

[Prayer Ventures for May 2024]

1 *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* Give thanks for our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ, and for their cultures, languages and contributions to our nation and church. Pray for the well-being of Asian and Pacific Islander congregations and ministries of the ELCA as well as the work of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

2 *National Day of Prayer* Join with our siblings in Christ in praying for the well-being of the church, our neighbors in need and the leaders of our communities and nation. Ask God to help us resolve the problems and issues that keep us from thriving in unity.

3 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Arkansas-Oklahoma and Southwestern Texas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

4 Pray for congregational young-adult ministries, ELCA Young Adult Ministry, Abide small-group ministry, Young Adults in Global Mission, Lutheran Campus Ministry Network, Lutheran outdoor ministries and long-term volunteer service organizations. Ask God to bless leaders who serve young adults as they seek community, strengthen their faith, find opportunities to serve, and discern their gifts and vocations.

5 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). These words, spoken by Jesus to his followers, seem simple and unambiguous, yet we respond with resistance and stipulations. Pray that we might turn to the word of God and the example of Jesus to see the power of humility and fearless, unconstrained love.

6 *National Nurses Week* Pray for faith community nurses, who nurture and care for the whole person — body, mind and spirit — and promote wellness in Lutheran congregations, ministries and agencies; other denominations; and our communities. Give thanks for the ministry of the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association, which promotes health and well-being in faith communities and supports nurses serving in a variety of roles across the country.

7 Pray that our love for God will move us to seek God’s ways, wisdom and Commandments, which exist for the benefit of all humanity.

8 Give thanks for the creative gifts of church musicians and music ministry leaders, who enrich the worship experience in our congregations and help us express to God our joy, concerns and praise.

9 Remember in prayer our neighbors in Haiti, who yearn for peace, safety and hope amid persistent suffering and violence. Ask the Spirit to guide us as unwavering advocates for the peace and relief of our neighbors and siblings in Christ.

10 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Saint Paul Area Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

11 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southeastern Minnesota, Southeast Michigan, North/West Lower Michigan and New Jersey synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

12 Praise God that the truth of our faith, assurance of salvation and call to participate in God's work in the world are revealed to us through Jesus Christ, the Spirit, and the nurture and affirmation we experience in our faith communities.

13 Ask God to strengthen and be with all mothers — biological, adoptive and foster — in the daily joys and challenges of teaching values, passing on faith, and protecting and guiding their children.

14 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

15 Give thanks for the ELCA Life of Faith Initiative, an effort to equip people of all ages to live out their faith in their families, workplaces, schools, local communities and world, serving their neighbors and working for justice in everyday life.

16 *International Day of Living Together in Peace* Our words and actions speak volumes about our faith and values. Pray that we might move past our conflicts and that the Spirit will fill us with kindness, compassion, respect and sacrificial love for our neighbors.

17 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Southeastern Iowa Synod, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Greater Milwaukee Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

18 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington and Northern Great Lakes synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

19 *Day of Pentecost* Praise God for the work of the Spirit, which calls us to faith, focuses and strengthens us, accompanies us in our baptismal journeys and unites us in a diverse, global community of siblings in Christ.

20 Remember in prayer college, university and seminary students as they prepare for final exams, graduation and vocations that will direct their gifts and passions into service to their church, communities and world.

21 “The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Praise God for the gift of the Spirit, an advocate for us who stirs and strengthens our faith.

22 Give thanks to God that, in every corner of the world, the Spirit works to open hearts and minds to the life-changing news of unconditional love, forgiveness, renewal and salvation that we receive in Jesus Christ.

23 Ask the Spirit how God is calling us to use our faith, gifts, experience and wisdom to uplift our society, nation and world. “Could it be that we are called for such a time as this?” (*All Creation Sings* 1003).

24 Give thanks for scientists, science teachers and researchers, who stir our understanding and awe of God’s creation and seek to improve our lives, communities and natural environment. Promise to be careful with technology and new advancements, using them for the sake of justice and the well-being of humanity and creation.

25 Pray for the work we do through the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy to accompany migrants with protection, advocacy, representation and opportunities, which is an expression of our faith and understanding of the gospel. Promise to uphold basic human rights and to work alongside immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees that they might transition to life in the United States in safety, dignity and respect.

26 *Holy Trinity Sunday* Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions about faith, baptism and the kingdom of God. Rather than snub his curiosity, Jesus took the time to speak with him. What questions do you have about faith and theology? Share your uncertainties with God, trusting God to understand.

27 Pray for the ministry we pursue through ELCA Global Mission, and for the personnel, missionaries and volunteers who serve in long-term partnerships with our global companions in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries.

28 Sing a prayer of praise and worship to the Lord our God, creator of all that exists and sustains our lives.

29 Pray for teachers and professors in public and faith-based settings, who work with students of all ages and abilities to develop and nurture their faith, self-confidence, curiosity, creativity and caring relationships.

30 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Montana and North Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

31 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southwest California, South Dakota, Southern Ohio, Lower Susquehanna, Western North Dakota, Southeastern and Florida-Bahamas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.