

Finschhafen, Papua New Guinea. Sister Ruth engages students and teaching colleagues in Bible study and prayer. Pray also for the students and faculty as they learn about and witness to God's love together.

### **23 United Nations Public Service Day**

Pray for the 3,500 young adults who begin their work as camp counselors and leaders in ELCA outdoor ministries this summer.

### **24 John the Baptist**

Pray for campus ministry staff at public institutions and non-ELCA private colleges as they gather in Chicago with Episcopal colleagues for their annual conference June 24-27.

**25** Rejoice with the Rev. Dana Nelson and Thomas Ososki as they walk with our brothers and sisters in Peru. They serve the Cristo Rey Lutheran Congregation in Lima through Word and Sacrament ministry in new mission starts, as well as assist the *Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Peruana* (ILEP) in mission strategy.

**26** International Day in Support of Victims of Torture Pray for Timothy Wrenn, an intern at St. Andrew's United Church, Cairo, Egypt, who studies at Luther Seminary, and for St. Andrew's ministry to 180 children from Southern Sudan, Darfur, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Burundi.

**27** Give thanks to God for the thousands of ELCA members and congregations who, through their investments in the Mission Investment Fund, support 790 congregations as they build new facilities and renovate existing ones.

### **28 4th Sunday After Pentecost**

Come, Lord Jesus, into the life of Christian churches in Bolivia, Chile and Peru. Help them be signs of your mercy as they work with the poor, the indigenous and the marginalized, and give them courage and faithfulness to walk in your steps.

### **29 Peter and Paul, Apostles**

Thank God for leaders who commit themselves to service in God's mission, and ask God to bless them. At this time five leaders from American Indian-Alaska Native ministries are being educated to become ordained ELCA pastors: Mark Allred, Jennie Lightfoot, Melinda Shriner, Larry Thiele and Norma Trimble.

**30** Pray for the many youth disciples, adult leaders, staff and volunteers, teachers and speakers, performers and exhibitors who will seek to live out compassionate justice at the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering, "Jesus \* Justice \* Jazz," July 26-30 in New Orleans.

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

JUNE 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** Ask God to bless synods, meeting in assembly this month, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all their deliberations: Allegheny, Indiana-Kentucky, New Jersey, N. Carolina, Central States, E.-Central of Wisconsin, Metropolitan Chicago, N.E. Pennsylvania, S. Ohio, W. Virginia-W. Maryland, W. N. Dakota, Montana Synod, Nebraska, N.E. Iowa, Southeastern, S.W. California, Virginia, S.-Central of Wisconsin, Central/S. Illinois, Grand Canyon, Lower Susquehanna, N.W. Pennsylvania, S.E. Iowa, S.W. Minnesota, La Crosse Area, S.W. Pennsylvania, N. Illinois, Upper Susquehanna, Caribbean, S. Dakota and S.E. Minnesota.

**2** Thank God for Pastor Steve Klemz and members of Rocky Mountain Synod congregations who will be in Mexico City and Cuernavaca June 9-17 on their second mission trip to accompany those who are poor and oppressed.

**3** Give thanks for the young people who give one year of their lives to serve the church around the world through the Young Adults in Global Mission Program. Pray especially for Sarah Fitch and Christina Pelto who serve in Slovakia and Winona Brueggemann, Blair Fingland, Aubrey Kesecker, and Kandisa Skaff, serving in England.

#### **4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**

Pray for Body of Christ Lutheran Church, Newaygo, Mich., and Pastor Scott Swix as they explore new ways to partner with the community to minister with youth and those in need of social services.

#### **5 World Environment Day**

Join Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Detroit, Mich., and Pastor Matthew Bode in offering thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to proclaim Jesus by serving people through the Sunshine Preschool, weekly meal programs and the community garden.

**6** Lift up in prayer Ian and the Rev. Joyce Graue, serving in the Central African Republic. Ian coordinates the Village Education Program and Joyce coordinates women's programs for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

#### **7 The Holy Trinity**

Merciful God, we thank you for the growing peace in Angola and Mozambique, and for the Lutheran churches there who have a positive impact on their communities through health service programs and the proclamation of the Good News.

**8** Pray for the participants of "At the Center" summer worship retreats as they join in reflection, study and discussion of the cross and empty tomb, Baptism and the Bible .

**9** Give thanks that Lutheran World Relief is able to continue to work in Sudan despite the government's suspension of over a dozen major aid organizations.

**10** Give thanks for the work of Linda Gawthorne among the indigenous Kogi people of Colombia. Displaced from their land in the Santa Marta Mountains by violence, many now reside in Bogotá, where Linda provides spiritual nurturing and is helping translate the Bible into Kogi.

#### **11 Barnabas, Apostle**

Praise God for Pastor Benjamin and Margit Coltvét, serving at the American Church in Berlin. The congregation builds on its diverse membership to reach out to the changing population of the German capital.

**12** Ask God to bless the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, with the ELCA, in partnership with Lutheran World Relief, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the United Nations Foundation, supporting the work of companion churches around the world. The Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl is developing plans for this important new ministry.

**13** Remember in prayers Kira Elliott, Megan Richards, and Lynnea Walker, serving as teachers in China through the Amity Foundation.

#### **14 2nd Sunday After Pentecost**

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the signs of hope in Brazil today. Continue to enliven the church in its witness to the hope in Christ that is brought within reach of men, women and children in their everyday lives.

**15** Give thanks for all ELCA short-term volunteers who contribute three to six months to service in Indonesia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nicaragua, and Nigeria.

**16** We pray for guidance and direction for Pastor Mary Lou "Skip" Brashear and the congregation of New Hope Lutheran Mission, Blanco, Texas. This group of people

is energetic, committed and eager as they launch a new ministry in this rural Texas community.

**17** World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought Pray for people who are forced to adapt to an increasingly unpredictable natural environment, and for those who speak out and educate on the calamities of climate change, including Mary Minette, ELCA's director for environmental advocacy.

**18** Rejoice in the ministry of Edna Johnson, a nurse in Liberia who works with Curran Health Program medical staff to provide primary health care to rural villages. Pray that the program will continue to enhance the lives of residents.

**19** Pray for the members of the ELCA who, through the e-advocacy network, act to better their communities, their states and the world, that the Spirit will move them in the right direction.

#### **20 World Refugee Day**

Give thanks for the 18-year ministry of Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr., president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, as he prepares to retire this year. Ask God to guide him in a new direction where his talents will continue to bless people in need around the world.

#### **21 3rd Sunday After Pentecost**

O God, you who are a part of the very fabric of our whole lives, we lift up to you the people of Argentina and Uruguay. Even as they struggle with economic challenges, may they find peace with you.

**22** Give thanks for the teaching ministry of Deaconess Ruth Ellen Rebelein at Senior Flierl Seminary near