

**25** Pray for the ELCA missionaries serving in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Jamaica and for their work alongside our global companions in health education, teaching English, human rights, leadership development and theological education.

**26** Pray for communities preparing for the long hurricane season ahead. Ask God to move us to be generous in supporting Lutheran Disaster Response and the congregations, volunteers and agencies that are quick to mobilize and assist with disaster relief and recovery across the United States and the Caribbean region.

**27** Ask God to remind us of and restore among us the unity and peace we have in the promises, love and sacrifice of Christ Jesus that reconcile us to God.

**28** Young Adult Ministry of the ELCA serves a diverse population of young people who are students, working, serving in the military, raising families, exploring life and may or not be affiliated with a community of faith. Pray the inspiration, opportunities and resources Young Adult Ministry offer bear fruit and complement the work of congregations in supporting and connecting young adults with communities where they can uncover their identity as children of God, experience belonging and find opportunities to serve their neighbors.

**29** Give thanks for the work we participate in through ELCA World Hunger and our partners to end poverty and hunger in the world, and ask God to stir our confidence and faith in the assets, resources and capacities with which we've been equipped for the challenges before us.

**30** Remember in prayer congregations facing challenges of changing communities, demographics and economic contexts; pray they find insightful assistance, draw on the resources of synods and churchwide programs and move forward with creativity, new wisdom and renewed energy for the mission of the church.

**31** We rejoice that whether new to faith in Christ or a mature leader or elder in the faith, the same Spirit is at work in us, the same love of Christ dwells in us and we are blessed by the same fullness of God that broadens our imagination of our baptismal calling and what can be accomplished together as followers, witnesses, teachers and servants in daily life.

*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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### JULY 2018

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*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** Pray for youth, adults and ELCA Youth Gathering volunteers traveling home from Houston that they will return home safely to share their enthusiasm, deepened faith, appreciation for the diversity and complexity of the body of Christ, and a broadened vision of the ELCA and their role in carrying out its mission in the world.

**2** Give thanks to God for being attentive to our difficulties, experiences of human tragedy and questions and for reassuring us that we are loved and that nothing is beyond God's ability to heal, restore or save.

**3** We remember in prayer people, communities and regions affected by recent flooding and severe weather that the Spirit will sustain their faith and hope while they deal with loss, damage and the daunting work of recovery and rebuilding.

**4** Give thanks for the blessings of freedom we experience in our nation, and pray the Spirit will guide us in using our freedom to exemplify God's ways of justice, peace, humility and mercy while caring and advocating for those who still experience injustice and obstacles to freedom in our society and world.

**5** Give thanks and praise to God for being gracious to us and being our helper, turning our mourning into dancing and clothing us with joy.

**6** Give thanks for the ELCA missionaries serving in Cameroon, Kenya and Liberia and for their work alongside our global companions in theological education, parish ministry, communications and growing the church.

**7** Pray the Spirit of God stirs in us an inclination to be generous and concerned with the needs of our neighbor that “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

**8** Just as the disciples were sent out with few physical comforts and resources – but were well equipped for ministry with the wisdom of Jesus, the power of the Spirit and the company of one another – we pray that we too will trust in the guidance and assets God has provided us to do God’s work in the world.

**9** Hold in prayer the city of Houston, which was host for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, that the witness and impact of the faith, enthusiasm and service of the youth and adult participants will endure long after the Gathering and give hope and encouragement to its residents and faith communities.

**10** Ask God to have mercy on us that our spirits are restored when we feel disparaged or criticized and that we are strengthened to respond not with vengeance or anger but with the same mercy and love we have experienced through faith in Jesus Christ.

**11** Pray for congregations, social ministries and community organizations working in partnership to prepare for serving our neighbors in need on “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, Sept. 9.

**12** Give thanks for the bounty and impact of community gardens tended by congregations and neighbors for the sake of those who are hungry, need fresh food to supplement their diets or are uncertain of their next meal.

**13** We ask God to help us see and understand our shortcomings, hardships and tragedies in life not as humiliating weaknesses but as sources of strength, preparation and wisdom to help us better understand and serve our neighbor and share the good news of the hope and healing we have in Jesus Christ.

**14** Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for their church and ask God to further our respect for one another and work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**15** Pray we each have a measure of John the Baptizer’s boldness, persistence, courage and confidence of faith as we talk about our faith with others, share the gospel and invite our neighbor to experience God’s grace through Jesus Christ.

**16** Continue to pray for leaders of nations working toward diplomatic solutions to complex and deep-seated conflicts in the world; ask God to grant them persistence, mutual understanding and an openness to reconciliation for the sake of people caught in the middle who suffer injustice, violence, displacement, division and poverty.

**17** Pray our ears, minds and hearts are open to what Scripture tells us about God’s steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, peace and goodness and what it means for our life and baptismal journey.

**18** Remember in prayer youth and adults involved in service learning and mission trips this summer; pray they discover mutual bonds of faith, understanding and

partnership in communities where they serve and that a spirit of servanthood will grow and endure in them throughout life.

**19** Give thanks and glory to God for the gift of eternal life and the coming time when we will be gathered in heaven as loved children adopted through Jesus Christ – a gift that infuses our life with understanding and appreciation of true love and mercy.

**20** For physicians, scientists and researchers who commit their lives and skills to curing, treating and ending life threatening and debilitating diseases, we lift up prayers of thanksgiving and encouragement.

**21** The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

**22** Pray we learn from the selfless, empathetic example of Jesus to not turn our backs on our neighbors, especially those in need or crisis, but to move close, accompany them and exercise generosity and compassion.

**23** *Mary Magdalene, Apostle* The stories of women in the Bible who are examples of faith, courageous leadership, serving neighbors in need and sharing boldly the good news of Jesus Christ sometimes remain untold or unfamiliar to us. We pray to be disciplined in studying their stories in Scripture and to share far and wide the inspiring stories of women of faith in the church today.

**24** We may not know much about shepherds in today’s world, but we know enough to be grateful that God – like a shepherd – is attentive to our daily lives and needs for care, comfort and guidance.