

each other the gifts of music and friendship.

**24** Remember to pray for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, a partnership of ELCA, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran World Relief, working to combat malaria and its effects on the people who live daily with the disease, especially as we observe World Malaria Day on April 25.

**25 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

God of hope, we praise you for the witness of the growing churches in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Continue to strengthen and comfort these churches as they reach out with compassion to their neighbors.

**26** Pray for college and university students graduating this spring from the ELCA's 27 colleges and universities as they discern how to live out their vocations.

**27** Lift up in prayer Douglas Foster, John Hoyle, Susan Wironen, and Dana Dutcher, who have assignments as English teachers in Tokyo and Kumamoto, Japan, as part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**28** Please pray for the ministries of Jordan New Life Community Lutheran Church and Central Lutheran Church, both of the Minneapolis Area Synod, as they learn from each other, share gifts and resources, and engage in mission together.

**29** Give thanks for the ministries of Reformation Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and its witness to the United States government as it serves the people who are most vulnerable in the city.

**30** Pray for Pastor Sam and Cindy Wolff, who serve at Nairobi International Lutheran Church in Nairobi, Kenya. This is a congregation of the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church.

*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. 2458.*



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## PRAYER VENTURES

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APRIL 2010

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*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 Maundy Thursday**

Thank God for the many congregations across the ELCA committed to meeting the needs of those who suffer, such as Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville, Minn., which has adopted three promises: “that no one in our family of faith will walk alone if they choose not to, will be without adequate food, or will be without a roof over their head.”

**2 Good Friday**

Give thanks for God's Son, who sacrificed his life for us, and for ELCA chaplains risking their lives serving in Afghanistan: Chaplain Richard A. Rittmaster, Army Guard; Chaplain Kelly J. Wasberg, Army Guard; and Chaplain William A. Hlavin, Navy Reserve.

**3 Vigil of Easter**

Thank God for the staff and volunteers of Lutheran Services Florida, Inc., Tampa, as they work on several fronts to provide disaster relief to Haitians following the January earthquake, offering opportunities for new

lives to those who have lost almost everything.

#### **4 Resurrection of Our Lord**

Lord of the nations, we pray for the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines as they struggle with religious and political diversity. Grant that they may receive your peace and experience the true joy of the Resurrection.

**5** Remember in prayer the Rev. Phillip Baker, ELCA regional representative for theological education and church relations in Asia. Praise God for the opportunities and relationships he builds with institutions and churches throughout Asia.

**6** Give thanks for the ministries of parish nurses such as Linnea Jackson and Bev Nelson, who serve at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, La Crescent, Minn., taking members' blood pressures, leading fitness programs and visiting the homebound, among other duties.

#### **7 World Health Day**

Pray for Carolyn and Jim Brown, who are serving at the Ngaoundéré Protestant Hospital in Cameroon, Carolyn in nursing and Jim as surgical program director.

**8** Pray for the board of directors and staff of Camp of the Cross Ministries in North Dakota as they gather in retreat April 9-10 to work on a new strategic plan for their year-round camp and retreat ministry.

**9** Praise God for the Rev. Justin and Kari Eller, who serve in La Paz, Bolivia. They work in the Office of Mission in the *Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana* (Bolivian Lutheran Church).

**10** Please pray for newly appointed mission

developers starting congregations across the ELCA: Mark Huber, Marshfield, Mass.; Zhenchuan Liu, Seattle, Wash.; Mary Jensen, Lincoln, Neb.; Yutaka Kishino, Huntington Beach, Calif.; Melaku Tizazu, Kansas City, Mo.; and Po-Min Wang, West Covina, Calif.

#### **11 Second Sunday of Easter**

Blessed God, in the midst of serious political and economic challenges in the region, we pray for the people of Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan, that your abundant grace may be showered upon them.

**12** Ask God to guide the Dinka Lutheran Community of Sudanese immigrants in Rochester, Minn., a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community, as they identify, nurture and train leaders.

**13** Pray for the Rev. Robert and the Rev. Janice Marie Lowden, who serve as regional representatives for East Africa, focusing on companion churches and relationships in Tanzania.

**14** Pray for Trinity Lutheran Church, Kankakee, Ill., as the congregation reorganizes its ministry for mission. All congregational work will be based on the faith practices: pray, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve, give.

**15** Ask God's blessings on Suzanne Strekal and Delores Slusser-Wright, volunteer teachers at *Gymnazium JA Komenskeho* in Kosice, Slovakia. The Gymnazium is one of several church-related schools to which the ELCA sends teachers.

**16** Pray for the National Council of the Lutheran Student Movement as it meets April 16-18 to plan for the next year of student-led ministry in their regions.

**17** Give thanks for the generous spirit displayed by St. John Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Neb. As they celebrated God's blessings that included \$19,000 more than expenditures in 2009, they donated generously of the unexpected gifts to the Nebraska Synod's ministries.

#### **18 Third Sunday of Easter**

God of mercy, send the gentle rains upon the lands of Djibouti and Somalia. May the fields bear fruit and the people be renewed in the midst of their constant living with drought and hunger.

**19** Thank God for Dr. Meghan Shaughnessy and Dr. Kurt Hessen. They are serving for nine months at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center and Selian Hospital.

**20** Pray for the churchwide Lutheran Youth Organization and its current youth leaders as they continue to carry out a major ministry restructuring process.

**21** Remember in prayer Sarah Griebler and Colleen Hetrick, serving as English teachers in Cieszyn, Poland. May this experience continue to shape their future ministries.

#### **22 Earth Day**

Pray that more and more people see caring for creation as an act of discipleship, and give thanks for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's Environmental Concerns Working Group, its leaders, and the eight congregations in the synod that served as guinea pigs and trendsetters, enabling others to become better stewards of creation.

**23** Lift up Randall and Carol Stubbs, teaching music at Makumira University College, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Rejoice with this family and with their students as they learn from