

26 8th Sunday After Pentecost

God of hope, we give thanks for the diversity among the Caribbean nations. We pray for the poor and disadvantaged, that they may have hope; for justice and the observance of human rights; for goodness in the midst of the beauty of the region; and for all people that they may live full lives as your children. Please continue to bless the companion synod relationships between the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod and ministries and churches in Jamaica, Haiti, Suriname, Guyana, and Cuba.

27 Warm summer weather and dry winds make the perfect combination for devastating wildfires, especially in California and Texas. Give thanks for congregations that offer shelter, food and other necessities to victims and firefighters when uncontrollable wildfires sweep through their communities.

28 Pray for the congregations involved in Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's "Be Not Afraid" project, designed to help them be informed, equipped and prepared to advocate for better immigration policies.

29 Pray for Julie Ziegler and Kristian Kovacs, who graduated from Wittenberg University this year, and all college graduates who during these difficult economic times are looking for employment.

30 Thank God for the ministry of Ann Bjerke, volunteering at the Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza in Managua, Nicaragua, as communication and youth minister.

31 Give thanks for the 1,045 people elected as voting members to next month's churchwide assembly, as they prepare to travel, read all the material they receive in advance, and anticipate having to make several difficult decisions.

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 for additional information: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Communication Services, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone 800/638-3522, ext. 2458.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES JULY 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 Thank God for the service of the Rev. Kim Erno, who directs the ELCA Immersion Program at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City. Ask God to bless him and all who participate in the experiences offered through the Center.

2 Please pray for Laura, as she learns about success while working for the first time as part of Project SEARCH, an innovative school-to-work program to help high school students who have cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and autism achieve independence, in Cincinnati.

3 Thomas, Apostle

Thank God for the gifted people lifted up as leaders of new congregations: Timothy Pan (Diamond Bar, Calif.), Newman Chiu (Torrance, Calif.), David Barnes (Cecil County, Md.), Ramon Santos Mendez (Providence, R.I.), Miguel Gomez Acosta (Mesa, Ariz.), Solomon Negassa (Las Vegas) and Paul Sorensen (Phoenix). May God provide the physical, emotional, and spiritual strength necessary to grow faithful, committed disciples.

4 U.S. Independence Day

Remember all ELCA chaplains serving in the military, particularly those who are deployed, providing Word and Sacrament ministry within the combat zones.

5 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Gracious God, bring healing to the economic and political wounds felt by the people of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Grant them peace and the protection of your warm embrace.

6 Give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Stephanie Quick, who is developing a new congregation for the Costa Rican Lutheran Church in Guapiles. She is also involved in creating an ecological immersion program at the church's retreat center.

7 Thank God for those leaders who serve in times of adversity, especially Deb Hanson and other leaders in North Dakota and Minnesota where the Red River flooded. May God provide strength and guidance as they continue to offer needed goods, services, and hope to people as they clean-up and make repairs.

8 Give thanks for Carsten Burnside, Rebecca Mason, Rachel Liptak, Carol Anderson, Jennifer Christen and Stephanie Olson as they complete a year of teaching English as a Second Language in Tisovec and Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia.

9 Thank God for the Rev. Ingebjorg Laugeland, who serves as children and youth pastor at Hjelmeland Lutheran Parish in Norway on behalf of the ELCA.

10 Ask God to be with the students and faculty at Lutheran Summer Music program, that the six-week study period will be beneficial to all involved, especially the students participating in the student recital this evening.

11 World Population Day

Give thanks for Bethel Lutheran Church, Cupertino, Calif., and other congregations that provide summer programs where children of preschool and elementary school ages can discover God's world in an enriching environment.

12 6th Sunday After Pentecost

God of peace, we thank you for the people of the Costa Rican Lutheran Church, the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod, the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua, and for the mutuality and solidarity that comes from their companion synod relationships with eight ELCA synods. Watch over them with your love and grant them the strength to rise with the sun to meet each day.

13 Ask God to bless the 350 people who recently participated in a Lutheran revival in the Beartooth Mountains of Montana, that their spiritual passion, rekindled at that event, will stir up a commitment to God's mission and ministry in their communities, synod, and beyond.

14 Lift up the ministry of the Rev. Charles Fredrickson and Elizabeth Borstad, who serve the English-speaking Meita ministry of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nagoya, Japan, and for Meita's congregational and outreach programs.

15 Remember the Magee family of Parkersburg, Iowa, whose home was flattened by the tornado that destroyed a large portion of their city last spring. Pray for all of those who have endured floods, storms and other natural disasters, and for Lutheran Disaster Response and the people and organizations helping them become whole once again.

16 Praise God for the energy and enthusiasm of Dan Beirne, serving as program assistant for the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod in El Salvador. Ask God to continue to bless Dan and his ministry through the friendships he forms.

17 Please request the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit for the Rev. Sam Radoman and Lutheran Chapel of the Hills, the remnant of a congregation that left the ELCA, as they discern God's will for their ministry of Word, Sacrament and service in Kerrville, Texas.

18 Ask God to be with Tamara and the other youth and counselors attending the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event and the Definitely Abled Youth Leadership Event in New Orleans July 19-22.

19 7th Sunday After Pentecost

God of justice, bring to the people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, especially those living in poverty, the hope and truth that you give to all your children through your Spirit.

20 Ask God to guide the thousands of youth and adults traveling to New Orleans this week to celebrate Jesus-Justice-Jazz and to prepare to change the world at the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering, July 22-26.

21 Please pray for Pastor Timothy Fong and the members of Church of the Way in Garland, Texas, for the spiritual development of core members, that lay leaders remain faithful and enthusiastic in serving, and for continued growth in mission and evangelism in the coming months.

22 Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Ask God to bless Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade and their service with the HIV/AIDS ministry, the Mashiah Foundation and the ministries of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.

23 We pray for St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Mich., as they search for a pastor with the vision and gifts to lead them through a time of transformation, and as they and members of a neighboring congregation discern whether to call a pastor together.

24 Give thanks for those concluding service through Young Adults in Global Mission, the ELCA global mission program for young people ages 19-30, especially Whitney Guldborg, Malory Hendrickson, Sarah Rossing, and Alisha Ohlert, who served in Mexico.

25 James, Apostle

Thank God for our partners in Lutheran World Relief, who were on the ground and already serving thousands of displaced people when the civil war in Sri Lanka abruptly ended in May, opening new camps of hope even with dwindling supplies.