

**26** In a time when it is easy to divide neighbor against neighbor and harden our hearts against each other, we pray that God will soften our hearts and teach us to live in community as forgiven and loved children of God.

**27** Seasonal summer workers are often uprooted this time of the year. We pray they find new employment and experience support and stability in caring congregations and communities.

**28** We are a church together, and we ask God for a bold faith that enables us to face together and work through the most daunting challenges of our country and world, including poverty, gun violence, racism, political division, care for the environment and social disparity.

**29** In a world filled with messages vying for our attention, we pray to be attentive to God's word, to listen carefully and to be moved to action by the Spirit.

**30** We remember in our prayers the diverse traditions, rituals and practices – old and new – of our church and pray that, centered in Christ, they will serve to inspire and energize our faith and daily life.

**31** We persist in our prayers for wherever conflict and war are a daily concern and pray we may have the faith and courage to work for peace and reconciliation everywhere – in the name of Jesus Christ.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

—AUGUST 2015—

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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** We remember in our prayers students preparing for a new school year and pray they will grow in intellect and spirit alike.

**2** We give thanks that we are fed daily by God's word and that our faith is deepened for service and witness in the world.

**3** This month a group of young adults in the Young Adults in Global Mission program begin their service with the newly established Lutheran Church in Cambodia. We pray for a rich experience for these young adults and for the body of Christ to prosper in Cambodia.

**4** As congregations and synods prepare for fall programs, we remember in prayer the leaders and volunteers who give of their time and focus their attention on serving all ages as witnesses and bearers of the faith.

**5** For young people who struggle with school or have learning disabilities, we pray for caring, creative and skilled teachers and adults in their lives. We also ask God to grant their parents wisdom and patience for the challenges they face.

**6** Our church is blessed with 26 colleges and universities, and eight seminaries. We pray for the support and encouragement of faculty and staff who train, educate and inspire students to pursue vocations in the church and society.

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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.*

**7** We pray for continued healing in communities that have suffered tragedies of racial hatred and pray that all communities and churches commit themselves to discussions and actions of justice, peace and reconciliation for all God's children.

**8** The gifts of creation, natural resources and all forms of life have sustained and fascinated us from the beginning of time. We ask God to stir our sense of wonder, help us act responsibly with concern for the present and future, and live with mindful gratitude.

**9** We remember in our prayers that Jesus is the true son of God and the real bread of life, giving us hope and eternal life.

**10** The ELCA Youth Gathering may be over but we pray for the participants, both youth and adults, that they will continue their growth as followers of Christ and serve with enthusiasm their congregations, communities and world.

**11** We give thanks for educators and school staff and for all the ways in which they teach, influence and care for their students.

**12** We pray for the reassurance of God's Spirit when we are tempted to think the church is dying in our society and culture. May we instead recognize signs of God's presence and thriving word and trust God's Spirit is active in the world.

**13** *Florence Nightingale, Clara Maass*

We remember in our prayers today women and men serving in the profession of nursing, especially parish nurses and faith-community nurses, who serve the health, wellness and spiritual needs of people.

**14** We thank God for the service and witness of congregations involved in summer mission trips and service-learning experiences and pray for the growth of relationships of care and respect between communities and congregations.

**15** *Mary, Mother of our Lord*

Let our prayers today be guided by Mary's song of praise calling attention to God's presence and care for the humble, poor and powerless among us.

**16** Jesus Christ gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. We give thanks that being grounded in God's love and forgiveness equips us to live and serve each day as saints and sinners in the world.

**17** We remember in our prayers the Lutheran resource centers serving synods and congregations throughout the ELCA and give thanks for the creative, tangible support they offer our leaders and volunteers.

**18** For countries suffering economic crises, lack of sustainable development or debilitating poverty, we ask that God's mercy and wisdom be present in the discussions, intentions and actions of leaders seeking lasting solutions.

**19** For the joy and diversity of summer festivals, neighborhood celebrations and community gatherings, we give thanks.

**20** We give thanks to God for a world and church of many cultures, races and languages. We pray that we continue to find ways of embracing each other and sharing our diverse gifts and abilities in service and witness of Christ.

**21** Seminary students of diverse backgrounds and gifts prepare diligently for lives of ministry and service in the world. We support their journeys of education and discernment through our prayers.

**22** When days are heavy or joy is scarce, we pray to be reminded of the psalmist's words, "O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!"

**23** We confess that understanding, following and proclaiming Jesus is not always easy, and we pray for the Spirit to help us trust in the words of eternal life found only in Jesus.

**24** *Bartholomew (Nathanael)*

As Philip found Nathanael and invited him to meet and believe in Jesus, we, too, pray for the boldness to share the good news of Jesus Christ and invite others to believe and follow.

**25** We pray for the Reformed Church in America, an ELCA full communion partner, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and serve in the world.