

[Prayer Ventures for November 2024]

1 *All Saints Day* Remember and give thanks for saints who are now in God’s eternal, loving care. Praise God for their significance in your life — their influence, example and faith.

2 *American Indian Heritage Month* Give thanks for our Indigenous neighbors and siblings in Christ, whose diverse gifts, traditions and wisdom help shape and enrich society and the church. Pray for the work of ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations and the Association of American Indians and Alaska Natives of the ELCA. Ask God to guide and further the work of our church and society to build better, right and just relationships with Indigenous peoples.

3 Pray that we will love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and that God’s abundant love and mercy will be reflected in our love for others.

4 Praise God for the wonders of the heavens, which stir our awe, curiosity and gratitude for God’s infinite power and creativity. Give thanks for scientists, astronomers and explorers who deepen our knowledge and respect for creation and its mysteries.

5 *Election Day* “The right hand of God is planting in our land, planting seeds of freedom, hope, and love” (*ELW* 889). Ask the Spirit to help us exercise concern for our neighbor, the well-being of communities, and racial, gender and economic justice as we discern whom to elect as our leaders and public servants. Give thanks for ELCAvotes, an initiative to help us understand our role in promoting dignity and respect for all.

6 Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to share the good news of Jesus Christ and teach every generation about God’s word, loving ways and active presence in the world, today and throughout history.

7 *National Homeless Youth Month* Remember and pray for young people who have no shelter or place where they feel safe, secure and cared for. Pray for community programs and ministries of our church that provide shelter, food, resources and support for developing self-sufficiency, and physical, emotional and spiritual care for youth.

8 Give thanks for the joy and certainty we experience when we walk in God’s ways and follow God’s commandments as revealed to us in Scripture and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

9 Pray for those in the Gulf Coast and other regions of the Southeast who are grieving loss and recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Pray that their hope, faith and determination will remain strong and that we will offer generous support and assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response, communities of faith, volunteers and disaster recovery agencies — for as long as needed.

10 Pray for outdoor ministry leaders gathering for the Leadership Training Event and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference in Baltimore, Md. Ask God to equip and renew them for ministry with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

11 *Veterans Day* This is a day when we remember, honor and give thanks for the service and sacrifice of veterans of the armed forces who have defended our country and worked for freedom and justice in the world. Pray that their families, caregivers and survivors will receive the support and care they need. Give thanks for the work of Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA and of congregations with ministries serving veterans and their families.

12 Praise God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who took upon himself the burden of our sins and human weaknesses so that we can know true freedom, be renewed for doing God's work in the world and take comfort in the promise of eternal life with God.

13 Remember in prayer our ministries in seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, including the missionaries, teachers, International Women Leaders and Horizon seminary interns working alongside companion churches to spread the gospel, grow the church and respond to community needs.

14 Pray for ELCA Church Council members meeting in Chicago to oversee and govern the ELCA churchwide organization. Pray for the Spirit to guide their discussions, their counsel and their decisions for the well-being, vitality and growth of the church.

15 Pray for Lutheran and Episcopal school leaders gathering in collaboration at the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) Biennial Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Give thanks for the ministries of the NAES and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association that equip, inspire and support Christian educators.

16 Ask God to help us welcome and treat immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers with respect and compassion, accompanying them through the complex process of rebuilding their lives in our country.

17 Jesus warned that being his disciple is never easy or safe, but we are never alone or ill-equipped for doing God's work in the world — we are accompanied by the Spirit and our siblings in Christ. Praise God!

18 Give thanks for those who work in hospice care and attend to the comfort and quality of life of people as they approach the end of life, and who provide emotional and spiritual support for their families.

19 Ask the Spirit to nurture and sustain the confidence, wisdom, humility and faith of leaders in our church, synods, congregations and special ministries.

20 “You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:11). Express your gratitude to God, the light that guides us through life and brings true joy and fulfillment.

21 There are approximately 369,000 infants, children and youth in foster care in our country. Pray that foster families will provide them with stability, love, support and encouragement so that they thrive. Give thanks for foster parents and pray for the Spirit to equip them with wisdom, empathy, strength and skills for parenting.

22 “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another” (Hebrews 10:24-25). Pray that we — individually and as communities of faith — will be catalysts for love, kindness and inspiration in the church, our society and the world.

23 Remember in prayer our ministries in nine countries in the Latin America and Caribbean regions. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, including the missionaries, teachers, International Women Leaders and Young Adults in Global Mission working alongside global companions to spread the gospel, strengthen and grow the church, and respond to community needs.

24 In a world of force, intimidation and superiority, pray that we will take to heart the leadership of Jesus Christ, whose power manifests in humility, love, mercy and justice.

25 Give thanks for the people and experiences that break into our daily routines, interjecting joy and laughter.

26 Ask God to make us enthusiastic witnesses to our faith through words, kindness, love for our neighbors in need and commitment to justice and peace. Pray that we will be mindful of opportunities to invite others to become followers of Jesus Christ and to welcome them into our communities of faith.

27 Praise God for gathering our collective gifts and resources through ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response to respond to the needs of our neighbor and end hunger and poverty.

28 *Day of Thanksgiving* Give thanks today — and every day — for what God provides to strengthen and sustain us and for those who work to feed the world, including farmers, agricultural workers, ranchers, commercial fishermen, food pantry staff and administrators of hunger relief programs such as ELCA World Hunger.

29 *Native American Heritage Day* “Let us remember the Indigenous peoples and tribal nations who were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum, dance and sing upon these lands” (land acknowledgment from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly). Give thanks for the cultures, values, accomplishments and spirituality of Native Americans that continue to shape our nation and church. Pray that we will be persistent and sincere in learning more about Indigenous

peoples and tribal nations and in working together to correct inaccuracies and injustices of history.

30 *Andrew, the Apostle* Andrew was the first of the 12 disciples to drop what he was doing and accept Jesus' invitation to follow him. Ask the Spirit to stir our faith and courage to respond to the call to do God's work in the world, wherever it takes us and whatever it requires of us.