

outreach on Comoros and Reunion Islands.

26 Ask God to bless the members of our armed forces as they perform the tasks of their calling, to protect them from all harm and danger, and to comfort those in areas of conflict and those at home, especially in their hours of loneliness, anxiety and worry.

27 Pray for the 350 community-based projects supported in 2009 through ELCA World Hunger domestic grants, that they may continue to provide renewed hope for people like Jay Iguchi in Northern Illinois when their jobs are lost and lives are turned upside down because of a struggling U.S. economy.

28 Simon and Jude, Apostles

Remember in prayer Peter and Michele Johnson, regional representatives for the Middle East, who work with churches in Egypt, Syria, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan. Peter fosters relationship with churches that are emerging from long years of persecution and living in the midst of oppressive environments.

29 Pray for participants in the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Leadership Training Event who are meeting in Texas as they work to improve their administrative skills as leaders of Lutheran camps and retreat centers.

30 Give thanks for Carol and the Rev. James Sack, serving with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pray for James as he teaches pastoral care and counseling at the Japan Lutheran Theological College and Seminary, Tokyo, and for Carol as she reaches out with a ministry of music thanatology within the church and the greater Tokyo community.

31 Reformation Day

Pray for the youth of the ELCA as they participate in “Change the World: 2009 Lutheran Youth Challenge” to raise money for and learn about ELCA World Hunger and what they can do to help eradicate hunger and poverty in the world.

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

OCTOBER 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 International Day of Older People

Offer thanksgiving to God for the gifts of Pastor Ron Vignec, recently retired, who has dedicated himself to bringing God's love, compassion, and justice to the Salishan community of Tacoma, Wash., for the past 24 years.

2 Remember in prayer Joe and the Rev. Deborah Troester and family, serving in Garoua Boulai, Central African Republic. Joe serves as water resource manager for ELCA companion church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

3 Give thanks for and pray for the journey of young adults and others as they gather this month to formalize young adult ministry opportunities in the ELCA Southeastern Synod. God be with them as they dream, network, worship, strategize, pray, serve and celebrate together in mission and ministry.

4 18th Sunday After Pentecost

God, we lift up the people of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, that they may find peace and security.

5 World Teachers' Day

Pray for Bette McCrandall, who provides leadership to the education ministries of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, witnessing to God's love and faithfulness through years of turmoil.

6 Pray for the work funded by ELCA World Hunger and carried out through Lutheran World Relief to build sustainable, resilient, productive, and just communities in rural areas of developing countries.

7 Thank God for Richard Sarker, regional representative for development and health in ELCA Global Mission's Asia Pacific Region, working in South Asian countries including India, Indonesia, Nepal and Bangladesh.

8 Ask that the light of Christ shine brightly through the congregation of Christ United Church in DeWitt, Mich., and Pastor Terry Williamson. May those in physical, emotional, or spiritual need within the congregation and the

larger community be touched by God's love, peace and healing.

9 Pray for Pastor Arden and Janna Haug, ELCA regional representatives for Europe, who relate to companion churches and international congregations in Western, Central and Eastern Europe, including territories of the former Soviet Union.

10 Pray for Sarah in South Africa and other members of a bread-baking cooperative supported by ELCA World Hunger and the Lutheran World Federation, that the ELCA's partnership may be the yeast that helps sustain this small business.

11 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Lord God, in the midst of economic, political and social challenges, we pray that you will give strength and wisdom to the people of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

12 We pray for those pastors and ministers who begin their new calls and responsibilities on college and university campuses as they walk among the students, faculty and staff who are also new to this academic world, struggling with identity and searching for community.

13 Please pray for Pastor Edwin Fernando Arumanayagam and Nava Jeevan (New Life) Lutheran Church, a congregation under development in Kendall Park, N.J., reaching out to recent immigrants from India and South Asia.

14 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

Pray for Community Lutheran Partners, Inc., and its executive director, Sherri Schafer, as this Lutheran social ministry organization in the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod supports people in communities that lack access to safe water because of local mining practices.

15 Please pray for the Board of the Youth Ministry Network — a ministry of renewal, education and connection for nearly 700 youth ministry workers in ELCA congregations, and a primary partner of ELCA Youth Ministry — as it gathers for vision and mission shaping October 16-18.

16 World Food Day

World Food Day is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and year-around action to alleviate hunger. Pray for the grassroots hunger leaders of the ELCA as they work to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Pray for Pastor Andrew and Barbara Hinderlie, regional representatives for East

Africa, who work with churches in Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, and Uganda. Barbara serves as administrator of the ELCA mission in Madagascar, including the Famine Relief Project in Southeast Madagascar. Ask God's mercy on those who are hungry and God's blessings on this project.

18 20th Sunday After Pentecost

God of the nations, we give you thanks for the Christian communities in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Give them strength to be witnesses to your love and peace. We lift up to you the companion relationships among the South Andhra Lutheran Church of India and the ELCA Northeastern Minnesota Synod, and the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

19 Ask for God's blessing on The Rev. Newman Chiu, developer of Glory Lutheran Church, Torrance, Calif., as he witnesses to Jesus Christ and offers discipleship training to new Christians.

20 Thank God for the Lutheran Church in Guam and the dynamic ministry of Pastor Jeff and Mary Johnson. Jeff serves the Lutheran Church of Guam and Mary teaches at the Pacific Islands Bible College.

21 Thank God for John and Mary Moore and the many other ELCA Mission Builders who help congregations construct their first facilities or additions. May they continue to find fulfillment in offering their hands and hearts for God's work.

22 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. Praise God for transforming lives and human worth through love.

23 Ask God's guidance and direction for Pastor Glenn Zimbelman and the lay leaders of Joy Lutheran Church, North Ridgeville, Ohio, as they develop this new congregation in a growing area.

24 United Nations Day

Pray for Dirk and Sarah Stadtlander, serving with the Lutheran Church of Senegal in Linguere, in an evangelism ministry among Pulaar-speaking Christians in this 99 percent Muslim country.

25 21st Sunday After Pentecost

We praise you, God of the islands, for the warm welcome and hospitality experienced by visitors to the Indian Ocean island nations of Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, Maldives and Madagascar, and the Lutheran Church