

**23** Give thanks for the wonders of science, as each new discovery about our universe leaves us increasingly in awe of God's marvelous and complex creation.

**24** Pray that those attending the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering – which begins today in Charlotte, N.C. – will be inspired and infused with the Holy Spirit as they learn to live out God's call to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ.

**25** Give thanks for the 10 ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program participants in the United Kingdom as they conclude their year of service. Pray for God's guidance as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

**26** Lift up in your prayers the work of Lutheran Services in America, an alliance of the ELCA and 300 health and human service organizations serving more than 6 million people each year in the United States and the Caribbean.

### **27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Lord, grant us the courage to take responsibility for our actions. Help us find ways to express our feelings without placing the blame on others. Open our ears so that we can hear and learn from one another.

### **28 Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750**

Loving God, thank you for the gift of music. Today, as we remember J.S. Bach, we give you thanks for all of the musicians who give of their time and talent to your glory.

**29** Remember in your prayers ELCA missionary in the Central African Republic Susan Smith and her work as an adviser to educational programs.

**30** In an increasingly expensive world, pray for the long-range goal of the ELCA Fund for Leaders to provide full-tuition support for every student attending an ELCA seminary.

**31** Give thanks for the many community gardens sponsored and tilled by members of ELCA congregations. Pray that the gardens, like The Potato Project of Trinity Lutheran in Kutztown, Pa., will help many people put nutritious food on their table.

*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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God's work. Our hands.



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## PRAYER VENTURES

JULY 2014

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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** Pray for our companion church the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic and its work with Lutheran Disaster Response to provide planting tools and seeds for people whose harvests have been affected by the violence and unrest in the country.

**2** Pray with the leaders of this church that a political solution will be found for peace in the Holy Land. Pray that Israeli and Palestinian leaders will reach an agreement in which the citizens of both nations can live in freedom and security.

### **3 Thomas, Apostle**

Remember in your prayers ELCA missionaries in Cameroon Anne and Willie Langdji, who are the regional representatives for Western Africa.

### **4 Independence Day**

On this Independence Day, we give thanks for the courage of those who signed the Declaration of Independence and we pray that our government leaders today will honor that courage with thoughtful and visionary leadership.

**5** Pray that the summer months will be a time of outreach for ELCA congregations. Lift up the efforts of your congregation to become a presence in the community as it extends its welcome to your neighbors, as Resurrection Lutheran Church in Chicago does with its annual Wrigleyville Summerfest.

**6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Lord, we lift up all those who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens in this nation and throughout the world. We especially lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ living in Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.

**7** Pray for the recently created network Talitha Cumi, Mujer Levantate (Women Rise Up), a joint venture of the ELCA and The Episcopal Church designed to identify and address some challenges Latino women face in church and society.

**8** Eight months after Typhoon Haiyan devastated parts of the Philippines killing more than 6,200 people and leaving more than 1,000 still missing, pray for the ongoing relief efforts of Lutheran Disaster Response, which is helping the survivors recover and rebuild.

**9** Lift up in your prayers the 45 food pantries that received ELCA World Hunger food grants in 2014. Give thanks that because of their work fewer people will go to bed hungry tonight.

**10** Pray for the families who are separated because of U.S. immigration laws. Pray that a legal solution can be found that will allow all people to follow their dreams and create a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

**11** Remember in your prayers the Rev. Christa Von Zychlin and the Rev. Wayne Nieminen, ELCA missionaries, and their service in theological education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Hong Kong.

**12** Pray for the more than 1.3 million people of South Sudan who have been displaced by the violent political crisis in their young country – people such as Nyagnet Req, who, with her seven children, walked for days to reach an Ethiopian refugee camp supported in part by Lutheran Disaster Response.

**13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

O God, we ask you to guide teachers, assistants and participants in the various vacation Bible school programs throughout this church. May your word be a lamp unto their feet and a guide along the path through summer.

**14** Give thanks for the 120 companion synod relationships of the ELCA, relationships with churches around the world that nurture and strengthen mutual ministries.

**15** Remember in your prayers the new group of 64 young people who have been selected to serve in eight countries around the world for a year through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. As they prepare to begin their year of service, pray that the spirit of “God’s work. Our hands.” will enrich their lives and those they will walk with in accompaniment.

**16** Pray for the members of this church who feel a call to serve God and are in the process of discerning how to respond. Whether the call is to

be an ordained pastor or to less formal service, may the Holy Spirit guide their decision.

**17** Lift up the five ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission participants who are concluding their year of service in Hungary. Give thanks for their year of accompaniment with our brothers and sisters in Central Europe.

**18** Pray that those attending the Lutheran Men in Mission Gathering – which begins today in Nashville, Tenn. – will be enriched by the experience and will be rejuvenated in their mission to be the role models so necessary for the youth of this church.

**19** Lift up in your prayers the ELCA Young Adult Ministry as it helps young adults form their faith and claim who they are, discovering their unique gifts and passions that have been endowed upon them by God.

**20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Almighty God, help us to love one another as you have loved us. Open our eyes to see you in the face of our neighbor and guide our words and actions throughout this day and always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

**21** Remember in your prayers ELCA missionaries in Costa Rica Stephen Deal and Marta Giron and their service as regional representatives for Central America.

**22** Give thanks for the hundreds of ELCA congregations that have gone beyond their walls through congregation-based community organizing and are addressing the problems and pressures they and their neighbors are facing.