

## 25 Conversion of Paul

Lord, who through the hard work and travels of your servant Paul revealed you to the seven churches of Asia, encouraging, reproofing, and challenging those first Christian communities, continue to walk with today's churches in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

**26** Remember Barbara and Pastor John LeMond as they serve within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. John teaches world religions at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, and coordinates interfaith programs with the Tao Fang Shan Centre.

**27** Church of the Resurrection is a new ELCA mission congregation in Ashburn, Va., located in one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Ask God's blessing on developer James Jordan and this multicultural faith community that seeks to deal with the hard issues of wealth, poverty and justice.

**28** Pray for the ministry of writers in this church, especially our leaders who will write for *Lutheran Partners* magazine in 2009 on the challenge of stewardship, faith's relevancy, faith and patriotism, raising children, worship and vocation, and telling the story of creation.

**29** Give thanks for Pastor Darrell Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries, and all the people who attended his "Care for Returning Veterans" workshops; may their ministries to returning vets be productive for all.

**30** Pray for Jane and Pastor Ted Zimmerman in their ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK). Ted teaches New Testament at Lutheran Theological Seminary and assists with pastoral leadership of one of the congregations of the ELCHK.

**31** Thank God for Calvary Lutheran Church in East Cleveland and Pastor Mulba Borsay, and their ministry for young people who have gone through the terror of war in their native Liberia.

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.

# PRAYER VENTURES

JANUARY 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. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

## 1 Name of Jesus

Pray for Pastor Remedios Cruz, pastor developer, and the people gathering in the Hispanic community of Hialeah, Fla., as *Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Jesus Rey de Gloria*, literally lifting up the name of Jesus in that community.

**2** Pray for Allison Schmitt, communications assistant for Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Pray also for the ELCJHL and its witness in a turbulent region.

**3** Ask God's guidance and direction for Church of the Resurrection, Roanoke, Texas, and the Rev. Douglas Schoelles. This congregation under development is searching for property to build for its future.

## 4 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Merciful God, we remember with hope the gift of peace. Grant your peace upon Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, that the power of your love may be known.

**5** Please pray for Nile Lutheran Mission and the Rev. Jordan Long as they reach out to refugees from Sudan and Burundi now living in the Rochester, N.Y., area.

## 6 Epiphany of Our Lord

On this day we celebrate the leading of the Magi to the infant Jesus by a star and give thanks also for Pastor Mary France and the members of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Monroe, Wash., as they strive to guide others to faith in Christ.

**7** Pray for Judy Perry as she assists in medical work to mothers and infants in the People's Republic of China and engages in health worker training with the Evergreen Foundation. Pray for all medical workers and those who care for the ill and suffering throughout Asia.

**8** Pray for the enrollment managers and admissions directors of the 28 colleges and universities related to the ELCA who are convening their annual conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., January 8-10.

**9** Praise God for the refugee ministry of St. Andrew Church in Cairo, Egypt, served by ELCA missionaries Kathy Kamphoefner and Paul Pierce. Pray for the refugee families as they learn a new culture and build new lives in Cairo.

### **10 Human Trafficking Awareness Eve**

Pray that workers for Lutheran social service agencies who resettle immigrants will be protected from such groups as the “snake heads” of New York. These groups follow social workers to see where they visit in hopes of finding undocumented people they can seize for sexual slavery.

### **11 Baptism of Our Lord**

Transforming God, we remember with joy the Baptism of Christ Jesus, your Son. Call your children of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq into your embrace, that they may be immersed in your life-giving Holy Spirit.

**12** Thank God for the ministry of Laura Stephenson at the *Huria Kristen Batak Protestan* Deaconess school in Indonesia. Laura works with women to improve their English language skills, as well as to develop an ESL program for the school.

**13** Pray for Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and other theologians and biblical scholars of this church, that God will sustain them in their vocations and open the church to their insight and wisdom.

**14** Pray for Krystal Overmyer, communications assistant for the Costa Rican Lutheran Church, who facilitates delegations visiting Lutheran brothers and sisters in Costa Rica. Thank God for the companion relationship between the Southwestern Texas Synod and the CRLC.

**15** Pray for the governing boards of ELCA colleges and universities meeting this month.

**16** Give thanks for the continued ministry of Drs. Helmut and Rotraut Diefenthal, who spend 10 months a year at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) in Moshi, Tanzania, and for the companion relationships

that exist between ELCA synods and dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**17** Many ELCA seminarians use the month of January to explore ministry in places where they cross boundaries of culture and class. Pray that they may gain wisdom that will help them lead this church in crossing those boundaries in their future ministries.

### **18 Confession of Peter**

Almighty God, grant your wisdom and love upon the people of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, that they may live in peace and harmony.

**19** In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as the ELCA approaches a full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church, thank God for dialogues among churches and Christian communities. for better understanding, and for the opportunity to share “one Lord, one faith, one Baptism.”

**20** Ask God to bless the ministry of *Senda de Amor*, and Pastor Renayldo de Jesus and his wife Maria, as they minister and worship in Appleton, Wis., as an ecumenical partnership of the ELCA, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Episcopal Church.

**21** Give thanks to God for Angela and Jake Rapp, ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, and their willingness to serve the people of Argentina, where Angela leads workshops for children in a community development center and Jake serves at the Nelson Mandela Center.

**22** Thank God for the joint ministry of Mariners and Fishers with the Episcopal Church in the Caribbean Synod, which serves mariners that travel the Caribbean Islands.

**23** Lift up in prayer all the ELCA leaders attending the Transformative Lutheran Theologies Conference in Chicago, January 23-24, that God will guide this church in its theological understanding of and leadership towards justice for women in church and in society..

**24** Pray for Tim Wrenn, Luther Seminary intern, as he serves as Intern Pastor at St. Andrew’s Church in Cairo, Egypt. Ask God to fill his intern year with opportunities for growth and for receiving the stories of the St. Andrew’s community.