

[Prayer Ventures for June 2024]

1 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Eastern North Dakota, Metropolitan Chicago, Metropolitan Washington (D.C.), Nebraska, Northeastern Ohio, Northwestern Ohio, Oregon, and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

2 Thank God for the gift of the sabbath, which offers physical, mental, spiritual and emotional renewal. Pray that we will honor our sabbath opportunities and help others find times and places to rest and to attend to their own well-being.

3 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Upstate New York Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

4 *LGBTQ Pride Month* Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom, leadership and faith of our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask the Spirit to embolden us in advocating for social, institutional and legislative change that reflects justice, total inclusion and God's boundless love for humanity in all its diversity.

5 "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works" (Psalm 139:14). Turn to our Creator in prayer for comfort and confidence when you experience self-doubt or feel inadequate.

6 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Central States, Central/Southern Illinois and New England synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

7 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Caribbean Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Sierra Pacific Synod and Southwestern Minnesota Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

8 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northeastern Pennsylvania and South Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

9 Give thanks and praise to God, whose power prevails over all evil and vanquishes darkness that can overshadow and frighten us.

10 Pray for Lutheran outdoor ministry leaders and staff as they prepare to welcome campers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to faith-enriching summer camps, day camps, service experiences, wilderness trips and retreats.

11 Ask God to bless summer ministries, including day camps, community meals and vacation Bible schools, that they might impact our communities, deepen faith, introduce people of all ages to the gospel and care for the needs of our neighbors.

12 What do you fear? Share your worries with God, who is present, loving and attentive even when we feel helpless and alone.

13 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Grand Canyon Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

14 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northern Illinois, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Upper Susquehanna synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

15 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Allegheny Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

16 *Father's Day* Pray that biological fathers, stepfathers, adoptive fathers and foster fathers will experience the daily joys of fatherhood and find support and wisdom for the challenges of parenting, passing along their faith, teaching compassion and respect, and encouraging and guiding their children.

17 Pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in countries and regions torn by conflict and violence, including Sudan, Haiti, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza and indeed the entire Middle East. Ask the Spirit to be with those who suffer loss, trauma, hunger and displacement and that we will bring support, hope and love wherever there is suffering and turmoil.

18 Remember in prayer those employed in seasonal jobs and ask the Spirit to help us express our hospitality, respect and heartfelt gratitude for their service.

19 *Juneteenth* Today we commemorate June 19, 1865, when the last enslaved Africans were emancipated in the United States. We lament our nation's history of slavery, give thanks for freedom and justice, and pray for an end to racism and racial inequity.

20 Pray for community garden programs and volunteer gardeners as they recognize and serve the needs of our neighbors who live with poverty and hunger. Give thanks for our work together

through ELCA World Hunger to address the root causes of hunger and poverty here and around the world.

21 Pray for the Spirit to inspire us and grant us wisdom in this time of study, reflection and deliberation that will guide the development of a new ELCA social statement on civic life and faith and the relationship of church and state.

22 Ask God to grant hope, stamina and healing to those recovering from the devastation left by tornadoes and severe storms across our country. Give thanks for our work together through Lutheran Disaster Response to provide relief and assistance to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and worldwide.

23 “Waking up, [Jesus] rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Be silent! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to [the disciples], ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great fear” (Mark 4:39-41). Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our trust in God in the face of every challenge and situation that tests our faith.

24 Pray for youth, adults and congregations preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering, the tAble (for young people with disabilities), the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the Young Adult Gathering. Pray that their lives and faith will be enriched and inspired through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship with Lutheran youth gathered from around the country.

25 Remember in prayer senior adults and those who suffer illnesses and conditions vulnerable to summer heat. Give thanks for community cooling centers, those who perform wellness checks, and first responders.

26 “Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. Let them extol him in the congregation of the people and praise him in the assembly of the elders” (Psalm 107:31-32). Give thanks for the Spirit gathering us in worship to praise God, reflect on the word of God, profess our faith, receive and affirm God’s grace through the sacrament of Communion, and bless each other to do God’s work in the world.

27 Our need for food and nourishment never ends. Pray for community meals, food pantries and food truck ministries that relieve hunger and feed our spirits.

28 Ask God to stir our generosity in response to Generation Zero-Hunger, a youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the programs of ELCA World Hunger.

29 Give thanks that our church organizes its global ministry and service around the theology and practice of accompaniment, walking together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith siblings worldwide. Pray for our mutual relationships with global companions and promise to respond to changing needs as we do God’s work in the world.

30 Remember in prayer youth attending the Lutheran Summer Music academy at Valparaiso University, an opportunity for young people to live in a faith community, develop their musical skills and contemplate future careers and vocations.