

God be with them to bring them comfort, help and wholeness. Also ask God to be with and guide all who continually strive to eliminate violence and advocate for justice throughout the world.

26 National Day of Thanksgiving

Ask our God of abundance for a passion for stewardship that pours out and overflows in love, leadership, generosity and mission in our homes, communities and world, especially to support our seminaries as they work to form new leaders. Open our hearts and hands in thankful living.

27 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 there.

28 Solidarity with the Palestinian People

On this day before the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, give thanks 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 Palestinian pastors and members of the ELCA's three Arab and Middle Eastern congregations.

29 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.

30 Andrew, Apostle

Give thanks for the new mission congregation of Living Water Lutheran Church in Cameron, Wis., and Developer Ned Lenhart as the Holy Spirit breathes into life this emerging community of believers.

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

NOVEMBER 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 All Saints Day

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

2 Pray for the new leadership teams of diaconal ministers and associates in ministry, that they may be energized by the Spirit, that they may find joy in their service, and contentment in what God brings about through their limited efforts.

3 Thank God for the work of Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg as Steve continues to reactivate medical dispensaries in North Maasailand in Tanzania, and Bethany works with Maasai women to create and market beadwork internationally.

4 We pray for Ascension Lutheran Church Kentwood, Mich., that they may experience the loving guidance of the Good Shepherd as they seek clear direction and purpose for the future.

5 Remember Pastor Stephen and Jean Godsall-Myers, co-directors of the ELCA Wittenberg Center, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. They help ELCA members explore and engage the Lutheran tradition in order to inform, guide and renew the church's mission today.

6 Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War

Give thanks for the online Journal of Lutheran Ethics which for eight years has promoted study of and conversation about Christian ethics in the Lutheran tradition among students, pastors, professors and lay leaders.

7 Pray for the health and wellness program of the Vocation and Education staff; let them serve as good role models to other leaders of this church so that the program may have its intended impact of better health for all leaders in the ELCA.

8 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Merciful God, we thank you for the power of the Bible that speaks to the people of Sao Tomé and Principe, the Republic of Congo, and Gabon. May

they find strength and wisdom in you to witness amid the social challenges of today.

9 Praise God for the commitment and ministry of ELCA volunteer missionaries. Give thanks for the gifts of the many English-speaking teachers serving at the Lutheran schools in Bratislava, Košice, Liptovsky Mikulas, and Tisovec, Slovakia.

10 Thank God for “Mission Partners” who pray for, encourage, work with, and give to new and renewing congregations. May their involvement encourage and motivate the recipients to be strong witnesses to the resurrection.

11 Pray for Robin Strickler, who assists the Lutheran Church of Rwanda (LCR) in developing its secondary education ministry for young people and adults. Pray that the relationship between the ELCA Sierra-Pacific Synod and the LCR may deepen as this small church ministers to a country still healing from the 1994 genocide.

12 Pray for our congregations in the southeastern part of the United States who, four years after Hurricane Katrina, continue to bring God’s light and hope to their communities.

13 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.

14 Living Waters Lutheran Church is a new ELCA mission congregation being developed in Port St. Lucie, Fla., by Pastor Sean Forde. As God calls, gathers, and sends this community of faith for the sake of neighbor and the world, please pray for leadership, guidance, and obedience to the will of God.

15 24th 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.”

16 International Day for Tolerance

Thank God for the members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, who are active in music, missionary support, food pantry, quilting for Lutheran World Relief, a cupboard of resources for new mothers, feeding hungry neighbors and a community garden. Ask that their stewardship continue to be healthy as they expand the latter new ministries.

17 Pray for Megan Hunt and Richard Hansgen, who teach English as a second language in China at universities under the auspices of the Amity Foundation. Give thanks for all Amity-based teachers who serve throughout China.

18 Thank God for the 14 adults and children who were baptized this spring at Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church, Camden, N.J. May they and the participants in the current baptism class be inspired by the Holy Spirit to a life of discipleship.

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

20 Universal Children’s Day

Pray for the moral formation of children and youth through the Scriptures, the church’s tradition, reason, and experience, and for all those people who help them develop by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, such as Christian educators, in each congregation of the ELCA.

21 Give thanks that God raises people to lend hands and feet, heads and hearts to do God’s work in the world. Ask that God continue to raise up leaders with wisdom and faithfulness to lead congregations as outposts of mission to the world.

22 Christ the King

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

23 Pray for the ELCA Criminal Justice Task Force when it meets October 23-24 and works toward producing a study on criminal justice for congregations and other groups.

24 Remember to pray for the 56 international students who are studying in the United States and other countries around the world this year because of scholarships from ELCA Global Mission. Give thanks for their commitment, and pray with and for them as they prepare to serve in leadership roles in their home churches, our companions in ministry.

25 Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Pray for all women and girls who experience violence in their lives, that