

economic times and for the support of health and human services during a time of significant budget crises.

25 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God of all kindness, gather the people of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia into your protective arms, especially as they face numerous challenges in their lives.

26 Pray for Stephanie Schmeige and her ministry in the North-Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Stephanie serves on behalf of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod as a teacher at Kibeta English Medium Primary School, supporting the synod's commitment to Christian education within its companion diocese.

27 Pray for the responsible stewardship of all of God's creation: soil, air, water and all of God's living creatures.

28 Give thanks to God for the gifts of the Rev. Kathryn Warn who serves as a pastor-in-residence with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone. Kate helps build bridges between the church in Sierra Leone and its companion synod, the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, while providing key support in the areas of leadership development, worship and community.

29 Pray for the fall meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, which meets in Chicago, Illinois, September 29 through October 4.

30 Give thanks for the work of Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg as Steve continues to reactivate medical dispensaries in North Maasailand in Tanzania, and as Bethany Works with Maasai women to create and market beadwork internationally.

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

SEPTEMBER 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 Pray for all ELCA schools as the school year begins, for teachers, students, administrators and staff as they work together to support learning and growth in the community.

2 Give thanks for the ministry of the Larson family, Gary, Ruth, and their four children, in Bangladesh. Gary is a lecturer at the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh.

3 Pray for those who experience poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunity even amid great wealth and abundant resources, and for the growing gap between rich and poor.

4 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Gracious God, look with favor upon the people of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia and Montenegro that, in the midst of great change, they may find hope and peace.

5 Give thanks for meaningful work and God-given vocations. Pray for all who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those who suffer from unfair labor practices and unjust wages.

6 Pray for ELCA Campus Ministries across the country that they may continue to support the lives of faith of young adults.

7 Pray for the Rev. Dirk and Sarah Stadtlander who serve in Linguere, Senegal. Dirk is pastor of a Pulaar-speaking congregation of the Lutheran Church of Senegal and is an advisor to the church's evangelism ministry among the Fulani people. Dirk and Sarah also provide support for the ministries of Lutheran Development Services of Senegal.

8 Pray for those who struggle to read and those who lack educational resources today on International Literacy Day, recognized by the United Nations.

9 Pray for the Conference of Presidents gathering of the Women of the ELCA who gather in Chicago, Illinois, September 9-11.

10 Give thanks for the witness of the 50 participants in Young Adults in Global Mission who completed orientation and are now moving into one-year positions in Argentina, Uruguay, Jerusalem/West Bank, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa and United Kingdom. May God guide and keep them as they work side by side with companions in social ministry and community initiatives.

11 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gracious God, we remember the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011. Bless those who continue to mourn. Strengthen those who live in

fear of violence. Work your reconciliation and justice throughout the world.

12 Pray that the churches of Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania may be your instruments of reconciliation, both locally and in the wider world.

13 Pray for Kristen and the Rev. Brian Konkol as they coordinate the Young Adults in Global Mission program in South Africa and facilitate the well-being, support, and guidance of the Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers.

14 Give thanks for The National Council of the Churches of Christ USA and the Canadian Council of Churches and their efforts toward unity in the church.

15 Give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Kwanza Yu who has concluded service as pastor of St. Paul International Lutheran Church in Tokyo. Having lived in Japan previously, the Rev. Yu brought unique experience and gifts to this parish setting.

16 Pray for the summit between the ELCA and African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) to be held in Salisbury, North Carolina, on September 16-17. The summit will offer a unique opportunity for the two church bodies to prayerfully consider ministry together. AME Zion Senior Bishop George W.C. Walker Sr., and ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will lead worship together at St. John's Lutheran Church during the summit.

17 Pray for those who work toward preservation of the environment by walking instead of driving a car, for those who take public transportation, and for those who call for an end to the wasteful use of the earth's resources.

18 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We give you thanks, God of the ages, for the long history of the church in Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. Grant wisdom, strength and grace to the continued witness of the churches and to the people of Belarus, struggling with a government marked by political repression and corrupt leadership. Continue to guide the companion relationships among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States and the ELCA Central States and Northwest Washington Synods.

19 Pray for the advancement of the political, economic, social and cultural development of our societies.

20 Pray for Alan and Marie Krahn who are engaged in Theological Education at the Escola Superior de Teologia in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil. May their witness and teaching be a source of joy and empowerment for both the leaders in training and the churches that will receive them.

21 Pray for an end to violence and injustice throughout the earth on this day, the International Day of Peace, recognized by the United Nations.

22 Pray for those who are recovering from natural disasters and for those who live in fear of storms, especially during the Atlantic Ocean's hurricane season.

23 Pray for Kristen Opalinski who works as the Information and Communications Officer for Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa).

24 Pray for the ELCA State Public Policy Offices as they advocate for families struggling in tough