

22 Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

23 Pray for the many young people participating in the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

Remember Joseph Bigalke, Winona Brueggemann, Blair Fingland, Aubrey Kesecker, and others who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in Great Britain.

24 Please pray for Lutheran Church of God, Chinese, an independent congregation in Houston, now joining the ELCA, and its leader, Joshua Ong, who is preparing to enter the TEEM process to become ordained.

25 Ash Wednesday

Pray that God will make us see our sinful human condition, and our own cultural and institutional uses of power and privilege related to racism and sexism, and will forgive us and sustain us in the life to which we are called.

26 Thank God for Rev. 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.

27 Give thanks for the people involved in Community Lutheran Partners, committed to the development of unique responses to the needs of the vulnerable through education, direct services, and advocacy in the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod.

28 Give thanks to God for Pastor Chad and Natalie Rimmer, who serve as leaders of the International Church of Copenhagen in Denmark.

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PRAYER VENTURES

FEBRUARY 2009



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. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thanks be to God! Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 4th 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.

2 Presentation of Our Lord

Pray that 3,500 young adults from across the church will answer God's call to serve as summer camp counselors in ELCA camps this summer.

3 Praise God for the witness of Pastor Jeffrey Truscott, whose classes in liturgy and theology at Trinity Theological College, Singapore, equip students from many Asian countries to help shape their faith communities.

4 Pray for Kirsten and the Rev. Stephen Kienberger, 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.

5 The Unibón ministry at Morovis, an area of great poverty in the mountains of Puerto Rico, was touching unchurched youth. When the leader became ill, the ministry was forced to stop. Please pray that God will provide a way to continue this vital ministry.

6 Give thanks for Patricia Bentsen, a longtime nurse in Madagascar who is medical administrator to the Malagasy Lutheran Church Health Department in Antananarivo.

7 Pray for the youth and young adults of Church of the Abiding Savior, Durham, N.C., who broke silence about racism through their testimony across the ELCA in the DVD “What’s color got to do with it?” a testimony to the racism they experienced in the Lutheran church, that shares their insights into the origin, spiritual implications and appropriate responses to the sin of racism.

8 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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.

9 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.

10 Give thanks for the example of Joy Lutheran

Church, Moore, S.C., whose members have been asking each other “Where have you seen God lately?” Recognizing God’s work and love through ordinary people in ordinary circumstances has energized members to become God’s hands and voices.

11 Pray for Abigail Sylvester, who provides leadership for the English language adult classes at St. Andrew’s Refugee Services in Cairo, Egypt. Ask God to move in this ministry through the staff as well as the witness of the refugees.

12 Give thanks for the partnership between Lutheran Student Movement and Lutheran Disaster Response, through which over 300 college students will spend spring break 2009 working in disaster-affected areas.

13 Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church, St. Paul, has baptized 117 adults and 64 children in the last eight years. Ask God to continue to bless the outreach ministry of this congregation and its pastor, the Rev. Shen Y. Lin.

14 Give thanks for all who participate in the life and ministry of the Lutheran Church in India. Remember especially the Young Adults in Global Mission, Rebecca Mehl and David Bucu, who are in the middle of their year of service, immersed in the culture and community of the church in India.

15 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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.

16 Pray for the new affordable, safe housing project among several congregations and community groups in the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. Thank God for these congregations who have responded to this great need, and ask God to bless their vision as well as open the doors to necessary resources.

17 Remember new English teachers who are completing six months of Japanese language study: Jenifer Brown, Matthew Linden and Carolyn Stypka will move into assignments in Tokyo and Kumamoto, Japan, in March.

18 Pray for personal, congregational and synodical support of Pastor Maxine Washington, the leaders of Bethel Lutheran Church, Chicago, and other African American women in leadership and ministry.

19 Pray that God will guide Pastor Timothy Pan and Pastor Newman Chiu in Los Angeles, who are reaching out to the Mandarin-speaking populations in their communities in two new mission starts.

20 Please pray for growth in faith for young people taking part in the Southeastern Pa. Synod’s senior high gathering, Feb. 20-22, which will include community-based learning and action to address major issues of justice, wealth and poverty.

21 Thank God for the leadership team of Todos Los Hijos de Dios, Amsterdam, N.Y. These four lay people from Peru, Mexico and Puerto Rico, are in the process to become pastors in the ELCA.