

Lutheran Partners and the faithful service of its departing editor, Bill Decker.

23 Remember, Jenifer Brown, Matthew Linden, and Carolyn Stypka who are serving as English teachers in Tokyo and Kumamoto, Japan, as part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

24 Pray for strength, guidance and openness for all who are part of harmful systems like racism and sexism, that we might recognize the barriers in our lives that keep us from fully loving and serving our neighbors and living out God's call in our lives.

25 Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide, direct and inspire the ELCA South Carolina Synod's newest outreach ministry, Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in West Columbia. Only 1 ½ years old, the ministry already has 100-140 people in weekly worship and has conducted 23 baptisms.

26 Pray for the many young people participating in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Today we remember Joe Beasley, Amanda Dahlseng, Marta Diehm, Elayna Dush, Traci Hawkins, Edwin Johnson, Dana Olson, Amy Pennenga, Kristina Rogers, Rebeckah Selnick, Rebecca Truland, Whitney Wallace, and others who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in Great Britain.

27 Give thanks to God for Cathryn Proctor, serving as an intern at the American Church in Berlin, Germany, and studying at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Ask that her experiences in these contexts shape her future ministry.

28 2nd Sunday in Lent

We give you thanks, O God, for signs of your presence and activity among the people of Germany and France. Continue to bring vitality, we pray, to the churches, that the awakening that happened with the Reformation may live on in ongoing renewal.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

FEBRUARY 2010

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 During this Black History Month, pray especially for African American women leaders in communities, congregations, families and all contexts, that they might be supported, uplifted, encouraged and blessed in all the ways they serve.

2 Presentation of Our Lord

Pray for All Saints in Big Sky, Montana, a new joint ELCA/Episcopal ministry. May its pastor, Darius Larsen, and its members continue to reach out and welcome all who come to explore and enjoy the beauty and wonders of God's creation.

3 Give thanks for Pastor Mark and Marcia Holman as they serve the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Pray for peace in the strife-torn Holy Land.

4 During this Youth Leadership Month, give thanks for the young people of color in this church who continue to live into their vocational calls as witnesses to new beginnings and generational collaboration, that they might be nurtured by their communities to live toward God's vision of life lived in love for others.

5 Pray for Patricia Bentsen, a longtime nurse in Madagascar who is medical administrator to the Malagasy Lutheran Church Health Department in the capital city of Antananarivo.

6 Pray for the Oromo Evangelical Church of Washington, D.C., that was organized in October. Give thanks to God for this new congregation, their ministry among Ethiopians, and their mission developer, Pastor Waqtola Dinagde, who is retiring after 40 years in the ordained ministry.

7 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Merciful God, we give you thanks for the diversity of ministry among the churches in Ireland and the United Kingdom. We pray for the continued companion relationship between the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the ELCA Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod.

8 We ask God's blessing on the ministry of Pastor Bill Lundgren and the Community of St. Dysmas. An ELCA congregation within the Maryland correctional system—behind prison walls—St. Dysmas continues to proclaim repentance, acceptance and forgiveness in Christ's name.

9 Thank God for Kirsten and Pastor Stephen Kienberger. Pastor Kienberger is a 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.

10 Give thanks for all who participate in the life and ministry of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay. Remember especially the Young Adults in Global Mission, Chris Jarvis and Cristina Kinz, as they serve in congregational and social service

ministries in Argentina.

11 Let us pray for discernment for Peace Lutheran Church, Eyota, Minn., as they consider whether God is calling them to move out in faith and construct their first building. Peace organized as a congregation in 2001.

12 Pray for Martin and Suzanne Schoffner, who serve the church in Jerusalem. Martin serves as the coordinator for both the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Palestine and the Holy Land trips program.

13 Pray for Sarah and Pastor Peter Grow-Hanson who serve in Dakar, Senegal. They provide direction for leadership development and early childhood education, as well as orientation for visitors and new missionaries to Senegal.

14 Transfiguration of Our Lord

God in heaven, bless all who strive for peace and human welfare in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Take away any anxiety about the future and give them a sense of responsibility for where you have called them.

15 We thank God for Ed Halter and his coordination of the Mission Partners program in the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod for the past 21 years. As Ed retires from this volunteer position, may God continue to direct his journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

16 Pray for the presidents of ELCA colleges and universities as they gather for their annual meeting at the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA). Pray especially in thanksgiving for many years of faithful service by Ralph Wagoner, who is retiring in June 2010 as the executive director of LECNA, having

served in that capacity since retiring as the president of Augustana College, South Dakota.

17 Ash Wednesday

As we enter Lent keep in your prayers all the volunteers who donate their time and talents to your congregation.

18 Pray for Don Huber as he begins his leadership of the "Stewards of Abundance" project, following his retirement as academic dean of Trinity Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. The project will explore options for reducing seminarian indebtedness and sustainable financing for the ELCA's system of theological education and pastoral ministry.

19 Praise God for the witness of Pastor Jeffrey Truscott. His classes in liturgy and theology at Trinity Theological College in Singapore equip students from many Asian countries to cultivate a worship life that will shape their faith communities.

20 The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) is an organization serving the approximately 1700 schools and early childhood education centers of the ELCA. Pray for Gayle Deny, its executive director, and the board of ELEA, as they work to improve this church's day school ministries with children.

21 1st Sunday in Lent

O God, you who stand in the midst of the silent ones, bless the churches of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta, and their ministries among children, workers, the sick and the elderly.

22 *Lutheran Partners*, a magazine for leaders in the ELCA, will cease publication with its March/April issue. Pray with thanksgiving for the 20 years of ministry of