

26 Give thanks for the example of Stephen the first martyr, who looked to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Pray for an end to the continued persecution of the Christian church.

27 Pray that churches throughout the world find ways to cooperate in love and trust in the common goal of pointing to the in-breaking reign of God in Christ.

28 Remember today the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Pray for God to receive into the arms of mercy all innocent victims and to frustrate the designs of evil tyrants establishing God's rule of justice, love and peace.

29 Pray for an end to the greed and sexual exploitation that creates the demand for the trafficking of women and youth for exploitation and profiteering.

30 Pray for the Turnaround Synod Initiative of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA, which seeks to equip congregations for ongoing renewal.

31 Give thanks for the year past and pray that in the new year we may more fully know God's presence, see God's love at work and live in the light of Christ that grants us joy forever.

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 the Marketing and Public Relations team of the ELCA in cooperation with other units and teams of the ELCA. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Mission Advancement, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.



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PRAYER VENTURES

DECEMBER 2011

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 On this World AIDS Day, pray for all people affected by HIV and AIDS and for those who minister to them, including the AIDS Circle of Hope of North Texas, located in Wichita Falls.

2 Pray for the Latin American and Caribbean companion churches and organizations that have developed ministries with individuals living with HIV and AIDS in the region. Grant that their love, compassion, and advocacy on behalf of those living with HIV and AIDS bear witness to a love for all of creation.

3 Pray for congregations who gather holiday gifts for children in need. Make these gifts a sign of God's loving presence and love for all God's children.

4 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 there is despair, strength where there is weakness and faith where it is sought.

5 Give thanks for the 33 ELCA members who volunteered for 3 to 11 months through the ELCA Global Mission Volunteer program in 2011. Thank God for the generosity of these teachers, medical trainers, financial consultants and pastors.

6 Pray for those living along coastal lines, that they may be protected from the devastation of annual typhoons and hurricanes, and those living in arid places that they may be saved from drought and famine.

7 Pray for Robert Kasworm who serves 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.

8 Pray for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, which provides mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease throughout the world.

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

10 Pray for the continued advocacy of human rights as we celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that we might engage and remind people of the internationally recognized rights.

11 Third Sunday of Advent

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

12 Pray for the Rev. Philip, Lou-Marie Knutson and their family, who serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Philip works as a resource person for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa's Christian education program. He also serves ELCA Global Mission as regional program assistant for Southern Africa.

13 Pray for your local, state and federal elected officials, as they consider decisions that will affect you, your community and all of God's people.

14 Give thanks for the ministry of presence that young adults serving through ELCA Global Mission provide throughout the world. Bless Megan Bucholz, Alma Gast, Lautin-Whitney Gottbrath, Sara Nobbs, Michelle Steiner and Courtney Weller, young adults serving in Jerusalem/West Bank. Bless Julie Rossate and Jeff VonWald, the country coordinators.

15 Pray for Welcome Home, a cooperative ministry of welcome between Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Philadelphia and Lutheran Children and Family Service that provides transitional housing for refugees who have just arrived in the United States.

16 Give thanks for the ministry of the regional representatives as they accompany ELCA companion churches in various regions around the world. Pray for Phillip Baker in Asia and the Pacific; 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; Arden Haug in Europe; and Kathryn Lawler, David Wunsch and Stephen Deal in Latin America and the Caribbean.

17 Pray for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, which serves to empower, provide relief and educate for future preparedness in response to devastating situations.

18 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.

19 Pray for Mary Borgman who serves as an HIV and AIDS worker at the Diakonia Aids Ministry in Soweto, South Africa, a program of the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

20 Pray for ELCA World Hunger, which supports people who live with chronic hunger and poverty around the corner and around the world, though relief, development, education and advocacy.

21 Pray for Katie Miyamoto who teaches English at Luther Gakuin High School in Kumamoro, Japan. She also is engaged in ministry at Kengun Lutheran Church and at the English-language gathering of Kumamoto Lutheran Church.

22 Pray for all who suffer loneliness and heartache during the holiday season.

23 Pray for David Vikner, as he engages supporters of the International Christian University in Japan through his leadership of the Foundation of the university.

24 Pray for peace in Bethlehem and all of the Middle East on this holy night.

25 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.