

27 Lift up the six young people who are serving God and their neighbors by spending a year in Mexico with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

28 Pray that as a church and in our individual lives we will be effective stewards of God's love and resources as we use our time, talents and treasures.

29 Pray for the people of South Sudan who have been affected by the continuing violence, especially those who have had to flee their homes. Pray for the Rev. Mawien Ariik, ELCA missionary to South Sudan.

30 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Loving God, bless the churches of Ghana, Guatemala and Haiti and their ministries among children, the sick and the **elderly**.

31 Give thanks for the musicians among us who regularly donate their talents to the glory of God.

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PRAYER VENTURES

MARCH 2014

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 Give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Mark William Thomsen, the ELCA's first executive director of Global Mission, who died Jan. 20.

2 Transfiguration of Our Lord

O Lord most holy, as we stand with Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration of Jesus, help us to see the mysteries of faith as your adopted children, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

3 Pray for the health and safety of the Syrian refugees who have fled from their homes during the almost three years of war and for the ELCA's efforts with others to increase the humanitarian aid for the Syrians.

4 Pray for the new ELCA congregations, such as Hillside Community Lutheran Church in Spring Hill, Kan. The congregation began more than five years ago as a mission start; on Jan. 12 it officially became a congregation of the ELCA.

5 Ash Wednesday

As we enter the season of Lent, pray that all ELCA members will make each day a new beginning, reflecting on the meaning of their baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

6 Lift up in your prayers the 10 members of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program in Southern Africa, that God would guide them in their faith formation as they are immersed in a new culture and a new way of seeing the world.

7 Pray for congregations that are dealing with conflict among their members, whether over big issues or small, that God's love for all will prevail and will reveal a common ground.

8 Remember in your prayers the ministry of the Rev. Bradn and Natasha Buerkle; Bradn serves as a parish pastor and dean for parishes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals and Far East.

9 First Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the witness of Christians in Russia. Grant them renewal and strength as they stand in faith in difficult situations.

10 Pray for the more than 40 international students who are receiving ELCA scholarships. The ELCA provides financial awards to support the short- and long-term academic training of established and emerging leaders in global companion churches and institutions.

11 Pray for the approximately 2.2 million people in the Central African Republic who are in need of humanitarian assistance due to the violence and political instability in the country.

12 Lift up in your prayers the many service and volunteer programs affiliated with the ELCA, such as the Urban Servant Corps in Denver.

13 Pray for those who are without a home this winter and give thanks for the many ELCA congregations that help provide them a place of warmth and safety.

14 Remember in your prayers Robin Strickler, ELCA missionary in Rwanda, and her work in education administration.

15 Pray for the many people in Africa like Joaquim Cardoso in Mozambique who have felt the pain of losing a child to malaria. With the help of the ELCA Malaria Campaign Joaquim teaches others how to prevent and treat the disease.

16 Second Sunday in Lent

Most merciful God, we give you thanks for the gifts of water and Spirit. We lift up all of our newly baptized brothers and sisters.

17 Give thanks for the supplemental aid ministries supported in the U.S. by ELCA World Hunger, such as My Friend's House in Los Angeles where many receive supplemental food to help them make ends meet.

18 Remember in your prayers the 10 participants in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program who are serving where needed for a year in the United Kingdom.

19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

On this day that honors Joseph, the guardian of Jesus, lift up fathers everywhere that they, like

Joseph, will honor God through an unqualified love for the children who depend on them.

20 Remember in your prayers the leadership development ministry of the Rev. Morsal Collier, an ELCA missionary in Sierra Leone.

21 Include in your prayers the Lay Schools for Ministry program of the ELCA, a network that equips and supports people for ministry and service in the context of their community, congregation and the world.

22 Lift up the work of Lutheran Services in America, an alliance of the ELCA and 300 health and human service organizations serving more than 6 million people each year in the United States and the Caribbean.

23 Third Sunday in Lent

Lord God, we praise you for the many members of your body. We are thankful for those who give their testimony, like the Samaritan woman, which leads many others to faith.

24 Give thanks for the ELCA's HIV and AIDS ministry in the U.S. and around the world and for the generous donations that help support this life-saving work.

25 The Annunciation of Our Lord

On this special day, pray that we, like Mary, will embrace a life that reflects "God's work. Our hands."

26 Remember in your prayers ELCA missionaries in Argentina Erin and Josh Branchaud, whose work includes youth, music and congregational ministries.