

23 In this time when power, position and wealth seem to wield more influence and attract more attention than humility, service and generosity, we ask the Holy Spirit to keep us centered in the heart and mind of Jesus, remind us of what God values and direct our attention to people – today and throughout history – who exemplify Jesus' compassion and concern for humanity.

24 Pray the Holy Spirit continues to reveal to us the value and meaning of accompaniment – walking together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers around the world.

25 Give thanks for God's attentiveness to our prayers – spoken in every language, whispered or silent.

26 Pray for ministry candidates and their families as they await assignment and for those who are involved in the assignment process of helping leaders move forward in their response to God's call to ministry and service – wherever it may lead them.

27 We hold in prayer our leaders gathered for the Conference of Bishops, that they be inspired and sustained by the Holy Spirit for the work of guiding our church in its mission in a complex and changing world that continues to yearn for hope, reconciliation, purpose and good news – the very things we know and experience through Jesus Christ.

28 Pray for faith in God's ways and wisdom, a wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and compassionate acts, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

29 *Michael and All Angels* The mystery of angels – God's messengers – is alive in Scripture and experienced in the world throughout history. Give thanks for all spiritual beings created by God to worship and praise God, fight against evil, protect and help us, and convey to us God's word and will.

30 Give thanks for the diverse and sometimes surprising ways in which members of the body of Christ do God's work in the world and for how the Spirit equips us uniquely for serving our neighbor in unexpected situations and places.

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PRAYER VENTURES

SEPTEMBER 2018

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 that we are a church that values, seeks and works to build connections and partnerships in our communities and globally for doing God's work together using the abundance of assets, skills and diverse perspectives we have as the body of Christ.

2 Traditions in the church can help guide and enrich our faith and worship, and they can sometimes present boundaries and stumbling blocks. Pray our traditions and religious practices are dynamic, meaningful and reflect our theology, Scripture, ministry contexts and prayerful discernment of what God is revealing to us today.

3 *Labor Day* On this day we pray for and recognize the work people do for the benefit of society and the sustenance of their families. Pray all have fair, safe work, are renewed through times of sabbath, and find joy and fulfillment in their labor; pray for all those who seek employment and for the well-being and care for people who are unable to work.

4 ELCA campus ministry has a presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide. Pray for leaders and congregations serving students, faculty and staff, and for Lutheran Campus Ministry Network's work of strengthening and sustaining ELCA campus ministries.

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

6 Pray, as followers of Christ, that we are bold examples and practitioners of civility, respect, truth, justice and empathy for our neighbor in everything we do and say, in every place and circumstance.

7 Remember in prayer young adults beginning a year of service with the Young Adults in Global Mission program; pray the Spirit will equip, sustain and encourage them as they work alongside companion churches and organizations in communities around the world.

8 Pray for seasonal workers who are seeking new employment and places to live, that they are affirmed for their gifts and service and find employment with fair wages, affordable housing and welcoming, supportive communities and congregations.

9 Ask God to sharpen our awareness of when we demonstrate favoritism in our relationships, ministry and daily life, and reassure us of the grace and forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ freeing us to confess our prejudices and strive to change for the sake of doing God's work in the world – without bias.

10 Give thanks to God for the season of fall with its new beginnings, abundant harvests that feed the hungry and rhythms of change in nature that move us to reflect on God with awe and praise.

11 Sing, shout and whisper praises to God, our creator, hope, help and advocate for the poor, hungry, ill, imprisoned, forgotten and oppressed; our inspiration, guide and example.

12 Give thanks for people who work the land and oceans to feed themselves and the world; pray for people living in regions suffering from draught, soil unable to sustain agriculture and changing climate, and ask God to help us find ways to exercise generosity with our resources and food while working together for appropriate and lasting solutions to agricultural problems and hunger.

13 Pray we never lose sight of people – our neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ – who live in poverty and that we serve as trustworthy advocates and friends who are generous with our resources and care, respectful, value the gifts of all people and are committed to ending poverty and hunger everywhere.

14 Give thanks for the service and leadership of our retired rostered ministers, and pray they continue to respond to God's call to new opportunities – even in retirement – for sharing their gifts, wisdom and experience in their communities, the church and world.

15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month* Give thanks to God for the gifts, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latino brothers and sisters, and pray for the growth and vitality of the 147 Latino ministries of the ELCA as they share the gospel, equip leaders and serve their neighbors.

16 How do we describe Jesus? We pray that through our baptism and the work of the Spirit we are imprinted with a deep understanding and faith in Jesus as the son of God, the one true messiah – our salvation, hope and light.

17 Remember in prayer the Rev. David and Alecia Brondos, ELCA missionaries working with theological education in Mexico; the Rev. Meghan Brown Saavedra, YAGM country coordinator for Mexico; and the young adults serving alongside our companions in Mexico as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

18 In the midst of the hurricane season and increasingly unpredictable weather, pray for regions of our nation and world susceptible to severe weather and natural disasters; pray for those who are recovering and rebuilding in the wake of disasters, especially where resources and long-term assistance are sparse.

19 Ask God to help guide and temper our words and the manner in which we speak to others so that our speech and tone serve to bless, demonstrate concern and encourage rather than injure, condemn, belittle or divide.

20 Pray for refugees and immigrants everywhere, asking God to grant them safe passage and the diligent support of advocates, caring companions and welcoming congregations and communities.

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. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 Pause what you are doing, look around and listen to the concerns and joys of your heart; talk with God about what catches your attention or weighs on you.