

30 While walking in the shadow of Jesus' suffering and death, we pray that we not forget that this journey leads us to resurrection and new life.

31 *César Chávez Day* We pray that we may be advocates for and treat fairly people who plant, tend, harvest and prepare food for the daily sustenance of all people.

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.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

MARCH 2015

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 *Second Sunday in Lent* As followers of Christ, we pray for a growing understanding of what it means to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow in today's world.

2 Give thanks, especially during Women's History Month, for the gifts, service and contributions of women of all ages in the ELCA, society and the world.

3 We pray for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association and deaf ministries of the ELCA, especially during National Deaf History Month.

4 We are a church together. Remember in your prayers the congregations, ministries and leaders of the Alaska, New Jersey and Metropolitan Chicago synods of the ELCA.

5 We pray for the Spirit's wisdom and guidance during the ELCA Conference of Bishops' discussions, decisions and work on our behalf.

6 Remember youth of color throughout the ELCA who are preparing in this summer's Multicultural Youth Leadership Event in Detroit.

7 We offer prayers of affirmation for the ELCA's support of Church World Service for legal services for unaccompanied and migrant children in Miami.

8 *Third Sunday in Lent* In our prayers, we ask for courage and faith to proclaim the saving work of God revealed in weakness, humiliation and death on the cross.

9 We give thanks for the declining number of new Ebola cases and the progress of recovery work being done in West Africa, especially in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

10 As we continue to learn how to live as children of God, we ask for God's help in discerning where and how to follow and serve.

11 We pray for the success of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* in helping provide women leaders from our global companion churches with scholarships and educational opportunities.

12 We pray for the ELCA and our interfaith partners dedicated to ending anti-Muslim sentiment by strengthening the voice of freedom and peace in the United States and globally.

13 We pray that our Lenten reflections and conversations lead us to a clearer sense of our identity, our mission and our calling to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be agents of God's love in the world.

14 In this time of so much conflict, violence and injustice, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East and North Africa, we pray for God's Spirit to guide and further all work of reconciliation, peace and healing.

15 *Fourth Sunday in Lent* We pray that we will be led by the light of Christ in this world, from hopelessness to hope, from death to life eternal.

16 We remember our baptism daily, our dying to sin and rising to new life through faith in Christ's sacrificial love.

17 *St. Patrick's Day* For all the saints and those who have inspired our faith, served as courageous examples and guided us in life, we give thanks.

18 In this year of celebrating the 45th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran church and ELCA, give thanks to God for the faithful service and leadership of our sisters in Christ.

19 We are a church together. Remember in your prayers the congregations, ministries and leaders of the Upper Susquehanna, Southwestern Texas and Northwestern Minnesota synods of the ELCA.

20 On this first day of spring, we give thanks for creation and pray that we may exercise care and responsibility with all that God has entrusted to us.

21 We pray for Lutheran Disaster Response and their work with Lutheran Social Services of New York to provide shelters and legal services to unaccompanied children from Central America now in the New York City area.

22 *Fifth Sunday in Lent* We pray that in the troubling death of Jesus we may see the very real love and promises of God.

23 We pray for the United Methodist Church, an ELCA full communion partner, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and serve in the world.

24 We give thanks and encouragement for volunteers – faithful servants – who work in underserved neighborhoods, help provide disaster relief, build congregations and serve on outdoor ministry staffs.

25 *Annunciation of Our Lord* As the angel Gabriel announced the coming birth of Jesus long ago, we pray that our words and actions may announce Jesus' saving presence in the world today.

26 Nine young adults are serving in Southern Africa with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. Remember them in their journey of service, witness and self-reflection.

27 We remember in our prayers the ministry of the Women of the ELCA, gathering women of all ages for service, study, advocacy and fellowship.

28 There are 340 ELCA new-start ministries under development in the United States and the Caribbean. We pray for the work of their local leaders, directors for evangelical mission and bishops.

29 *Passion/Palm Sunday* On this day we remember in our prayers the vulnerability and humility of Jesus, leading to his death for our sake – the world's sake.