

**27** Give thanks for Carol and the Rev. James Sack, serving with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. James teaches pastoral care and counseling at the Japan Lutheran Theological College and Seminary, Tokyo, and Carol has a pastoral harp ministry in which she reaches out to those facing death.

**28 Simon and Jude, Apostles**

Lift up in prayer Phil and June Nelson, who serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Central African Republic. June also serves as a nurse at Ngaoundere Protestant Hospital.

**29** As cold weather approaches, give thanks for the Rev. Michael Merkel, former president of the Nehemiah Housing Corporation, who contributed to “Creating Affordable Housing, A Guide for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships,” a resource for ELCA members and congregations.

**30** Thank God for the life and ministry of the Rev. William Hanson, who died this year. Bill served faithfully for many years as director of the ELCA Mission Builders.

**31 Reformation Day**

We bless you, O God, for sending your Spirit into the hearts of the people of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Even as challenges continue, including discord, we ask that your grace will continue to abound.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

---

## PRAYER VENTURES

OCTOBER 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 International Day of Older Persons**

Lift up in prayer the members of Shekinah Chapel, a mission congregation of the ELCA in Riverdale, Ill., which embodies a fusion of the passion of African American culture, including respect for elders, and Lutheran theology.

**2** Pray for Mark Ramseth, president of Trinity Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, and for the other seminary presidents, who will meet in Chicago in early October.

**3 19th 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.

**4 World Habitat Day**

Give thanks for the ministry of Gary and Ruth Larson, who live with their four children in Bangladesh. Gary is a lecturer at the College of Christian Theology, Bangladesh.

**5** Please pray for Good Samaritan Lutheran Church and mission developer William Siong as he begins work to establish a new congregation among the Hmong community on the East Side of St. Paul, Minn.

**6** Thank God for Table of Grace Lutheran Church, Bethel, Alaska, which has been growing since its start in 2008. The Rev. Jana Deiss notes that members are eager to invite others to be part of their fellowship.

**7** Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association of early childhood centers and schools, as its board meets October 7-9 in Chicago.

---

*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.*

**8** Ask for God's blessing on the Rev. Paul Stone and Church of the Damascus Road. The congregation, within the walls of the Fort Dodge and Rockwell City prisons, is consistently a mission support leader in the Western Iowa Synod.

**9** Give thanks for Richard Sarker, regional representative for development and health care for the Asia Pacific Region of Global Mission, who works in the South Asian countries of India, Indonesia, Nepal and Bangladesh.

### **10 20th 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.

**11** Pray for the Rev. Dirk and Sarah Stadtlander, serving in Linguere, Senegal. Dirk pastors a Pulaar-speaking congregation of the Lutheran Church of Senegal and is an advisor to the church's evangelism ministry among the Fulani people. Dirk and Sarah also provide support for the ministries of Lutheran Development Services of Senegal.

**12** Pray for the new ministry under development called The Bridge in New Town, Mo., as the members develop a self-sustaining ministry in a planned community through their import and coffee shop space.

### **13 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction**

Give thanks for Ida Hakkarinen, meteorologist, and other members of the ELCA Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology, who strive to understand and ameliorate the causes of natural disasters around the world.

**14** Thank God for Pastor Kevin Ruffcorn and members of Desert Streams Lutheran Church, Surprise, Ariz., 85 percent of whom will participate in an eight-week "Unbinding the Gospel" study. May it transform their lives.

**15** Hold up in prayer the work of Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg as Steve continues to reactivate medical dispensaries in North Maasailand in Tanzania, and as Bethany works with Maasai women to create and market beadwork internationally.

### **16 World Food Day**

Pray for ELCA grassroots hunger leaders and activists, and give thanks for conscientious donors as they seek to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

### **17 21st 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 Northeastern Minnesota Synod, and the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

### **18 Luke, Evangelist**

Give thanks for ELCA members who serve as board members and staff in the networks of hundreds of Lutheran health facilities -- hospitals, nursing homes and other care centers.

**19** Praise God for the Rev. John Lunn, who serves with the Palliative Care Unit at Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, and is actively involved in health ministries in India and Liberia.

**20** Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to guide Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, New Port Richey, Fla., and its co-pastors, Sally Cook and Jerry Nordsiek. This result of a five-congregation consolidation in 2008, is growing into its life as a new congregation with a new mission.

**21** Praise God for the work of the Rev. Randall and Gail Mundt. Randall is currently serving as the interim pastor at the International Christian Church based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**22** Pray for Martha Stortz as she assumes the duties of giving voice to Augsburg College's commitment to education for vocation, moving to Minneapolis from Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, Calif.

**23** Pray for Pastor Andrew and Barbara Hinderlie. Andrew serves as regional representative for East Africa, working with churches in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Barbara is the Global Mission representative in Madagascar, accompanying the Malagasy Lutheran Church in its vast array of ministries, including its companion relationships with ELCA synods and groups.

### **24 22nd 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.

### **25 Disarmament Week**

Remember in prayer the Rev. Peter and Michele Johnson and their family. Peter recently became pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, called to serve the neediest and most vulnerable people in Cairo.

**26** Pray for V. Scott Koerwer, who recently became president of Newberry College, Newberry, S.C.