

26 Give thanks for the dedicated service of Rebecca Duerst and David Sensenig, missionaries in Namibia. Rebecca teaches science at the Oshigambo High School in Ondangwa, and David teaches English at Martin Luther High School in Omaruru.

27 We pray for Pastor Scott Swix and Hope Community Church in Rockford, Mich., that their outreach to the community may bear fruit in hearer's lives and affirm their members' personal commitments to mission.

28 Nancy J. Hershfield recently joined the staff of Texas Lutheran University as Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations. Pray for Nancy as she begins her work to sustain the university's efforts to raise support in challenging times.

29 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

Lift up in prayer Karen Ressel as she concludes her service as business administrator with the Lutheran World Federation, working among people displaced by war in Kampala, Uganda.

30 Thank God for stirring the compassion and service of young people such as those in the youth group of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Mont., who planted and tended a garden last year and then donated the produce to Meals on Wheels.

31 Day of Pentecost

Almighty God, we give you thanks for showering your Spirit upon the churches of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. May they find continued strength to engage the social, economic and political challenges within which they witness.

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. 2957.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

MAY 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 Philip and James, Apostles

Ask God to bless synods, meeting in assembly this month, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all their deliberations: E. North Dakota, E. Washington-Idaho, S.E. Michigan, S.E. Minnesota, Florida-Bahamas, S.E. Pennsylvania, Metro. Washington, D.C., N. Great Lakes, Metro. New York, N.W. Ohio, N.W. Minnesota, S.W. Washington, N.W. Washington, S.W. Texas, N.E. Ohio, N.W. Lower Michigan, Pacifica, Oregon, Sierra Pacific, S. Dakota, New England, N.W. of Wisconsin, La Crosse Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Delaware-Maryland, Greater Milwaukee, S. Carolina, Saint Paul Area, Upstate New York and Minneapolis Area Synods.

2 Dr. Tom Morgan serves as director for Augsburg College's Center for Faith and Learning. Pray for Tom and the work of the Center as it seeks to help students connect faith, learning and life.

3 Fourth Sunday of Easter

God of wisdom, we lift up to you the leaders and people of Sudan and Uganda. May peace accords and reconciliation efforts restore the hearts and lives of those who have suffered so long.

4 Give thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor Richard Young, who serves four congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG). Also a medical doctor, he continues to coordinate and develop health programs for the ELCG.

5 Please pray for the mission developers of new congregations and synodically authorized worshipping communities. Lift up a recently appointed developer, Ramon Santos-Mendez, who will be developing La Iglesia Luterana, a satellite of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Providence, R.I.

6 Give thanks to God for the Easter season launch of "The God Thing" in the Southeast Michigan Synod. This ministry, a second-campus of Calvary Lutheran Church, Clarkston, will focus on the population of White Lake and be led by Pastor Ken Fouty.

7 Pueblo de Dios is a new congregation, under one roof with Augustana Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, S.D. Thank God for Pastor Jon Halvorson and the members of Augustana as they reach out to more than 5,000 Latinos in the greater Sioux Falls area.

8 Lift up in prayer Dr. Mamy and Noelisoa Ranaivoson in Kenya. Mamy serves as a health consultant, working with churches in Africa as they face health-related challenges, especially HIV/AIDS.

9 Ask God to guide the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance in its campaign to educate people and motivate students to take action against HIV and AIDS, especially in the U.S.

10 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Living God, we praise you for the witness and joy the churches of Kenya and Tanzania bring to the world. Let us join our voices in rejoicing. Christ has risen! Alleluia!

11 Pray for newly elected ELCA college presidents Janet Morgan Riggs (Gettysburg College) and Troy VanAken (Thiel College) as they begin their leadership of these Pennsylvania institutions.

12 Praise God for Angela Kordahl Rapp, Jacob Rapp and Stephanie Wood, who are serving in Argentina this year through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission Program.

13 Matthias, Apostle

Pray for Pastor Paul Lutz, his leadership team, and all synod advocates, that the Book of Faith Initiative may strengthen this church's fluency in the first language of faith, the language of the Scriptures.

14 Ask God to bless all who volunteer their time and gifts to teach at the Lutheran schools in Bratislava, Košice, Liptovsky Mikulas, and Tisovec, Slovakia. Today we remember those who return to the U.S. in mid-summer 2009.

15 International Day of Families

Pray that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights may inspire and guide advocacy for human rights throughout the world so that the dignity of all people may be upheld and preserved.

16 Give thanks to God for Pastor Arden Strasser, who serves as leadership developer in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia.

17 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, as the churches of Malawi and Zambia struggle in a cycle of drought and flood, give them strength to feed the hungry and wisdom to announce the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

18 Remember in your prayers Nancy Stevenson, an English teacher at Makumira College of Tumaini University, the senior seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

19 Please ask the Holy Spirit to surround and embrace Pastor Kenneth Hovland and the members of Spirit of Grace Lutheran Mission, Haslett, Texas, as they move to new quarters -- space in a school for worship and additional rental space for daily outreach ministry.

20 Give thanks for Todd Byerly, volunteer from the Southeastern Iowa Synod, who is serving at the hospital in the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

21 Ascension of Our Lord

Please pray for the people of Ascension Lutheran Church, Ogden, Utah, their call committee, and Interim Pastor Mark McClagan as they work to sustain the ministry of their congregation and preschool during their pastoral vacancy.

22 International Day for Biological Diversity

Give thanks for people who contribute generously to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and for on-site partners. Working together they improve nutrition in the community and increase possibilities for income by providing agricultural training, seeds, and seedlings to start vegetable gardens and orchards in Tortuguero, Mexico, and hundreds of other communities around the world.

23 Blessings upon the many young people participating in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Today we remember Eddie Johnson and Alicia Kelly, who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in South Africa.

24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God, look with mercy on the people of Botswana and Zimbabwe, as Zimbabwe struggles with economic and political uncertainty. May the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe and the ELCA Upstate New York Synod be a source of solace and encouragement.

25 Pray for ELCA members who are business leaders, that they will be examples of responsible stewardship and commit to practices that protect the creation, pursue justice and seek things that make for peace.