



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

6 weeks of prayer prior to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly – daily prayers for each day of the assembly and a prayer for the Sunday after the assembly

As the ELCA enters its final weeks before the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA.org/ChurchwideAssembly) in New Orleans, we will share a prayer petition each week for you to consider using within your prayers on Sunday morning.

Week 1 (July 3)

O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us the light of the Holy Spirit. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the light of that Spirit as this church prepares to gather in assembly that we might have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(or alternate response according to the congregation's practice.)

Week 2 (July 10)

Gracious God, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is divided, reunite it. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by that truth and peace as this church prepares to gather in assembly.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(or alternate response according to the congregation's practice.)

Week 3 (July 17)

Almighty God, grant to your church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from heaven, that your word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name may abide to the end. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by your wisdom as this church prepares to gather in assembly.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(or alternate response according to the congregation's practice.)

Week 4 (July 24)

Loving God, through Holy Baptism you continue to make us new and gather us together across all human divisions reconciling us to yourself in one body through the cross. Strengthen us by your presence that our thoughts and actions may be rooted and grounded in your love for us. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by your reconciling love as this church prepares to gather in assembly.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(or alternate response according to the congregation's practice.)

Week 5 (July 31)

By your word, eternal God, your creation sprang forth, and we were given the breath of life. By your word, eternal God, death is overcome, Christ is raised from the tomb, and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit. May we boldly proclaim this good news in our words and our deeds, rejoicing always in your powerful presence. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by your word as this church prepares to gather in assembly.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(or alternate response according to the congregation's practice.)

Week 6 (Aug. 7) Sunday before the assembly

Let us pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its members who gather this week in its Churchwide Assembly. Inspire the celebration of God's varied works throughout the church. Instill your peace in the midst of the work you have called us to and the deliberations that will take place. Shape the work of the church according to your will for the whole world.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(or alternate response according to the congregation's practice.)

For those traveling to the assembly.

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage. You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star, you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make the ways safe and the homecomings joyful for those traveling to the Churchwide Assembly and bring us all at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Week 7 (Aug. 14) Sunday after the assembly

Holy One, you formed the church to announce the words of eternal life to the world. Equip the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which concluded its Churchwide Assembly yesterday, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Gather the church together into one body for the sake of our shared mission to tell of the love of God. Filled with your word, turn the church inside out so that we might live lives that proclaim your freedom and renewal to all the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(or alternate response according to the congregation's practice.)

Daily prayer during the assembly

Monday, Aug. 8

Holy God, hope of the poor and balm of the brokenhearted, stir up in us the gift of your Spirit that we may hear your good news and proclaim it in word and deed; through Jesus your anointed, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Tuesday, Aug. 9

O God, the giver of every good gift, you set before us the feast of gladness. Gather your fractured human family, welcome us in our weakness, feed us with your mercy, and clothe us with life itself: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, Aug. 10

Glorious God, through the waters of the sea you led your people from slavery to freedom. Through the waters of baptism, you bring us with Christ from death into life. Roll away the stone of our fear and doubt that we may sing your praise and dance to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Song. Amen.

Thursday, Aug. 11

Almighty and all-merciful God, you have set us free from every power that would enslave us. Create in us the heart of a servant and bind us to our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Friday, Aug. 12

O Light unseen, O Love unknown, O Life unending, your Word came as one among us to draw us to your loving heart and give us your abundant life. Pour out upon your wounded world grace upon grace through your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. Amen.

Saturday, Aug. 13

O God, source of all life, you raised Jesus from the dead and gave us the Spirit of his resurrection. Unbind your church from sin and the fear of death. Set us free to praise you with grateful hearts and to serve the world in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.