that our youth will make their faith relevant in all aspects of their lives, including the many ways they experience and participate in today's online digital society.

6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra
Pray for the children who attend ELCA schools and early childhood education centers. Ask that the message of God's love in Jesus Christ may come through strongly for them in this season of many distractions.

7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan
Remember in your prayers the staff of the ELCA Wittenberg Center in Wittenberg, Germany, as they expand their programs to include seminars for women from the Global South and from minority Lutheran churches.

8 Second Sunday of Advent
O Lord, as we light the second candle of Advent we ask for you to open our eyes to see the face of Jesus in the eyes of strangers. Enlighten our way as we journey together toward the celebration of the birth of your son, Jesus. Amen.

9 Lift up the ministries of ELCA congregations that bring God's love and care to their members living in assisted-living facilities.

10 Pray for the seven young adults who are serving for a year with the church in Argentina and Uruguay through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, working with young people, human rights and the differently abled.

11 Pray that we will remember to involve our young people in the ministries of this church by making, as Wartburg Theological Seminary professor Kristine Stache says, a "shift from providing ministries to children, youth and families to that of ministering with children, youth and families."

12 Pray that God's love for others will be as evident in our online relationships as it is in our face-to-face ones, and give thanks for the efforts of the people and congregations helping to make us aware of the dangers of online bullying.

13 Give thanks for the unity shown through this church's full communion partnership with six other churches — Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, The Episcopal Church, The Moravian Church, The United Methodist Church.

14 Include in your prayers the Rev. David and Mary Kuck, ELCA missionaries in Jamaica, and their theological education ministry.

15 Third Sunday of Advent
Holy God, as we wait in the glow of the third candle of Advent, we hear the words of your messenger, John the Baptist. Help us to prepare a way for Jesus in our communities, our congregations and throughout the world. We especially hold up in prayer missionary children, who live, learn and grow in their faith around the world.

16 Pray for congregations seeking creative ways to deal with reduced income and attendance — such as St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Caledonia, Wis., and Emmaus Lutheran Church in Racine, Wis. These congregations chose to alternate weekly worship between their two buildings.

17 Give thanks for the 800 International Leaders who have received ELCA scholarships to complete their studies at colleges, universities and seminaries in the United States and around the world in the last 25 years.

18 Remember in your prayers the Rev. Kevin Jacobson, an ELCA missionary in Suriname, and his service in leadership development and parish ministry.

19 Pray for the many programs supported by the donations of ELCA members that help people escape poverty, such as the Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation's knitting training school in Kenya, which helps its students achieve self-reliance.

20 Lift up in your prayers the nine members of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program who are walking in accompaniment for a year in the United Kingdom.

21 Include in your prayers the multicultural ministries of this church and our need in an increasingly diverse world to welcome all God's people.

22 Fourth Sunday of Advent
O God, our life and our strength, as we light the fourth candle of Advent, we pray for the people...