

22 *First day of fall* “In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth: born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth” (“Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom,” ACS 1064). Sing praise to God for creating and entrusting to our care the earth, its natural resources and the inspiring beauty of all living things, including humankind.

23 Pray for church leaders as they gather for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference in New Orleans to study and reflect on stewardship and to equip themselves for cultivating generosity in congregations. Give thanks for how God works through this partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the ELCA’s stewardship and generosity team.

24 Praise God that our church gathers and nurtures the gifts of so many through congregations, synods and special ministries to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, care for neighbors in need, equip and encourage one another, and invite all to experience the blessings of being valued members of faith communities.

25 Remember in prayer those who are fighting cancer or experiencing a wide range of emotions upon receiving a cancer diagnosis. Pray that we and our faith communities will offer steadfast support, care and encouragement to them and their families.

26 Pray that all people will know the love, peace and wisdom that comes from God, made real to us through the birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection of our true savior, Jesus Christ.

27 “Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both,” wrote Lutheran theologian Karl Barth (1886-1968). “But interpret newspapers from your

Bible.” Ask God to help us attend to our communities, nation and world, and remember that our faith in Jesus Christ calls us to foster peace, justice, love, forgiveness and healing among all people.

28 The story of Lazarus and the rich man in the gospels of Luke and John reminds us of God’s love and concern for those who suffer poverty, illness and neglect. Pray that we will embrace all people as neighbors who deserve respect, compassion, love and inclusion.

29 *Michael and All Angels* Ask the Spirit to help us be aware of God’s activity in the world and to strengthen our faith when we are perplexed by the mysteries of God’s ways and the presence of angels and spiritual beings who serve as God’s messengers.

30 Ask God to bless and guide the work of the ELCA Gender Justice and Women’s Empowerment program, informed by the unique voices and experiences of people across race, ethnicity, ability, class, sexuality and age. Pray for the advancement of gender justice in the church and society — justice grounded in Scripture, Lutheran theology and people of all gender identities working together.

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

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 *Labor Day* Praise the work people do to sustain their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, receive encouragement, be renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor. Pray for those who seek employment and for the care, support and well-being of people unable to work.

2 “Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:1-2). Pray that our fears, prejudices and ideologies will not prevent us from showing love, respect and hospitality to one another — friends, family and strangers alike.

3 *Suicide Prevention Month* Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who feel lonely, depressed and hopeless, that they will find compassion, support and spiritual renewal in times of darkness and suffering. Ask the Spirit to inspire and guide our care, support and counsel for those who are contemplating suicide, and for those who grieve the loss of someone to suicide.

4 Give thanks for the faithful service and leadership of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Pray that her faith, gifts and commitment will continue to inspire us to work for justice and peace, to love and serve our neighbors, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a world yearning for hope and renewal.

5 “Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments” (Psalm 112:1). Pray that we will find joy and guidance in the ways and commandments of God and be inspired by God’s wisdom, love for humanity and concern for those who suffer.

6 The 2025 Churchwide Assembly has elected the Rev. Yehiel Curry to serve as the next presiding bishop of the ELCA. Pray that the Spirit will strengthen his faith, gifts and wisdom as he leads our church in its mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ, reflect God’s abundant love and mercy for the world, and serve our neighbors in need.

7 *“God’s work. Our hands.”* Sunday ELCA congregations join together today for our annual day of service, celebrating that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Pray for service activities around the country that unite people, ecumenical partners and community agencies as we serve our neighbors in need, strengthen our communities and demonstrate God’s love.

8 Pray for the resolution of international conflicts that cause suffering, violence, mistrust, injustice, economic crises and political instability. Ask God to forgive us for sometimes playing a role in these conflicts, intentional or not.

9 Pray for our missionaries in Latin America and the Caribbean and for the Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers serving in Mexico, Argentina and Uruguay, that the Spirit will nurture their faith as they accompany global companions in ministries that include education, immigration and pastoral leadership.

10 Pray for faith in the ways and thoughts of God, which stretch beyond our comprehension and imagination yet stir awe and devotion.

11 Give thanks for deacons in congregations and faith-based organizations. Praise God for their gifts and service in a variety of ministries, including camps, nursing, music, education, administration, social service, and youth and family ministries.

12 Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our discipline so that we might better study and reflect on the Word of God and its significance in our daily lives.

13 Give thanks and pray for volunteers of all ages and abilities who serve in congregations, outdoor ministries, Lutheran social ministry organizations, ELCA Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Response, Mission Builders and community social services.

14 Pray that we will consider thoughtfully the wide-ranging impact of proclaiming that “all are welcome” in our congregations and the church.

15 *First Day of National Hispanic Heritage Month*
Give thanks to God for the gifts, contributions, traditions and rich cultural diversity of our Latiné neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask God to bless the ELCA’s 147 Latiné ministries, which share the gospel, serve their neighbors, promote inclusivity and support rostered and lay leaders. Pray for the Spirit to guide

and further the work of the ELCA Latino Ministries Association.

16 Take time to pray for the people and situations that first came to mind when you awoke this morning.

17 Give thanks and praise to God, who shows us mercy and patience, knows our gifts and stirs within us meaning and purpose for our baptismal journey.

18 Pray for ELCA World Hunger leaders, congregations and ministry partners participating in the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Columbus, Ohio, that their sharing, planning and networking will enrich their work to address hunger and its root causes in our communities and the world.

19 “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises” (Psalm 98:4). Join your siblings in Christ in prayers of praise and thanksgiving for our amazing God!

20 Pray for Palestinians in Gaza, its surrounding areas and wherever they have fled in search of shelter and relief from war. Pray that the devastation and suffering will end and that leaders will commit to peaceful solutions, reconciliation, mutual respect and the rebuilding of communities that can thrive.

21 Remember in prayer those recovering from devastating floods and grieving the loss of loved ones and neighbors. Give thanks for the work we do through Lutheran Disaster Response to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, support long-term recovery and restore the vitality of communities. Ask God to strengthen and bless our partnerships with synods, congregations, local relief agencies and ecumenical relief programs.