

as it reaches out to its multicultural, international community. Led by pastors Kathy Hlatshwayo and Nana Kwame Opoku, it has four worship services each Sunday -- informal, traditional, in the Amharic language, in English.

26 Pray for Kristen and the Rev. Brian Konkol as they coordinate the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in South Africa and facilitate the well-being, support, and guidance of YAGM volunteers.

27 17th Sunday After Pentecost

God of all kindness, we pray that you may gather the people of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia into your protective arms, especially as they face numerous challenges in their lives.

28 Pray for Finlandia University, an ELCA institution in Hancock, Mich., as it embarks on a partnership with the Hancock school system, gaining property for its health science curriculum and athletic programs in exchange for tuition grants to all Hancock Central High School graduates who meet its admissions standards.

29 Michael and All Angels

On the Feast of Michael and all Angels, give thanks for the many ways God's loving care watches over all the ministries of the ELCA, both directly and indirectly, and through which we are reminded that the richness and variety of God's creation far exceeds our knowledge of it.

30 Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as developers are sought for 40+ potential new ministries of the ELCA.

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

SEPTEMBER 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 In this National Disaster Preparedness Month pray for those communities affected by disaster each year, especially those that are not well-prepared for the impact of disaster. Also, pray that congregations and members will take preventative steps to save lives in case of disaster.

2 Pray for Darrel Colson as he begins his first academic year as president of Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, and for all the students, faculty and administrators of the colleges of the ELCA at the beginning of another year of connecting faith, life, and learning.

3 Give thank for the Rev. Judy Ann McGuire, who divides her time between the Christian Education Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, and St. Matthew's Parish, where she serves five congregations. Pray also for the companion synod relationship between this church and the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod, that they may continue to deepen their ministries together.

4 Ask that the members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Mich., and their pastor, Colleen Nelson, will continue to celebrate God's many gifts as they minister in their community.

5 Pray for Kirsten and the Rev. Stephen Kienberger, parish pastor of the American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway. This international congregation seeks to bring together people of different nations and denominations as followers of Christ.

6 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Gracious God, look with favor upon the people of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia and Montenegro, that they may find hope and peace in the midst of great change,.

7 Thank God for the energy and enthusiasm of the Rev. Kevin Jacobson as he serves the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname. Pray for Kevin as he continues to study the Dutch language and develop lay leadership training for the church.

8 Ask God to bless Joe, who, through a program at a Lutheran social ministry organization in association with the National Fatherhood Initiative, is keeping in contact with his children, which will ease the transition back into his family after his release from prison.

9 Pray for the ministry of Nathan and Sharonette Bowman as they serve with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC). They share God's love and grace in Kumamoto, where they work with JELC social services for the elderly and children. They also serve a local congregation.

10 Pray for Sally Peters, who staffs the Center for Lifelong Learning, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. Sally organized the August Book of Faith Jubilee. Also keep in prayer all who provide continuing education for ELCA members as part of the Book of Faith Initiative.

11 Thank God for the neighborhood connections being made by Humble Walk Lutheran Chapel in St. Paul, Minn., and developer Jodi Houge. Ask for God's direction and guidance as they discern what God is calling them to be and do in their community.

12 Pray for Specialist Benjamin Pesis, serving with the Nevada National Guard in Qalat, Afghanistan, as he leads worship for his military unit at the request of his commanding officer.

13 15th Sunday After Pentecost

We pray, gracious God, that the churches of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania may be your instruments of reconciliation, both locally and internationally.

14 Holy Cross Day

Give thanks to God for the 51 ELCA congregations who minister in the name of the Holy Cross, which is so central to our faith. Pray for the pastors and other staff, and for the thousands of members who lift high the Cross in their communities.

15 We rejoice with the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod who, while celebrating their gifts, quickly realized that each congregation, regardless of size, location or resources, had a unique gift that "adds real zest to "God's Party."

16 Thank God for the service of the Rev. Kim Erno, who directs the ELCA Immersion Program at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City. Pray for him and those who come for the immersion experiences offered through the center.

17 Praise God for the work of the Rev. David and Mary Kuck in Jamaica. David tutors Lutherans at the United Theological College of the West Indies, and Mary teaches English at an international school.

18 We thank God for the Mission Partners of the Virginia Synod -- individual congregations as well as Lutheran Men in Mission -- who helped start and continue to support four mission congregations and two ethnic strategies.

19 Praise God for the gifts of Janet Alcantara, who is concluding two years of service with the Christian Lutheran Church in Honduras (CLCH). Give thanks for the CLCH's renewed health and vigor following a successful three-year redefinition process.

20 16th Sunday After Pentecost

We give you thanks, God of the ages, for the long history of the church in Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. Grant wisdom, strength and grace to the continued witness of these churches and continue to guide the companion relationships among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States and the ELCA Central States and Northwest Washington Synods.

21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Please pray for the continued expansion of Alleluia Lutheran Church in Phoenix, which has become a magnet for the area's emergent generation, especially young English-speaking Latinos. Jose Valenzuela is the pastor.

22 Give thanks for the continued ministry of Drs. Helmut and Rotraut Diefenthal, who spend 10 months a year at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Tanzania, and for the companion relationships that exist between ELCA synods and dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

23 Give thanks for David Hardy, who is retired but continues to serve this church as a director for ELCA Risk Management (ELCARM). ELCARM provides insurance services for higher education institutions of the ELCA, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the American Baptist Churches.

24 Remember in prayer the Life Together project of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida. Pray that as these grandparents and grandchildren come together for this intergenerational program, their relationships will be strengthened and their faith enriched.

25 Ask God to bless the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Va.,