

27 No one should be deterred from following Christ or being welcomed into our faith communities. We ask God's guidance in practicing outreach and hospitality without bias or hesitation.

28 With thanksgiving and compassion, we remember in our prayers the many workers who harvest crops and glean fields during the fall so that others will not go hungry.

29 As we talk, listen and act about the reality of racism within us and around us, we ask God to instill in us honesty, forgiveness and a dedication to the work of reconciliation that does not come easily.

30 In our sighs, crying, search for words and silent prayers, we trust that God hears us and understands – and answers.

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.



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PRAYER VENTURES

SEPTEMBER 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 Fall marks new beginnings and the movement of seasons. We pray for vision to see what God is making new in creation and for hearts that are receptive to change.

2 We pray for the start-up of fall programs in congregations and give thanks for the gifts and service of volunteers, leaders and teachers.

3 As students and educators settle into a new school year, we pray that developing life skills, confidence and a sense of social responsibility complement striving for academic achievement.

4 This year marks the 15th anniversary of the full communion agreement between the ELCA and the Moravian Church in America. We pray for growing understanding and love between our churches as we follow and serve Christ together in the world.

5 We remember in times of fear to turn to God in prayer, trusting in God's steadfast presence and ability to restore hope.

6 For people who struggle with physical and mental illnesses, we pray for access to health care, healing, and that they be surrounded by caring people of faith who trust in God's power to heal and restore life.

7 We remember in our prayers Curtis and Katie Kline, ELCA missionaries working with the church in Colombia with human rights, youth and women's ministry, and HIV and AIDS.

8 We pray that God will reveal to us through Scripture the stories and assurance of God's presence and actions throughout human history, including the present.

9 Our concern for our children doesn't end at home. We pray that parents, teachers and communities work together effectively to make schools and classrooms physically and emotionally safe environments for learning.

10 We remember in our prayers leaders and diplomats who work to negotiate treaties between nations, resolve conflicts and engage in collaboration for the sake of peace and justice in the world.

11 We pray for God's Word and Spirit to inspire creativity in how we share and teach the good news of Jesus Christ in diverse settings, cultures and generations.

12 We ask God to guide our words and speech, to forgive us when we offend or fail to speak up for others, and to help us realize the power of our words when we give witness to God's work in the world through Jesus Christ.

13 Today is "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. We remember in our prayers our brothers and sisters in Christ – of all ages – engaged in loving service with others on this day and every day.

14 In our daily life as baptized children of God, we pray to be filled with the same relentless spirit of service and compassion as Jesus.

15 We remember in our prayers people who trace their heritage to Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, and the 147 Latino ministries of the ELCA, especially during National Hispanic Heritage Month.

16 We give thanks for the generosity and concern of youth and congregations at the ELCA Youth Gathering for raising more than \$402,000 for ELCA World Hunger-supported water projects around the world.

17 Our faith and our mission in the world do not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God. We pray that God will work in and through us and that we will be humble and willing servants in the world.

18 We remember in prayer the 800 associates in ministry, clergy, deaconesses and diaconal ministers who serve in specialized pastoral-care ministries with people who are ill, imprisoned, elderly, troubled, conflicted and afflicted.

19 We pray that God guide our wisdom and actions in everything we do and that our lives manifest peace, gentleness, mercy, and actions reflecting God's will, justice and sincerity.

20 We give thanks in our prayers that by grace we have been saved through faith – a gift from God for all humankind.

21 We remember in our prayers those congregations working at renewing themselves as communities of faith that are growing, vibrant, diverse and engaged in God's mission locally and globally.

22 We give thanks for generous gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign and pray that we may continue our support of the work to end malaria in Africa.

23 We persist in our commitment to addressing the root of violence and responding to community violence and the people it affects, and we pray for wisdom, strength and devotion in proclaiming the forgiveness and love of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

24 Refugees and immigrants around the world continue to seek safety and places where they can prosper. We remember in our prayers people who have been displaced by war and instability in their home country and ask God that they will be welcomed and cared for with dignity and respect.

25 We pray that all faith communities will work together to encourage and equip society in caring for creation – a gift from God, the fair distribution and use of its resources, and restoring what we have neglected or damaged.

26 We pray that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God, the one we know and trust as our rock and our redeemer.