

students of Christ, we will attend to the truth of God and what the Spirit may reveal anew.

27 Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together (CLOUT), an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant partner, has assisted in providing over 4,200 units of safe and affordable housing in Louisville, Ky. Give thanks for what we accomplish together when we share our gifts and resources!

28 Pray for those whose mental and physical pain goes unnoticed in our communities and congregations; ask the Spirit to help us reach out to them with care, support and respect.

29 Give thanks and praise to God, who knows us inside and out and guides and supports us throughout our journey.

30 “Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). Thank God for this sweeping proclamation, which gives us peace and assurance in this uncertain world.

31 Pray for the Spirit to refresh and sustain the health, spirit and faith of young adult staff and their leaders as they serve in our summer camp ministries across the country.

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 60631-4101. Telephone: 800-638-3522.



PRAYER VENTURES

JULY 2023

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 Give thanks for the work of social service organizations, ELCA Disability Ministry and the Total Inclusion! initiative of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to fully include, affirm and respond to the diverse needs of people who live with a range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities.

2 Pray that we will equip one another for the challenges and share with one another the blessings that come from being disciples of Jesus, called and sent to do God's work in the world.

3 Remember in prayer all those who have been impacted by disasters, including those related to extreme weather, climate change, economic upheaval, political unrest, and war, and by other events that cause suffering, loss and displacement.

4 Independence Day Give thanks for the freedom and abundance we enjoy in our country, and ask God to help us exercise generosity in our national life, addressing root causes of the poverty, hunger, injustice, racism and lack of opportunity our neighbors experience on a daily basis.

5 Pray for the worship leaders and musicians gathering in Philadelphia for the conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

6 So far in 2023 there have been over 18,500 gun violence deaths in our country, including 280 mass shooting incidents (gunviolencearchive.org). Ask God to hear our cries of grief and anger; pray for the comfort, healing and strength of individuals, families and communities suffering sorrow and trauma; and ask the Spirit's strength to do all we can to prevent gun violence.

7 Praise God that sin and death have no control over our lives now that we have been set free by God's unearned gift of grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

8 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner since 2009. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

9 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Pray with relief and gratitude that we are never alone or without a loving rabbi, instructing and rejuvenating us to navigate life as followers of Christ.

10 Ask God to guide and bless the Truth and Healing Movement of our church, an initiative to increase our understanding of past and present injustices and harm borne by Indigenous people and to encourage action to build right and healthy relationships, healing Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike.

11 Thank God for inspiring our generosity to new congregations and ministries, especially in places that lack the resources for growth and self-sufficiency.

12 "Help us to put aside the angry word, the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt. Teach us the way in which love is best served" (*ELW* 615). Pray that we will treat our neighbors – including our enemies – with a kindness and respect that delight God.

13 Give thanks for the ELCA's Resourceful Servants initiative, which promotes the financial wellness of ELCA congregations, rostered ministers and seminarians; lessens the strains on those who lead faith communities; and enables them to more effectively carry out the mission of the church – making disciples for Jesus Christ.

14 God is gracious and good to all and has compassion for all creation. Pray for God to help us spread the good news throughout the world and to every generation.

15 Ask the Spirit to guide and inspire those planning the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event, the tAble event (for youth living with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities) and the Young Adult Gathering.

16 Pray for patience when our ministry doesn't produce the results we expect; ask the Spirit to help us reflect on our work, adapt, and understand that sometimes positive results ensue without our knowledge.

17 Pray for rostered ministers gathering with colleagues from across the church for fellowship, renewal, continuing education, worship and Bible study at the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Phoenix, Ariz.

18 Remember in prayer members of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church as they reconsider statements of purpose for each expression of the ELCA and the principles of our church's organizational structure.

19 Lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving, for God has given us new life, freedom and an eternal inheritance through the risen Christ – a gift for all people!

20 Give thanks, today and every day, for those who stir our joy and hope, and resolve to be a source of joy and hope for others.

21 Doing God's work in the world and sharing the gospel is never a fruitless endeavor – God accomplishes what God intends. Pray for the Spirit to deepen our trust in God's power and renew our strength for continuing the important work to which God has called us.

22 Pray that, together, we will always work to identify and encourage potential leaders, deacons and pastors, so that they might respond to God's call and use their gifts to share the gospel, nurture congregations, grow the church and serve our neighbors in need.

23 Pray for wisdom to discern good from evil, and for faith to know God's truth reigns.

24 The brutality and destruction of the Russia-Ukraine War have gone on for over a year. Pray for a permanent end to the violence, and remember in prayer people of all ages who yearn for peace and normality.

25 Pray that we will not judge or disparage people whose religious beliefs differ from our own or who belong to no community of faith. Promise to trust the work of the Spirit when listening to our neighbors, responding to their questions and opinions and inviting them to embrace the gift of unconditional love we experience through Jesus Christ.

26 "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth" (Psalm 86:11). Pray that, as disciples and