

**26** The destructive turmoil in regions of the Middle East is a persistent problem. We earnestly pray for peace in these areas and that communities will rebuild and heal for the sake of the people who yearn for the calm and sanctuary of safe homes a return to thriving neighborhoods.

**27** We remember in our prayers the Southeastern Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**28** We pray for the Presbyterian Church (USA), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997 and for the continuing growth of our relationship as we share the gospel and do God's work in the world—together.

**29** We remember before God the needs and infirmities of all people, especially people we have ignored, rejected, passed by or treated as outsiders.

**30** On this Memorial Day we remember, recognize and give thanks for the men and women who have served in the armed forces and have lost their lives in the pursuit of justice, peace and freedom for our country and all nations.

**31** *Visit of Mary to Elizabeth* The pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth remind us that with God all things are possible. We give thanks and praise to God for bringing good news and redemption to the world through Elizabeth and Mary, and we pray for the wellbeing and health of all expectant mothers as well as those who are trying to conceive.

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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

MAY 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** There are more than 100 Asian congregations and ministries in the ELCA. We give thanks to God for the diverse cultures, languages and heritages of our Asian and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters in Christ and pray for the growth and vitality of their ministries.

**2** We give thanks to God for the days growing longer and for the warmth and light of the sun that stir the growth of food crops, plants and trees and draw us outdoors for the enjoyment of nature—the handiwork of our Creator.

**3** We pray that people living with mental illness find understanding, care and affordable treatment and that our congregations serve as welcoming faith communities of hope and healing—in the name of Jesus Christ.

**4** “Called Forward Together in Christ” is the process of involving our church—both clergy and lay—in discerning our future directions and priorities. We pray that we will be attentive to one another and guided by God's Word and purpose in our deliberations and decisions.

**5** *Ascension of Our Lord* Our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, demonstrates God's power and glory over the universe. We give thanks and praise for Jesus' clear witness of love and redemption and pray that we serve as living, faithful witnesses of God's love for all people, everywhere.

**6** We remember in our prayers the Southeastern Iowa, Pacifica and Minneapolis Area synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**7** We remember in our prayers the New Jersey, Southeastern Minnesota and Southeastern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**8** In our unity with God through Jesus Christ, we ask the Spirit to heal our divisions and stir us as Christians to encourage one another in our faith, service and witness.

**9** We give thanks to God for musicians who write and compose music and hymns, and for the creative ways in which they enliven us and help us worship and praise God.

**10** We remember in our prayers Savannah Schneider and Pastor Sarah and Adam Erickson, ELCA missionaries serving in Cambodia, and ask God to bless their work and sustain their energy and enthusiasm for sharing the gospel.

**11** In our prayers we recognize and praise God's majesty, creative power, eternal presence and immeasurable mercy.

**12** We pray for God's presence, healing and hope to be known and felt in communities affected by severe weather, flooding and drought.

**13** We remember in our prayers the Southeast Michigan, Northern Great Lakes and Northeastern Ohio synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**14** May our understanding of justice be guided and informed by God's Word and by Jesus' examples of compassion, fairness, concern for the poor and humble service.

**15** *Day of Pentecost* In a world of diverse languages, cultures and traditions, we give thanks to God that we are drawn together by the Holy Spirit as one community in Jesus Christ, called to live in one faith and one baptism.

**16** We remember in our prayers the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**17** Eight young adults are working in ministries of education, women's ministry, farming, nursing and a school for the blind in Madagascar through the Young Adults in Global Mission program. We give thanks for their work and ask God to bless the communities in which they serve.

**18** We remember Jesus' steadfast concern for the poor, sick and suffering and ask God to stir in us the same commitment to be agents of healing and wholeness in our local communities and the world.

**19** We remember in our prayers the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**20** We remember in our prayers the Northwest Washington, Northwestern Ohio, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Northwestern Minnesota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**21** We remember in our prayers the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Saint Paul Area and East-Central Synod of Wisconsin assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**22** *Trinity Sunday* In our wondering about the mystery of our triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—we pray for God's patience, mercy and forgiveness and ask that we continue to grow in faith that is certain of God's love through Jesus Christ.

**23** We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Suriname, Argentina and Uruguay and ask God to bless their work and witness with our partner churches and ministries in Latin America.

**24** Scientists and researchers explore the mysteries of the universe and daily expand our knowledge and wisdom. We pray their contributions and curiosity will deepen our appreciation for God, our boundless Creator.

**25** We ask God to bless the plans of parents, step parents and foster parents with their children for meaningful summer experiences, safe daily care, healthy recreation and the simple joys of playing with friends.