

Kong and Macao, as these countries journey through a long period of adjustment and seek to form peaceful long-term relationships. We praise you for the continued growth of these churches as they spread the Good News about your love and compassion.

### **23 Day after World Water Day**

Let us join together and pray for all of the children who are being baptized. Let us pray for Jennifer Zayas who lives out her Christian vocation as an educator, and came before the baptismal font this Sunday with her newborn son, Matthew. May Matthew and all children be filled with the love of God.

**24** Give thanks and ask God to guide the pastors and people of Shalom Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Minn., who are seeking to be faithful stewards of the gifts God has given them.

### **25 Annunciation of Our Lord**

Thank God for Pastor Gu Yu-Mei. God called her to help with relief efforts in Mianzhu, near the heavily affected areas from last year's earthquake. Much work needed to be done in the city. Living under a tarpaulin in the churchyard, Pr. Gu is following God's call just as Mary, mother of Jesus, did so long ago.

**26** Thank God for the faithful service of Barbara Robertson in the area of the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Ask God to bless her work as she develops and implements a program to deal with HIV and AIDS for the surrounding communities.

**27** Ask God to guide seminary internship directors as they gather to discuss ways to support and equip future

pastors for mission, including Dr. Julius Carroll, from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

**28** Pray for Carol Anderson, Jennifer Christen, and Stephanie Olson, volunteer teachers at Evangelické Gymnázium Juraja Tranoveskeho in Liptovský Mikulas, Slovakia. The Gymnázium is one of several church-related schools where the ELCA sends teachers

### **29 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Loving God, we pray for the people of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore, that they may be strengthened to meet the many challenges of a pluralistic world. We thank you for the companion relationships between the ELCA Southeastern Synod and the churches in Malaysia and Singapore.

**30** Give thanks for Pastor Peter C. Jacobson and the members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kan., who continue to honor the ELCA call for participation in ongoing prayer for peace in the Middle East.

**31** Give thanks for the long and faithful service of Pastor Cliff and Mitesaida Lewis, who serve at St. Andrew's United Church in Cairo, Egypt, a congregation that ministers to hundreds of refugees from Africa.

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. 2957.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# PRAYER VENTURES

MARCH 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 First Sunday in Lent**

Holy God, we give you thanks for the witness of Christians in Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino. Grant renewal and strength to the churches in these countries, that the Gospel might reach those who have not yet heard the words of our Lord.

**2** Thank God for the pastors and people of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Marble Falls, Texas, and Shepherd of the Hills, Austin, Texas. They are sharing their pastors, people and resources to start a new congregation -- Spirit in the Hills -- in a growing area west of Austin. Pastor Danielle Casey and Pastor Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones are the developers.

**3** Thank God for Claudia Bergmann and Scott Moore, who serve the congregation of St. Andreas-Nicolai-Petri in Lutherstadt Eisleben, Germany, where Martin Luther was baptized and where he preached his last sermons. May Claudia's and Scott's ministry help strengthen the church.

**4** Let us pray for Pastor Jensen Seyenkulo and Pastor David Muench as they continue to work with the Inter-Lutheran Committee on Health and Wellness. May this

ministry help the church and its leaders live health lives.

**5** We pray for Pastor James Foster and the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland, Mich., as they construct a new facility. May their church building and faith community be built with Christ as their cornerstone.

**6** Pray for the 10 young ELCA members who are serving in the United Kingdom this year through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, including Kandisa Skaff, Tyler Moe-Slepica and Jacqueline St. Pierre.

**7** Ask the Holy Spirit to guide newly-appointed mission developers Newman Chu-Sheng Chiu, Torrance, Cal.; the Rev. Kristina Johnson, Greensboro, N.C.; Nadia Bolz-Weber, Denver, Colo.; the Rev. Benjamin Ingelson, Channahan, Ill.; Andres Leone, West Columbia, S.C.; Doris Ng, Richmond, Cal.; and the Rev. Mark Borseth, Harvest, Ala.

### **8 Second Sunday in Lent**

We lift up to you, merciful God, the members of the emerging Christian communities in Myanmar and Thailand, that they may expand their holistic ministries in those countries.

**9** On this day after the United Nations Day for Women's Rights, rejoice in the ministry of Edna Johnson, a nurse who works with Curran Health Program in Liberia to provide primary health care to more than 30 remote rural villages.

**10** Lift up leader Matthew Riak and Sudanese Christ Lutheran Chapel, Wyoming, Mich., as they seek to meet the day-to-day needs of new neighbors and invite them into a strong faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

**11** Praise God for Matthew Gardner, Sarah Loan, and Pamela Sersen, who have touched the lives of high school students in Tokyo and Kumamoto, Japan, as teachers with the J-3 program of the Japanese Evangelical Lutheran Church. Ask God to bless their ministry and guide them when they return to the U.S.

**12** Pray for Pastor Josh Hansen and the members of St. John Lutheran Church, Sinking Valley, Pa., as they engage in discerning God's plan for their future within an area of declining population.

**13** Give thanks for the continued work of Marissa and Pastor Viking Dietrich in Senegal. Marissa's witness as a teacher and Viking's work as general secretary for the Joint Christian Ministry of West Africa provide a vital witness among the nomadic Fulbe people.

**14** Pray for Pastor Javier Goitia and his ministry at the ecumenical seminary in Puerto Rico, where he works in partnership with Presbyterian brothers and sisters to develop a Spanish language curriculum for equipping Latino and Latino leaders.

### **15 Third Sunday in Lent**

We give you thanks, O God, for the vitality of the churches in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Build up these dynamic communities, that they may encourage other churches within the Lutheran communion.

**16** Give thanks for the Mashiah Foundation in Nigeria, for Azur and other leaders in the "Women of Hope" team who visit communities throughout Nigeria to raise awareness of how to prevent HIV, and share advice for how to live positively after an HIV diagnosis.

**17** Pray for Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, who serve at Kyushu Lutheran College of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kumamoto, Japan. Patrick teaches English and Jacqueline directs a college choir.

**18** El Camino de Emaus Lutheran Church, Burlington, Wash., a congregation started five years ago, has raised up two lay people from the congregation to receive training to become leaders in other first generation congregations. Ask for God's blessing on Emilio Benitez and Esau Cuevas as they take classes to become ordained pastors.

### **19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**

Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas unite over 100 children with parents through adoption each year, and support 500 more through foster care, in addition to providing group homes to youngsters who have any combination of emotional, mental, and physical problems. Pray for the servants of God who follow the example of Joseph as guardians of these "little ones."

**20** Remember in prayer Pastor Wayne Nieminen and Pastor Christa von Zychlin, seminary professors at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Praise God for the dedication of the students, many of whom go forth to serve in Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand.

### **21 Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Give thanks for Christine May and Sally Miles, who work in the ELCA Multicultural Ministries unit in the field of Racial Justice Ministries, as they help all members of the ELCA join the fight to eliminate racial discrimination.

### **22 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Gracious God, we pray for the future of China, Hong