

## **25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

Give thanks for the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, which provides assessment and treatment for victims of sexual assault and their families through individual and group counseling, prevention education, a 24-hour crisis line, emergency response team and advocacy services.

**26** Pray for ELCA seminarians on internships in international settings. Today ask God's blessing on Michael Powell, an intern at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem this year. Michael served in India as a Young Adult in Global Mission before entering Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

## **27 National Day of Thanksgiving**

On this national day of thanksgiving, thank God for the people who support Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota's Great Plains Food Bank, serving one in 12 North Dakotans, nearly half of them children, every day of the year.

**28** Lift up Christian educators, Sunday school staffs, parents, pastors, and congregational leaders as they work to educate people in the Christian faith and biblical literacy.

## **29 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

Give thanks today for the gifts shared in the companion relationships among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the ELCA New England and Southeast Michigan Synods. Remember also the ELCA missionaries walking with our companions, especially Sister Sylvia Countess, assistant director for schools of the ELCJHL.

## **30 First Sunday of Advent**

Merciful God, we ask that you embrace the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone in your calming arms. We pray that you will sustain peace in these countries, and strengthen and encourage their people and leaders as healing and reconciliation continues after years of war and distrust.

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

NOVEMBER 2008



*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 All Saints Day**

Please pray for Pastor Gary N. Stiegler and all the saints at God With Us Lutheran Church in Jackson, N.J. This young mission, now beginning its second year of worship, is adding a Sunday school and a weekly Bible study.

## **2 25th Sunday After Pentecost**

We bless you, O God, for sending your Spirit into the hearts of the people of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Even as challenges continue, including discord, we ask your grace to abound.

**3** Pray for Pastor Aaron and Lynette Albrecht as they serve with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. They work with the ministry and outreach programs of the Hongo Lutheran Church, Tokyo, and provide leadership in the Hongo Student Center, a ministry among university students in the area.

**4** Thank God today for the opportunity to participate in free national elections, and ask that, no matter the outcome, our national leaders will be given wisdom, bringing well-being and harmony to our life together.

**5** Give thanks to God for the dedication and creative spirits of Martin and Suzanne Shoffner, serving with the ELCA in Palestine. Martin is the coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission in Palestine and coordinator for group trips to the Holy Land. Ask God to bless their work as they support the young adults and guide visitors.

**6** Pray for safe journeys for nearly 100 youth and adult ministry leaders from many synods of the ELCA, as they gather for "Uni-Diversity," claiming the church's calling to God's one mission through a power-filled diversity, Nov. 6-9 in Fayetteville, Ark.

**7** Pray for faithfulness, wisdom and insight for the members of the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality as they meet November 7-8 to begin discussing revisions to the draft social statement on human sexuality.

**8** Pray for Robin Strickler, assisting the Lutheran Church of Rwanda as it develops its new secondary education ministry for young people and adults, and that the growing relationship between the ELCA Sierra-Pacific Synod and Lutheran Church of Rwanda will help this small church minister to a country in the process of reconciliation and healing from the 1994 genocide.

### **9 26th Sunday After Pentecost**

Merciful God, we thank you for the power of the Bible that speaks to the people of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, the Republic of Congo and Gabon. May they find strength and wisdom in you to witness amid the social challenges of today.

**10** On this 525th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth, remember Pastor Stephen and Jean Godsall-Myers, co-directors of the ELCA Wittenberg Center in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. Pray that God will guide them as they help ELCA members explore and engage the Lutheran tradition in order to learn from the past and renew the church's mission today.

**11** Pray that the 250 outdoor ministry leaders meeting in Lake Tahoe, Nev., this week will be renewed in their commitment to camping and retreat ministry, and will continue to provide places of spiritual growth and renewal for children, youth, families and adults.

**12** Pray for Alicia and Pastor David Brondos in Mexico City. David teaches at the Theological Community of Mexico, an ecumenical association of theological schools that includes the Lutheran seminary. Praise God for the students and faculty who have welcomed Alicia and David into their community.

**13** Thank God for the new mission start among young adults in Buffalo, N.Y., and its mission developer Nathaniel Preisinger. Nate is a participant in the New Emergent Church Leadership Pilot Project of the ELCA and Wartburg Seminary.

**14** Give thanks for the continuing witness of the Rev. Joe and Joyce Ellwanger, community organizers who have been working for improved race relations for over 40 years. Today Joe receives the Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

**15** Pray for Kira Elliott, Megan Richards and Lynea Walker, who teach English as a second language at universities in China under the auspices of the Amity Foundation. Give thanks for all Amity-based teachers who serve throughout China.

### **16 27th Sunday After Pentecost**

We pray, O God, together with the people of Cameroon, Central African Republic

and Equatorial Guinea: grant that we might sleep in peace, and that at the break of day we may find ourselves in safety.

**17** Give thanks to God for the leadership of David Wunsch and Kate Lawler, regional representatives to Latin America, as they accompany Lutheran churches in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, and Bolivia. Kate is also site supervisor of the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Argentina.

**18** Please pray for the participants at the second gathering of the Region 8 "Missional Leadership for the Missional Church" being held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa. Pray that this two-year initiative will equip pastors to lead their congregations in effective mission.

**19** Give thanks for the chaplaincy staff who prepared the "Care for Returning Veterans" Workshops, such as the one today at Trinity Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. Thank God for the people attending the workshops, and ask God's guidance as they work to support returning veterans and their families.

### **20 Universal Children's Day**

Praise God for the long-awaited facility for the Lakota Lutheran Center and Chapel in Scottsbluff, Neb. The ministry there emphasizes worship, youth education, pastoral care, and social ministry; it serves as a bridge between Native and non-Native people.

**21** Remember in prayer Pastor Ron Shellhamer, serving as an instructor at the Lutheran Center for Biblical Studies in Gbarnga, Liberia. Ask for God's protection and inspiration as Ron travels to remote villages to lead adult discussion groups as part of his teaching duties.

**22** Please invoke God's blessing on Duraimony Dickson and the Tamil Christian Mission of Houston, Texas. This growing ministry to and among the Tamil people living in Houston and Missouri City has asked to become a congregation of the ELCA.

### **23 Christ the King**

O God, we pray that your abounding grace may bring strength and hope to the people of the nations of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger in the midst of health, economic, political and social challenges,

**24** Thank God for a supportive Mission Partner relationship between Zoar Lutheran Church, Perrysburg, Ohio, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Toledo, who recently celebrated their covenant to "mutually build up the Body of Christ in both neighborhoods," suburban and urban.