

the Holy Spirit in all their deliberations.

### **25 Mark, Evangelist**

As St. Mark set an example for others by being the first Gospel writer, ask God to bless Pastor Thomas E. Hughes and the members of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Hayden, Idaho, that they will be a blessing and an example of faithful discipleship.

### **26 Third Sunday of Easter**

God of hope, we praise you for the witness of the growing churches in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Continue to strengthen and comfort these churches as they reach out with compassion to their neighbors.

**27** Ask God to be with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson as he speaks at the Mobilization to End Poverty event, April 26-29, that his words may inspire the gathering to engage thousands of Christians to advocate for a reduction in domestic and global poverty.

**28** Pray for Carolyn and Jim Brown, who are serving at the Ngaoundéré Protestant Hospital in Cameroon, Carolyn in nursing and Jim as surgical program director.

**29** Thank God for the energy and commitment of Lutheran teenagers. The six congregations of the Southwest Iowa Ministry collected new items of underwear for the Open Door Mission in Omaha, which serves the homeless. The confirmation classes sorted and packed the 1,700 items.

**30** Remember in prayer the Rev. Phillip Baker, ELCA regional representative for theological education in Asia. Praise God for the opportunities and relationships he builds with people at Asian educational institutions and seminaries.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prayer Ventures is produced by ELCA Communication Services in cooperation with other units of the ELCA. Contact [info@elca.org](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Communication Services, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone 800/638-3522, ext. 2957.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# PRAYER VENTURES

APRIL 2009

*Prayer petitions for Sundays follow the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and can be incorporated into the prayers at weekly worship. Weekday entries are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social, and outreach ministries of the church. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thanks be to God! Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

**1** Pray for Pastor Sam and Cindy Wolff, who serve at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, Germany. Trinity is an international congregation jointly supported by the ELCA and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that ministers to English-speaking Christians in the area.

**2** In this season of Lent, when fasting is a common discipline, give thanks for all the members of the ELCA who have contributed to the purchase of 90 metric tons of seed and fertilizer, distributed to about 15,000 families affected by the food and health crisis in Zimbabwe.

**3** Pray for Pastor Roger Rogahn, who serves at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. He is a professor at the largest Arab-language theological institution in the world, which trains pastors for the Evangelical Synod of the Nile and other churches in the Middle East.

**4** Pray for the hundreds of clients of Open Arms Minnesota, Minneapolis, which prepares and delivers free nutritious meals to people in the area living with HIV/AIDS. Helped by a grant from ELCA World Hunger, the program also feeds the clients' dependent children and related caregivers,.

### **5 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

Lord of the nations, we pray for the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines as they struggle with religious and political diversity. Grant that they may receive your peace and a sense of the richness of life that comes through your abundant gifts.

**6** Please ask for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit for Eyuel Bedane as he develops the ELCA ministry among the Oromo (Ethiopian) community in Houston, Texas. This ministry, started a year ago, is housed at Salem Lutheran Church in Houston.

## **7 World Health Day**

Give thanks for the ministry of the ELCA Board of Pensions, with its emphasis on wellness for leaders in the ELCA, and for diaconal minister and parish nurse Tammy Devine, who leads that effort.

**8** Lift up Randall and Carol Stubbs, teaching music at Makumira University College, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Rejoice with this couple and their students as they experience the gifts of music and friendship.

**9** Give thanks for volunteers who serve God through Lutheran Home of Mercy in Williston, Ohio, and other ELCA health ministries, literally and figuratively washing the feet of their neighbors as servants, without expectation of reward.

## **10 Good Friday**

Pray for Chaplain Kenath Harris and other military chaplains serving in Afganistan and Iraq, as they put their lives on the line to bring the story of salvation through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ to young people in dangerous surroundings.

**11** Pray for the nine young ELCA members who are serving in the United Kingdom this year through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, including Allison Sutton, Erik Thone and Amanda Wieland.

## **12 Resurrection of Our Lord**

Blessed God, in the midst of serious political and economic challenges in the region, we pray for the people of Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan, that your abundant grace may be showered upon them.

**13** Praise God for Shurie Madery, who is giving a year of her life to serve in a social ministry in Kenya. Thank God for the wide interest and participation in the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

**14** We pray for Advent Lutheran Church, Lake Ann, Mich., and its developer, the Rev. Justin A. Grimm, as they prepare for a capital fund drive for their first building. May God's vision of their future inspire them with a passion for ministry and generous support of that future.

**15** Pray for Lynda McConnell, Suzanne Strekal and Katie Blobaum, volunteer teachers at Gymnazium JA Komenskeho in Kosice, Slovakia. The Gymnazium is one of several church-related schools to which the ELCA sends teachers.

**16** Please pray for the continued growth of Family of God Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, S.D. Economic uncertainties have seriously impeded expected growth in the area. Ask God to encourage Pastor Bob Hansen as he continues to knock on doors in the community.

**17** Pray for the Rev. Robert and the Rev. Janice Marie Lowden, who serve as regional representatives of the ELCA for East Africa. Their ministry focuses on companion churches and relationships in Tanzania and Rwanda.

**18** Thank God for the passion for mission and commitment to God's church of retired Pastors Carl L. Johnson (Kenosha, Wis.) and William F Funk III (Fairhope, Ala.), who continue to bless new ELCA congregations with their gifts for witnessing and inviting neighbors to develop relationships with Jesus Christ.

## **19 Second Sunday of Easter**

God of mercy, send gentle rains upon the lands of Djibouti and Somalia. May the fields bear fruit and the people be renewed in the midst of the constant threat of drought and hunger.

**20** Please pray for Eben Ezer Lutheran Church, Oaks, Okla., and Pastor Jack Russell. Eben Ezer has served American Indians -- predominantly Cherokee -- in this economically depressed community since its organization in 1903.

**21** Pray for ELCA State Public Policy Offices as they advocate for families struggling in tough economic times, and for the support of health and human services facing state budget cuts.

## **22 Earth Day**

Give thanks for Beth Duman and other volunteer members of the Southeast Michigan Synod's Environmental Justice Task Force, calling others to awareness and action for all aspects of environmental justice, recognizing the full expanse of God's Creation.

## **23 World Book and Copyright Day**

Give thanks for the ministries of Pastor Allan and Marie Krahn in Brazil; Allan serves the library of the Lutheran seminary in São Leopoldo and Marie teaches Hebrew.

**24** Ask God to bless the ELCA Alaska, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northeastern Minnesota, Western Iowa and Rocky Mountain Synods, meeting in assembly April 23-30, that they may be guided by