

**27** We pray for first responders – firefighters, paramedics, police and others – who respond to emergencies in spite of the personal risks. We pray for their physical, spiritual and emotional well-being and that they receive the care, comfort and affirmation they need.

**28** *Simon and Jude, Apostles* Being a student and follower of Jesus is always lively and dynamic. We pray that we remain curious, faithful and active as disciples and that we enjoy the diverse gifts and company of disciples who serve together with us.

**29** We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea and Thailand, and we ask God to bless their work in theological education, health programs and teaching English with our partner churches and institutions.

**30** Jesus Christ has set us free from sin and the despair of a life without hope. We pray that we use our gift of freedom to do God's work in the world and to share the hope and good news of Jesus Christ with all people.

**31** *Reformation Day* We give thanks for how God has shaped and guided the church throughout history, especially as a result of the Reformation movement and Martin Luther's faith and teachings. We pray that we continue to reflect, learn and change with the guidance of the Spirit and God's word, for the sake of our neighbor, to be faithful to God's mission in the world.

*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.*



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## PRAYER VENTURES

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### OCTOBER 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** On this International Day of Older Persons we remember in prayers our elders and how they have cared for us, shared their faith, and continue to bring special wisdom and experience to our lives and faith communities.

**2** Just as we pray for God to refresh our own faith, we ask God to deepen the faith and strengthen the witness of our family, friends, congregation members and all our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world.

**3** We pray that God will guide and equip our leaders, congregations, synods, members and affiliated organizations to implement and bring to life the actions of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, actions that support ministries, build relationships, pursue justice and peace, advocate compassion and affirm leaders throughout the church.

**4** *Francis of Assisi* We give thanks and praise to God for the wonders and diversity of creation and nature and for all the ways in which it sustains and inspires us. We pray for wisdom and diligence in caring for all that God has entrusted to us.

**5** We remember in our prayers families, individuals and communities healing and recovering from the trauma and destruction of recent flooding, wildfires and severe weather, especially in Louisiana, the western states, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and West Virginia.

**6** We ask God to grant us boldness and compassion in denouncing and preventing violence that threatens the lives and safety of women, children and families. We pray our congregations are always safe places of healing and hope, especially for those experiencing, fleeing or recovering from domestic violence.

**7** We give thanks in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We pray that all people experience full participation in the church and the world and that we all know the blessings of living and worshiping in faith communities of diverse abilities and mutual care.

**8** We remember in our prayers the faithful leaders, bishops, pastors, synod staff and volunteers who have been called to serve God's people and the mission of the church in the 65 synods of the ELCA.

**9** We pray that we never take for granted or forget to express our thanks and praise to God for the healing and wholeness we experience in Jesus Christ.

**10** More than 250,000 people died and more than 11 million people have been displaced from their homes during the five-year civil war in Syria. We fervently pray for a peaceful, lasting end to the war, and for the healing and rebuilding of the lives of Syrians and their communities.

**11** We remember in our prayers the ELCA missionaries serving in Tanzania as teachers, physicians, counselors, program coordinators and theology instructors supporting the ministry and outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and its 21 hospitals.

**12** In our daily prayers we praise God for God's good works, mercy, grace and trustworthiness for the world's sake.

**13** We remember in our prayers the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA, and pray that our relationship will grow and our work together will thrive as we share the gospel and do God's work in the world.

**14** God's word is our source of wisdom, direction and assurance. We pray that we are open and attentive to God's word in the course of our daily routines and relationships and throughout life.

**15** We pray for those who are in treatment, live in fear of, or are in remission from breast cancer. We ask God to place people of hope, faith and medical skill in their lives and to further the work of people dedicated to prevention, effective treatment and cures.

**16** Our human needs are many and sometimes urgent. We ask God to be patient with us and to teach us persistence in our personal prayers and our prayers on behalf of our neighbor.

**17** As the ELCA continues to discern how we will faithfully serve God's mission in the years to come, we pray that God will shape and clarify our vision through prayerful conversations, Scripture, reflection and further revealing the needs of the world to us.

**18** *Luke, Evangelist* We pray that we give witness to and speak daily of God's love and presence through Jesus Christ, just as the disciple Luke did so freely and widely.

**19** We praise and recognize God for the boundless ways in which God cares for, sustains and helps us day and night throughout life in the face of every uncertainty and threat.

**20** Young adults serve in educational ministries in Jerusalem/West Bank through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. We pray for the ministries and people they work alongside and that their witness reflects hope for reconciliation and peace – in the name of Jesus Christ.

**21** In the course of conflicts, conversations and debate in our society, we pray the Spirit will instill in us the will and ability to listen to each other, be thoughtful, not lose sight of justice and compassion, and be guided by our faith.

**22** We remember in our prayers people serving in Christian education and youth and family ministry in congregations that they may serve as faithful leaders, mentors, teachers and nurturers of lifelong faith formation.

**23** We ask God to surround us with people who encourage our faith, accompany us through life's twists and turns, and care about us and that we in turn are mindful of the ways we can care for others in our midst.

**24** We give thanks for the progress made toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans and pray that we continue, with the help of the Spirit, to work through our differences and discover our shared identity as the body of Christ and brothers and sisters in Christ.

**25** Living in the human reality of our capacity to do good and be just and to also turn our backs to each other and inflict pain and injury, we pray for God's forgiveness and mercy and cling to the newness we have in Jesus Christ and experience in our baptism as children of God.

**26** We remember in our prayers musicians, composers and hymn writers who are blessed with creative gifts and abilities that help us express our praise, faith, needs and emotions to God.