

**23** Lift up in prayer Pastor Cheri Johnson and Divine Word/Pentecost Lutheran Church in the Washington Heights-Sherman Park neighborhood of Milwaukee as they reach out in their neighborhood that is diverse on many levels.

#### **24 Christmas Eve**

Give thanks for the ministries of the regional representatives as they accompany ELCA companion churches in various regions. Lou Marie and Philip Knutson in Southern Africa; Andrew and Barbara Hinderlie in East Africa; Anne and Willie Langdji and Viking and Marissa Dietrich in West Africa;

#### **25 Nativity of Our Lord**

As we give thanks for the gift of God's Son, pray for missionary children, who live, learn and grow in their faith in a variety of settings around the world.

#### **26 First Sunday of Christmas**

Almighty God, give to all your people the love of peace, and guide the leaders of all nations so that your kingdom will go forth in peace and the earth will be filled with your love.

#### **27 John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Give thanks for today's evangelists, including Navy Reserve Chaplain Thomas K. Frizzell in Kuwait City; and Chaplains Erik W. Feig (Army Reserve), Mike Lembke (Army Active) and Lance Kittleson (Army Reserve), serving in Iraq.

#### **28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

Pray for Lutherans who teach ethics at Lutheran and other colleges, universities, and seminaries, as they prepare for their annual gathering in early January in New Orleans.

**29** Give thanks for the ministries of the regional representatives as they accompany ELCA companion churches in various regions; today we remember Arden and Janna Haug in the Middle East and Europe;

**30** Pray for the vision of Pastors Gail Dudley and Kevin Dudley and the members of The Church at North Pointe in Columbus, Ohio, to be a healthy and growing Christ-centered, Spirit-filled and Kingdom-motivated fellowship of believers.

#### **31 New Year's Eve**

Give thanks for the ministries of the regional representatives as they accompany ELCA companion churches in various regions, including Kathryn Lawler and David Wunsch and Stephen Deal in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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*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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### DECEMBER 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 World AIDS Day**

Pray for all people affected by HIV/AIDS, and for those who minister to them, including the AIDS Circle of Hope of North Texas, located in Wichita Falls.

#### **2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**

Pray for the ELCA Criminal Justice Task Force, that it may hear the cries of victims and perpetrators of crime, and may help the church understand how to respond with neighbor love.

#### **3 International Day of Disabled Persons**

Give thanks for Joyce Ebmeier, Tabitha Health Care Services, Lincoln, Neb., and other members of the task force preparing a statement on disability ministries for the ELCA to adopt at its 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

**4** Thank God for the generosity of the 33 teachers, medical trainers, financial consultants and pastors who volunteered for three to 11 months through the ELCA Global Mission Volunteer program in 2010.

## **5 Second Sunday of Advent**

God of the nations, we entrust to you the countries of Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal. Give hope where hope is lacking, strength where there is weakness, and faith where it is sought.

**6** Thank God for Robert Kasworm, serving the Machame Lutheran Hospital in Moshi, Tanzania. He is strengthening health care delivery by creating strategic alliances between Tanzanian and U.S.-based health providers.

**7** Pray for continued strength for recent attendees at a Women of Color event held at the churchwide office as they go forth serving faithfully and as they continue to remember and celebrate the ministries of women of color in the ELCA.

**8** Pray for Trinity Deaf Congregation in Reading, Pa., as they mourn the sudden death of their pastor, the Rev. Jeanne Beadle. This congregation was recently lifted up in prayer in the May, 2010, issue of Prayer Ventures.

**9** “All Are Welcome” reads the sign in front of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa, signaling the way members go out of their way to extend a warm welcome to newcomers to the church, to their community and to this country. Give thanks for this faithful congregation.

## **10 Human Rights Day**

Lift up Pastor Stephen Deal, who assists the ELCA in its accompaniment of churches throughout Central America. Pray for Martha Giron, Steve’s spouse, as she helps the Costa Rican Lutheran Church train women in arts and crafts and sewing so they can generate income for their families.

**11** Pray for congregations in conflict, that they may learn to deal with difficult issues with patience, humility, and the skills of dialog and moral deliberation, and that they may remember that Christ makes them one.

## **12 Third Sunday of Advent**

We pray, O God, for the people of Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, and Togo. Give strength especially to the churches as they witness to your peace and joy in the midst of great challenges and changes in their countries.

**13** Give thanks for the “remarkable leadership” of the Rev. David Beckmann, ELCA pastor and president of Bread for the World, to mobilize citizens to advocate for public policies that help hungry people, as cited in the recent award of the World Food Prize.

**14** Pray for Pastor Philip and Lou-Marie Knutson and family, who serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA). Philip works as a resource person for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa’s Christian education program and as ELCA Global Mission regional program assistant for Southern Africa.

**15** Lift up the ministries of Dan McDaniel, Ascension Lutheran Church, Riverside, Ill., and other church musicians, choir members and congregational staff who are preparing for the Christmas season, with all the additional work that brings to them.

**16** Praise God for the ministry of presence that Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) provide throughout the world. Today we ask God to bless Sarah Bolick, Abby Farrand, David Kingsborough, Trena Montgomery, Janelle Neubauer, and Luke

Paquin, young adults serving with the YAGM program in Jerusalem/West Bank.

**17** Pray for Pastor Orinda W. Brinkley and St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio as they live out their vision of “Courageous Evangelism” through “Rock on the Block,” a recovery group for young men, and other innovative ministries.

## **18 International Migrants Day**

Ask God to bless the ministries of Alexandra Peralta, lead field coordinator of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service’s Safe Haven program in Miami, and all others working to welcome immigrants.

## **19 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Gracious God, look with favor upon the churches in Ghana and Nigeria, that, in the midst of great challenges of witnessing to your mercy, they may find strength and nourishment in your Word.

**20** Thank God for the ministry of Paula Powell, who has recently returned from serving with the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA), a regional group with member churches in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. LUCSA is located in Johannesburg, South Africa.

**21** Give thanks for ELCA members who continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land and recall that the basis of the Church’s peace-calling is in God’s final peace, the peace of God’s eternal reign.

**22** Give thanks for the ministries of the regional representatives as they accompany ELCA companion churches in various regions. Ask God’s wisdom for Phillip Baker in Asia and the Pacific;