

## 24 John the Baptist

Give thanks for Jessica Cole, Mary Houck, Mark Molter, Kristen Reed, and Ashley Severson. May God be with them as they move into the final weeks of their year in Slovakia through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

25 Pray for Eveline Herfkens, executive coordinator for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Campaign, and her staff worldwide as they work with 189 countries around the world to “free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.”

26 Give thanks for the military chaplains serving deployed service members. Pray that the service members will continue to receive good pastoral care as they return home and struggle with post-traumatic issues, physical, mental and spiritual.

27 Give thanks for the work of Linda Gawthorne among the indigenous Kogi people of Colombia. Displaced from their land in the Santa Marta mountains by violence, many now reside in Bogotá, where Linda provides spiritual nurturing and is helping translate the Bible into Kogi.

28 Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Pastor Tim Martenson and the people of Waters of Life Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minn., a congregation of the ELCA organized last May. Pray that they may continue to appreciate, respond to, and shape the community. Give thanks for the 20 new families received into membership Easter Sunday.

## 29 Peter and Paul, Apostles

Come, Lord Jesus, into the life of Christian churches in Bolivia, Chile, and Peru. Help them be signs of your mercy as they work with the poor, the indigenous, and the marginalized, and give them courage and faithfulness to walk in your steps.

30 Pray that members in all ELCA congregations may be empowered for their vocations by becoming fluent in the first language of faith, the Scriptures, through the Book of Faith Initiative.

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.

# PRAYER VENTURES

JUNE 2008



*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 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Almighty God, we give you thanks for showering your Spirit upon the churches of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. May they find continued strength to engage the social, economic and political challenges within which they witness.

2 Thank God for the gifts and commitment of the many global mission volunteers who serve two to six months as doctors, English teachers, theology professors and auditors. Today lift up Jerry Schmalenberger, Jim Bergquist, Herb and Kirsten Hafermann, and Loren and Edith Bliese, who volunteer frequently for short-term assignments.

3 Pray that this summer may be a safe and fruitful time for all our students and give thanks for all those God has called as administrators and teachers in public schools and in the early childhood education centers, elementary and secondary schools of the ELCA.

4 Remember in prayer today Megan Hunt and Richard Hansgen, who have been serving in China with the Amity International English as a Second Language teaching program. Give thanks to God for the many gifts they have brought to this program, and ask God to bless them as they complete their service and return home this summer.

5 Thank God for the talents and commitment of Pastor Emily Cardin, who leads worship at New Beginnings, a ministry at Denver Women’s Correctional Facility. Each Friday evening, more than 75 people gather for worship with Emily and members of Denver area congregations.

6 Give thanks to God for the ministry of Cristel Churchill, a volunteer math and English teacher at the Pacific Islands Bible College on Guam, which prepares students to serve on their native islands as teachers, business workers and pastors. Ask God to be with her as she completes her service this summer and transitions home.

**7** Pray for the more than 30,000 seafarers who enter Seattle every year, as well as the chaplains and volunteers who attend to their spiritual and social needs while they are in port. Lutheran Maritime Ministry offers Bibles and Christian education materials, worship, transportation, mail service, counseling, and opportunities for the seafarers to call home.

#### **8 4th Sunday After Pentecost**

Merciful God, we thank you for the growing peace in Angola and Mozambique. We also lift up the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique and the ELCA Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, that both churches may grow in the sharing of their gifts.

**9** Give thanks to God for the eight seminaries of the ELCA and the students who graduated during the 2007-2008 academic year. Pray for these graduates as they conclude their candidacy for public ministry in the ELCA or as they take up other vocations.

**10** Praise God for Pastor Benjamin and Margit Coltvet, serving at the American Church in Berlin, which capitalizes on its diverse membership to reach out to the changing population of the German capital.

**11** Give thanks for leaders in all our congregations, lay and clergy, who invite into the Christian family those estranged from God; who call the members of their congregations to be disciples; and whose words and actions point to Jesus Christ.

#### **12 Barnabas, Apostle**

Pray for Andrew Ronnevik, an intern at St. Andrew's United Church in Cairo, Egypt. Andrew studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Ask that he will bring international gifts back to domestic ministry, especially related to the challenge of serving in a multifaith context.

**13** Pray for the members of the ELCA Shareholder Network as they seek to manage their investments and economic resources in a way that serves God, all God's people and the creation.

**14** Lift up the courageous leaders of eight congregations in Chicago who closed their doors and, together, started a new ministry, United in Faith. The outreach and youth programs of this young congregation have flourished, and more than 1,000 people are served each week through its ministries.

#### **15 5th Sunday After Pentecost**

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the signs of hope in Brazil today.

Continue to enliven the churches in their witness to the hope in Christ that is brought within reach of men, women and children in their everyday lives.

**16** Pray for Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and everyone within the United Nations, committed to peace among the nations and fundamental human rights for every human being, and for the staff of 30,000 working in fields such as human rights, humanitarian aid, reduction of poverty, protection of environment, and fighting against HIV and AIDS.

**17** Thank God for the young people who give one year of their lives to serve the church around the world through the Young Adults in Global Mission Program. Pray for Amanda Frank, Amy Blomquist, and Kristin Vought, serving in the United Kingdom, and for Vanessa Blackman and Tobias Hoffine, serving in Germany.

**18** Give thanks to God for the writers and staff of *Lutheran Partners*, the churchwide organization's magazine for ministry leadership. Our lives are enriched by the people God calls to serve as writers, editors and publishers.

**19** Lift up Ian and the Rev. Joyce Graue, serving in the Central African Republic. Ian coordinates the Village Education Program and Joyce coordinates women's programs for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

**20** Pray for Pastor Peter Daniel Penumaka and the people of St. Paul International Lutheran Church, a multicultural, multiethnic, South Asian ministry in New York City.

**21** Lift up in prayer Josh Ebener, a seminary intern at Mision Maria Magdalena in Resistencia, Argentina and for the ministry of social justice there. Ask God to be with Josh as he returns to the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago at the end of summer.

#### **22 6th Sunday After Pentecost**

O God, you who are a part of the very fabric of our whole lives, we lift up to you the people of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. May they find peace with you as they struggle with economic, social and political challenges.

**23** Join with the Multicultural Ministries Prayer Partner Network to pray for new ministry starts in diverse settings and the people who lead and serve in them, seminarians being called to ethnic-specific ministries and congregations reaching out in diverse neighborhoods