

announcing the promised Messiah, our Savior—Jesus Christ. We ask God to instill in us a similar spirit of enthusiasm, commitment, courage and joy in sharing our faith and the gospel wherever there is opportunity, and when we see no opportunity, the creativity and determination to create it.

25 Pray that in all we do we are not driven by fear, rather we live with the assurance that God loves and values us and has given us important life-giving good news to share.

26 Pray for the safety, well-being and care of men and women working as seafarers who often serve long periods of time in dangerous, isolated working conditions to help deliver food, goods and supplies across the oceans and throughout the world.

27 We remember in prayers our synod bishops and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, that they are supported and encouraged in their leadership and ministries and that the Spirit will guide them and grant fresh insight and wisdom for serving and growing the church in an ever-changing world and culture.

28 Trusting in God's love and forgiveness, we confess our brokenness and renew our commitments to reconciling the body of Christ, celebrating the growing ecumenical relationship between Catholics and Lutherans over 50-plus years of dialogue and recognizing the gifts given and received in our journey together on the way to greater unity.

29 *Peter and Paul, apostles* We thank God for servants like Peter and Paul who confessed their faith in Jesus Christ, used their unique gifts to spread the good news and helped grow the early Christian church. We pray the Spirit will guide and stir us to continue the work of growing the church even today—especially today.

30 As many teachers, educators and school staffs begin summer breaks, we ask God to grant them rest and renewal and to stir their enthusiasm and creativity for serving young people and communities.

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PRAYER VENTURES

JUNE 2017

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 We remember in our prayers the Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Nebraska and Central/Southern Illinois synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

2 We remember in our prayers the Greater Milwaukee, Indiana-Kentucky, Lower Susquehanna, Florida-Bahamas, Delaware-Maryland and Montana synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

3 We remember in our prayers the South Dakota, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, West Virginia-Western Maryland, North Carolina and Eastern North Dakota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

4 *Day of Pentecost* Give thanks and a sigh of relief, for no matter where we are, how we feel, what we are doing, where we hide or what circumstance we find

ourselves in, God's Spirit is with us and working in us—for our comfort, guidance and encouragement.

5 Pray for the thousands of young adults, volunteers and ELCA outdoor ministry staff training for a summer of ministry with children, youth, families and adults.

6 We pray for leaders, volunteers, children and youth involved in vacation Bible schools and day camps this summer, that all may experience the contagious joy and liveliness of faith and life together in Christian community.

7 Ask for God's blessings on the many volunteers, staff and resource people who are busy planning and making final preparations for ELCA events and gatherings this summer and that participants will be enriched, equipped and inspired through their experiences and each other for their ministries and lives back home and in the world.

8 We remember in our prayers the Central States, Upstate New York, Grand Canyon and Northwestern Minnesota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

9 We remember in our prayers the Southwestern Minnesota, Metropolitan Chicago, Northeastern Ohio and New England synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

10 We remember in our prayers the Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, La Crosse Area and Virginia synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

11 *Holy Trinity Sunday* Give thanks for our baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit for being marked as children of God, welcomed to the body of Christ and set on our faith journey surrounded by the care and support of others.

12 More than 7 million people in South Sudan are suffering because of drought, famine and civil war. Pray for their relief, well-being and lasting, just solutions for the turmoil and challenges they face daily; give thanks for the ELCA's long-term commitment to work with church partners and agencies in the region to deliver life-saving assistance and develop future sustainability and resilience.

13 Pray that children, youth and adults with limited mobility, special needs or limited resources have opportunities to experience the beauty and enlivening spirit of outdoor summer activities in their communities and in nature.

14 Offer gratitude, praise and recognition for the majesty, love, mindfulness of humankind and handiwork of God reflected in the world and all creation.

15 We remember in our prayers the Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southwestern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

16 We remember in our prayers the Southwestern Washington, Northern Illinois, Upper Susquehanna and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

17 Pray we learn to be generous, faithful, mature stewards of every gift God has entrusted to our care and use and that we pass on to every generation the best of our wisdom, what we've learned from our

failings and mistakes, and a spirit of generosity and responsibility.

18 Pray for clarity of mission and the confidence of faith enabling each of us to be present in the world sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, bringing hope, serving our neighbor, working for an end to hunger and poverty, and discerning where we are most needed.

19 We thank God for the flourishing and abundant harvests of community gardens tended by congregations that help feed those who are hungry and teach new skills for growing food, cooking, self-sufficiency, caring for one another and the earth—in both urban and rural settings.

20 Give thanksgiving and praise to God, make a joyful noise, be glad and sing, for God's love and faithfulness embraces all generations and people.

21 Translators, missionaries and evangelists share the gospel in diverse languages and with respect for culture and context. We ask God to sustain their strength, wisdom and joy for ministry and teach us how to best support and encourage them in this challenging work.

22 We remember in our prayers the Caribbean Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

23 We pray the Spirit will guide, equip and inspire our church as we move forward in implementing and living into the directions, goals and priorities of ELCA Strategic Directions 2025, confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do in the years ahead.

24 *John the Baptist* John was a bold, outspoken, hardworking witness preparing the world and