

[Prayer Ventures for June 2022]

**1** *LGBTQ Pride Month* Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom and faith of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask the Spirit to stir and embolden us to advocate for laws, practices, values, and institutional and social change that address injustice, bias and exclusion.

**2** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Central/Southern Illinois, Nebraska, North Carolina and Sierra Pacific synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**3** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Florida-Bahamas, Lower Susquehanna, Montana, Northwestern Ohio, South Dakota, Southeastern and Western North Dakota synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**4** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Eastern North Dakota, Metropolitan Chicago, Northwest Washington and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**5** *Day of Pentecost* Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northern Illinois and Upstate New York synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**6** Pray for an end to the invasion of Ukraine and the violence inflicted upon its citizens, for the safety and well-being of its refugees, for the healing of its communities and for the restoration of its infrastructure.

**7** The ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge is a youth-focused campaign to accompany our neighbors who live with the threats of hunger and poverty. Pray that our church will meet its fundraising goal of \$500,000 to equip communities around the world and in the U.S. with the resources needed to turn hunger into hope and self-sufficiency.

**8** Remember your baptism and give thanks that, in Christ and through the Spirit, our new identity as children and heirs of God is revealed, shaped and guided so that we might live our faith with confidence and joy and serve our neighbor with compassion, mercy and generosity.

**9** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Central States, Indiana-Kentucky and New England synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**10** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Grand Canyon; La Crosse Area; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; Northeastern Iowa; Northwestern Pennsylvania; and Southwestern Texas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**11** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern California and Allegheny synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**12** *Holy Trinity Sunday* Celebrate and pray for our faith to deepen as we embrace the mystery of the Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, always present for us.

**13** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the South Carolina Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**14** "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3-4). Give thanks and praise that God shows no bias, understands our human complexities and is not constrained by human borders, rules or traditions.

**15** Pray that our hope and strength will be grounded and renewed in God's boundless and unfaltering love, especially in times when we feel uncertain, discouraged or powerless to impact what goes on in the world today.

**16** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**17** *Emanuel Nine, martyrs* Today we remember the members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, N.C., who were killed by a self-professed white supremacist while gathered for Bible study. Pray that we — as individuals, a church and a society — will reaffirm our commitment to repent from the sins of racism and white supremacy, and that the Spirit will change our hearts and lead us to value, love and welcome all people as the wonderful handiwork of God.

**18** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

**19** *Juneteenth* This day of celebration commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, an observance dating back to June 19, 1865. Give thanks to God for the diversity of humankind and pray that God will help, guide and strengthen our commitment to work for the full inclusion of all people in the church, in our society and throughout the world.

**20** On Father's Day, give thanks and pray for fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, fathers struggling with parenting, and men without children of their own who serve as loving and caring adults in the lives of children and youth.

**21** Remember in prayer seasonal workers, often working behind the scenes, who are in transition throughout the year; pray that they will find safe and sustaining employment, affordable housing and a sense of community in our congregations.

**22** Give thanks and praise that God is at work to reclaim, transform and unite us as children of God through our baptism in Christ.

**23** Pray that summer programs and community ministries of our congregations will stir faith and hope and attend to the needs of communities. Give thanks for volunteers who share their enthusiasm, faith, time and gifts to help summer ministries thrive.

**24** *John the Baptist* Though we may lack the single-mindedness, fervor and sacrificial spirit of John the Baptist in proclaiming Christ, give thanks that God uses our unique qualities and gifts to serve our neighbor and share the life-changing gospel with whomever we encounter in our daily life.

**25** Pray for programs and partners of the ELCA churchwide organization that support young adults as they grow in faith and discover who God is calling them to be in the world, including ELCA Young Adult Ministry, Young Adults in Global Mission, Young Adult Justice Network, Campus Ministry, and outdoor ministries.

**26** Pray that we might follow Christ with passion and commitment, sharing the good news, inviting others into faith and showing grace toward our neighbor when we encounter resistance, difficulty or disbelief.

**27** Pray that God will hear our concern and yearning for our communities and schools to be safe from gun violence; pray that the Spirit will transform that concern and yearning into advocacy for common-sense gun laws, community conversations and initiatives, and loving care for those impacted by gun violence.

**28** Give thanks and pray for the safety of firefighters, first responders, members of the National Guard, disaster response volunteers, relief agencies and neighbors who respond to individuals and communities in times of severe weather and natural disaster.

**29** *Peter and Paul, apostles* Peter and Paul disagreed with each other yet were united in their commitment to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and encourage communities of faith. Pray that we will be united in our faith as siblings in Christ, moving beyond our differences and using our unique gifts and perspectives to do God's work in the world, together.

**30** Pray for the churchwide organization staff and volunteer leaders across the country preparing for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and for the congregations, youth and adults anticipating this rich experience of worship, community, faith formation, learning and service.