

24 Pray for peace and justice for all who live in the Holy Land and lift up the efforts of the ELCA's Peace Not Walls campaign, which works toward that goal through accompaniment, advocacy and awareness-raising.

25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

O Lord our God, we remember the families and friends of all deployed soldiers. Let your blessings fill their homes and your strength fill their lives; in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

26 Memorial Day

Give thanks today for the service of our armed forces veterans and those currently in uniform. Pray that those veterans suffering from nightmares, both mental and physical, as a result of their service will find the peace and strength they desire.

27 Pray for the health of the many small ELCA congregations that, despite harsh economic realities, continue to do God's work and be an important pillar in the faith life of their members.

28 Pray that, with the help of God, we will live out the mission of our church: Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world.

29 Remember in your prayers the Rev. Rosanne Swanson, an ELCA missionary in Indonesia, as she goes about God's work as a teacher of pastoral theology and pastoral care at the STT-HKBP seminary in Pematang Siantar, North Sumatra.

30 Lift up in your prayers the ELCA Good Gifts program, a ministry that through the generosity of ELCA members and others fights hunger and transforms lives around the world.

31 Give thanks for the more than 800 rostered people of the ELCA who are serving in specialized pastoral care. Pray that God's guidance and strength will accompany them as they serve those in desperate need in such areas as health care and hospice, corrections and substance abuse.

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.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

MAY 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 Philip and James, Apostles

Pray for the ELCA synods and their voting members who have synod assemblies this month that their work will be guided by the Holy Spirit and that their decisions will reflect the glory of God.

2 Lift up in your prayers ELCA congregations that have made a special effort to open unused, or under-used, space in their buildings for the benefit of their neighbors – such as the La Casita ministry of Trinity Lutheran in Brooklyn, N.Y, which has turned an unused parsonage into a multi-use community space.

3 Pray for the efforts within this church, such as the Companeros de Camino ministry of the South Dakota Synod, to help the children of immigrants who have grown up in the United States and desire to attend college.

4 Third Sunday of Easter

Dear God, just as you revealed yourself to the disciples in Emmaus, open our hearts and our minds so that we may recognize you; so that we may proclaim to the world that we too have seen the risen Lord.

5 Lift up in your prayers the Rev. Elisabeth Johnson, an ELCA missionary in Cameroon, and her work in theological education.

6 Pray that as individuals and as a church we will listen to God in our prayer conversations and that we will heed that divine voice as we listen to and interact with others.

7 Give thanks for the digital technologies available today that allow our congregations and members to connect efficiently and pursue God's work in wondrous new ways.

8 Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church

Give thanks for the people behind the scenes in your daily life and in the life of this church. Give thanks for those who make your life easier and better and for those who make it possible for this church to go about God's work.

9 Pray for the pastors of the ELCA that, as they minister to the spiritual needs of others, they will care for and nurture their own spiritual health and growth.

10 Lift up in your prayers the six young people spending a year in Jerusalem and the West Bank as part of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program and pray for God's guidance as they walk in accompaniment with those who deal daily with the effects of political divisions.

11 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

Loving God, we lift up in prayer on this Mother's Day all those who nurture others. Give them strength, hope and inspiration. We especially ask your blessings for those caregivers who are tending to the needs of children with malaria; in the name of Jesus our risen Lord. Amen.

12 Pray for the ELCA's new ALT Year (Abundant Life Together) program for young adults, which has a pilot site this year in Toledo, Ohio, and fills what normally would be a year of school with community, discipleship and education.

13 Pray for ELCA missionary Karen Anderson and her work in Chile with Educación Popular en Salud, which was founded in 1982 during Chile's years of military dictatorship as a project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile and today annually reaches over 145,000 women and their families in poor communities with innovative strategies and tools for collective action.

14 Include in your prayers the presidents of the ELCA's eight seminaries, leaders who share the difficult job of ensuring that their schools excel at preparing pastors for a changing world.

15 Give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response's efforts to make clean water available in the parts of the world where it is desperately needed, such as in the refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya.

16 Pray for the seven members of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program serving in Madagascar as they walk in accompaniment with their new neighbors and families and live a life of "God's work. Our hands."

17 Give thanks for the 1,912,445 people who have been reached through malaria awareness programs and the 22,056 mosquito nets that have been distributed since the ELCA Malaria Campaign began.

18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, we ask you to send your Spirit to all those who are troubled and give them comfort. Have mercy on those who are forced to flee their homes and travel to refugee camps in foreign lands; we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

19 Pray for the Christian Unity Gathering, which continues today and tomorrow in Washington, D.C., as the ELCA and other members of the National Council of Churches celebrate ecumenism and address pressing social issues.

20 Give thanks for the many local programs run by ELCA members – such as the Daily Work ministry created by ELCA pastors in St. Paul, Minn. – that help immigrants adjust to their new life in the United States and gain the skills needed to find a job.

21 Remember in your prayers the Rev. Justin and Kari Eller, ELCA missionaries in Argentina where Justin is the regional representative.

22 Pray for those students at the ELCA's eight seminaries who face substantial tuition debt upon graduation. Pray that they will be able to balance their financial reality with their call to do God's work where needed.

23 Pray for the goals of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, one of which is to accompany and equip 1,000 congregations in their renewal efforts through ELCA synods.