

26 Pray that we might grasp the tenacity of God's concern for those suffering from poverty and hunger, here and around the world. Embrace God's call to care for our neighbors in need and to end poverty and hunger through our shared compassion, resources, wisdom and resolve.

27 "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:18-19). Pray that we will be kind, generous and attentive to God's work in the world, trusting God's favor and the promise of eternal life over wealth, status or accomplishments.

28 Ask God to bless our 65 synod bishops, presiding bishop and secretary as they gather for the Conference of Bishops to support one another; worship, study, conduct church business and help identify, invite, equip and support new leaders in the church.

29 *Michael and All Angels* Praise God for the unfathomable mysteries of creation and all beings that reveal God's presence, power and will.

30 *Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters* This day of observance originated in Canada to raise awareness of the tragic legacy of government-funded Indian boarding schools, many of which were run by Christian churches. These schools forced children to assimilate to white culture by separating them from their parents and stripping them of their Indigenous cultures, languages and spiritual beliefs. The United States and the ELCA share this legacy. Ask for God's mercy and forgiveness for the pain and suffering inflicted on Indigenous peoples throughout the history of our nation. Pray that we will view our national history with humility and work to correct the lasting impacts of injustice, for the well-being and wholeness of all people.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

SEPTEMBER 2022

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 Pray for people, communities and regions of our country and the world suffering drought and persistent extreme heat that threaten lives, agricultural production, availability of water, and the health of communities and nations.

2 Pray for peace and healing wherever there is war or conflict in the world, and for the Spirit to further our work toward peace, understanding, respect for one another and unity in our country.

3 Pray for leaders, volunteers and teachers in our congregations who help others to deepen their faith, study Scripture, develop skills and confidence for sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, and care for one another as disciples of Christ who never cease to learn or grow.

4 Pray that we will have the courage to follow Jesus, reordering our priorities and allegiances, using our wealth and resources to care for our neighbors in need, and resisting things that pull us away from God.

5 *Labor Day* On this day we recognize and pray for the work people do to sustain their families and the service they do to benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, be renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor. Pray for all those who seek employment to find work, and for the well-being, care and support of people unable to work.

6 Pray that we will find wisdom, guidance, nourishment and joy in the commands and ways of God, becoming "like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and [whose] leaves do not wither" (Psalm 1:3).

7 Pray for the new volunteers in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, who depart today to serve with our global companions in Senegal, Jerusalem/West Bank, Argentina, Uruguay and the United Kingdom.

8 Pray for the Spirit to guide and bless synods as they implement decisions and plans made during their assemblies this year. Pray that they will be guided by the shared wisdom, creativity and gifts of lay and rostered leaders, members of congregations, ministry partners and voices from the communities they serve.

9 Pray that children and youth will be surrounded by parents, family, church leaders, teachers, neighbors and role models who are caring, respectful, encouraging and sincere in their faith.

10 Ask the Spirit to sustain our commitment to end racism and to address the deforming impact of white supremacy on our social and political endeavors. Pray that we will confront injustice, racism and inequities in our church, society, institutions and laws, and that we will proclaim boldly our conviction that all people are wonderfully created and gifted children of God.

11 *“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday* On our church’s annual day of service, ask God to help us throughout our baptismal journeys as we strive to bring justice, stir hope, care for creation and strengthen communities through churchwide programs, local churches, global companions, social ministries and community organizations.

12 Give thanks and praise to God for seeking us out when we are lost or wander away, and for restoring and affirming our relationship as children of God.

13 Pray that the Spirit will inspire people to use their unique gifts and skills abroad, seeking opportunities to serve with the ELCA’s global church companions and international partners.

14 Give thanks and pray for confirmation programs and teachers who help young people study the Bible; learn the basics of faith; become familiar with Lutheran theology, confessions and practices; and examine the connection between their faith in Jesus Christ, the world and their daily lives.

15 *First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month* Give thanks to God for the gifts, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latinx neighbors and siblings in Christ, and pray for the growth and vitality of the 147 Latino ministries of the ELCA as they share the gospel, equip leaders, promote inclusivity and diversity, and serve their neighbors.

16 “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the foremost” (1 Timothy 1:15). Lift up prayers of repentance and gratitude for God’s gift of undeserved love and forgiveness, made personal through Jesus Christ.

17 Ask God to sustain teachers in schools and early childhood education programs. Pray that they will create safe and encouraging environments where students can learn skills for living and decision-making, form caring friendships, better understand the world and humanity, and develop concern for the well-being of their communities and society.

18 Lutheran Disaster Response shares God’s hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters – natural and human-made. Give thanks for what we accomplish together around the world through LDR, and let us promise to be generous in our support and involvement.

19 Remember in prayer the four new country coordinators working with volunteers in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program: Jessica Geroux (Argentina/Uruguay), Jordan and Adam Miller-Stubbendick (Jerusalem and the West Bank) and Mytch Dorvilier (Senegal).

20 Remember in prayer the needs, concerns and challenges of parents who have children in school.

21 *International Day of Peace* Join with our neighbors and siblings in Christ around the world in praying for peace, healing, restoration and unity.

22 *First day of autumn* Give thanks for the changing seasons and the beauty and blessings of autumn, which delight us, inspire us, help us prepare for the winter months and remind us of the cycles of life in God’s creation.

23 Ask God to attend to those suffering hunger, poverty, illness and crisis. Pray that we will always recognize and respond to our neighbors in need and that our care and concern will reflect God’s boundless love and mercy for humankind.

24 Remember in prayer young adults who serve in the military. Pray that we will find ways to connect them with military ministries and with faith communities back home, and to support them both during their service and as they transition out of the military.

25 Pray that congregations engaged in mission planning and renewal will be guided and inspired by the Spirit, listening to God through Scripture and prayer, to the voices within our faith communities and to those outside the doors of our congregations.