

[Prayer Ventures for November 2018]

1 *All Saints Day* Today, we remember our sisters and brothers in Christ who have gone before us — loved ones, friends, saints and martyrs — and offer thanks and respect for how they have influenced and enriched our lives and faith.

2 *National American Indian Heritage Month* Give thanks for the gifts and witness of American Indian and Alaska Native members of the ELCA, native congregations, ministries and the work of the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, all grounded in reconciliation and the mutual building up of the saints — people of all backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities, congregations and unique needs.

3 Remember in prayer the Palestinians who come for healing to the six hospitals in East Jerusalem, including the Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital; pray the United States and all government authorities will restore the support needed to keep these hospitals open so they can continue to treat, heal and care for patients of all ages.

4 Pray for those who are in mourning and despair over the loss of a loved one, family member, friend or neighbor, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us surround them with support, understanding and the hope we have through Jesus' victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

5 Remember in prayer outdoor ministry professionals and board members meeting in New Braunfels, Texas, for the annual Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference and leadership training event; pray they are encouraged, equipped and sustained through each other and the Holy Spirit for ministry with people of all ages and abilities.

6 Ask God to guide our discernment and voting in elections across our nation and that our decisions will reflect wisdom in choosing skilled, just and compassionate leaders committed to serving all people, especially the poor and those who are often disregarded in our society.

7 Remember in prayer people and communities working to cope with and recover from the impacts of Hurricanes Michael and Florence, the earthquake and tsunami that hit parts of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, wildfires in California and other Western states, drought and famine in regions of Africa, and those still involved in ongoing long-term recovery work resulting from disasters; give thanks for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response on our behalf to bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

8 Pray for members of the ELCA Church Council gathering in Chicago; give thanks for their faith, service, leadership and wisdom, and pray the Holy Spirit will guide and inspire their discussions and counsel for the sake of growing the church and doing God's work in the world.

9 Pray for the service and witness of young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) programs in South Africa and Swaziland and for the Rev. Alexis LaChapelle, YAGM country coordinator for Southern Africa.

10 Pray we not forget during our busy lives to look up to God and give recognition and praise to God for being mighty, strong and merciful, the source of our blessings and all we have.

11 Ask that the Holy Spirit is at work in the church and our faith-based organizations, that we are always thankful, affirming, and responsible with the contributions and generosity of our members without deference to the size of their gifts or their social status.

12 Give thanks to God for theologians and Christian educators — brothers and sisters in Christ in congregations and synods, seminaries, universities and schools, and among our global companions and ecumenical partners — who help us study and better understand the Word of God, explore questions of faith and connect our faith with daily life.

13 The Lutheran-Catholic dialogue has been ongoing since 1965. Thank God for those who strive for greater unity between churches on our behalf and for relationships and work leading up to the “Declaration on the Way” document of 2015 describing where we agree, differences that still exist, and steps for further study, dialogue and resolution and reconciliation.

14 Just as God watches over strangers and lifts up the poor, sick and oppressed, pray we, too, grounded in the gospel, will exercise daily justice, generosity, hospitality and kindness in the world.

15 Pray for the service and witness of young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) programs in Australia and for their YAGM country coordinators, the Rev. Kim Crawford and the Rev. Henry Martinez.

16 Give thanks that through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, our sins are forgiven and removed so we can live as children of God who celebrate a new life received through faith that sets us free to follow God’s word and ways.

17 Pray for doctors, nurses, staff, health educators, missionaries and chaplains serving in faith-based hospitals, clinics, and places of care and healing throughout the world.

18 Give thanks and praise to God for being our hope, reassurance and strength when fears rise up in us, we feel confused or we face the challenges of being people of faith who follow Jesus.

19 Pray for the service and witness of young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) programs in Rwanda and Senegal; the Rev. Janelle Neubauer, YAGM country coordinator for Rwanda; and the Rev. Kristin Engstrom, YAGM country coordinator for Senegal.

20 “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” Pray we, as the body of Christ, encourage one another and our neighbor to bring a different light, truth and spirit into the world — a spirit that dispels darkness, initiates reconciliation, heals and seeks justice and peace for all people — especially in times of contentious division.

21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 *Thanksgiving Day* Give thanks and praise to God for every blessing, person and resource that sustains us physically, spiritually and socially; pray for all who hunger in body and spirit that they be nourished and strengthened and that we seek ways to be supportive and engaged in the hope-filled, life-giving social ministries of our congregations, communities and ELCA World Hunger.

23 Pray we are grateful, responsible and generous stewards with everything God has entrusted to our care for the well-being of our neighbor and the sake of the world.

24 “The Lord has done great things for us.” Give thanks to God, rejoice, shout for joy and share the good news.

25 Ask God to help us reflect on and better understand the meaning and use of power as revealed through the humble, sacrificial life of Jesus, a life given to conquer the powers of sin and death for the sake of all humanity.

26 Give thanks to God for hymn writers, composers and the diversity of musicians — throughout history and today — who help us worship, reflect, celebrate and sing praises to God.

27 On this day that has become known as Giving Tuesday, ask God to help us be mindful of supporting our neighbors in need and the ministries and organizations working to address their difficult situations; pray the Holy Spirit stirs in us eagerness to be empathetic, generous and compassionate not just on special days, but every day!

28 Pray that, as we eagerly await the return of Jesus, we remain focused on the work, service and witness the Holy Spirit calls and equips us to do in this world today.

29 Remember in prayer immigrants and refugees fleeing violence and dire circumstances to seek safety, peace and new opportunities; pray for those who, in spite of the personal risks and daunting challenges they face, return home with hope and determination to rebuild their lives and communities.

30 *Andrew, Apostle* Pray the Holy Spirit will move and equip us to drop what we are doing or wrapped up in and follow Jesus as Andrew did so long ago, that we have the courage to follow as the first disciples did, trusting that God has important work for us to do together in the world, even though we bring with us lingering questions, fears and imperfections.