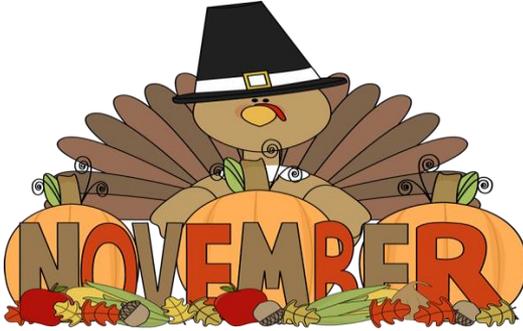


**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
***CHURCH MOUSE***  
**November 2020**



**Sunday, November 1**  
**All Saints Day**

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am With Communion

**Sunday, November 8**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am

**Sunday, November 15**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship in Church or Drive In With Communion 10:00 am

**Sunday, November 22**  
**Christ the King**

Worship in Church or Drive In With Communion 10:00 am

**Sunday, November 29**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am



***Join us for indoor worship or in the church parking lot  
for the Drive In service***

## ***Pastor's Ponderings***

We do not like the unknown, whether is when something will happen, what will happen, or how this will affect our lives. With these months of COVID, it seems like we have many questions and just a few answers.

We are worshipping indoors, but worship looks and feels so very different than in the past, BC (before Coronavirus). When will it look more like what we were used to in the past? Who knows? In the meantime we can worship indoors or outdoors.

I was all set to have back surgery in March; and then Coronavirus hit and there was simply a big question mark where the date of the surgery would be. Even the insurance company wanted to know when I was going to have the surgery they had already approved earlier in the year. All we could say was that we didn't know.

Finally, things have come together and I have a date! There are two surgeries involved in this and the second is the more serious of the two. The first surgery is 11/17 and two weeks later is the second one on 12/1. Although I'm experiencing some anxiety, I know a lot more than I did a couple of weeks ago.

We all have things in our lives about which we are concerned. Sometimes they keep us awake at night. Reformation Sunday was the last Sunday in October. The theme of freedom because of our relationship with God through Christ was my emphasis. By living in Christ and God's word we are free.

Many years ago, in the 1970s, there was the Jesus Movement. One of the singers from that time was Danny Taylor. A couple of lines from one of his songs keeps going through my mind. "Freedom is only in the truth. The truth will set you free. Beauty is only in the eyes of those who plainly see." That is what life in relationship to Christ and our family of faith and our community means. We have freedom with renewed minds and hearts. We can see our world and the people in it through the lenses of God's love, mercy, and justice.

God is calling us as God's beloved children to come and be made free. Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). Let us romp and play and live in the freedom of the children of God!

*Pastor Ivy*

### **St. Timothy Church Council**

*President- Kristie Bloomquist*

*Vice President - Marty Hunt*

*Secretary - Marcy Saar*

*Mary Lou Krott          Tammy Haas*

*Linda Milks          Pastor Ivy Gauvin*

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*Treasurer - Julie Bihler*

*Financial Secretary - Kathy Carlson*

*Do you have questions or ideas for Council? Feel free to share them with any council member or write them down and leave in the office.*



November

## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

4 Wendy Adams  
4 Sandra Carlson  
7 Jenna Jablonski  
8 Martha Hunt

9 Desmond Drischell  
9 Linda Milks  
11 Reese Anderson  
17 Dick Adams

### Online and Smartphone Giving via Give+ App

ONLINE GIVING at St. Timothy for Debit/Credit cards

*Three ways to give:*

- Go directly to our website at [www.sttimothybemus.com](http://www.sttimothybemus.com).
- Use our QR code with the QR reader on your smartphone.
- Download the app 'GivePlus Church'. Create an account.

*For further information, see Kathy Carlson on Sundays or call her at 485-1316.*



Yes, that's right...5 & 2 Ministry is back up and running For the 20/21 Bemus Point School Year! Bemus Point Elementary has added another grade level this year, so we're servicing students in grades PreK-3.

Every Friday, backpacks are loaded up with the bags we pack on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month during the school year. We are adjusting to our COVID-19 environment with no more than 15 volunteers doing the packing, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer and staying 6' apart. As always, people have been VERY generous with their time and it's greatly appreciated. This month it is November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. If you would like to help, contact Gale Svenson-Campbell at [gales1949@gmail.com](mailto:gales1949@gmail.com).

Following is a list of the food items that go into every bag. We are again stressing that these items are small enough to fit in the bags, low on sugar and items students can either eat over the weekend OR bring to school for snack time. So please refer to this list when purchasing food.

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR 5 & 2 MINISTRY!

The 5 & 2 Ministry Sub Committee

Please consider donating one of the following items to our Ministry.

Macaroni & Cheese – 7 oz box

Applesauce Cups – 4 oz

Individual cups Peanut Butter – 1.5 oz

Individual Instant Oatmeal Packets

Milk Drink – 8 oz

Fruit Snacks

Cheese & Cracker Snacks

1 oz bag of Goldfish

1 oz bag of Pretzels

Beef Sticks – 0.28 oz

Fruit Cups – 4 oz

Granola Bars

Non-perishable Fruit Beverage/Juice Boxes

Individual Serving Size Cereal Bags



Prayer Requests: Sandy Carlson, Ron Simpson, Karen Johnson, Roy Pihl, George and Janet Balcom, Maj-Britt Traynor, Beverly Klang, Trudy Fetzner, Thom Shagla, Matt Isaacson, Mabel Trantum, Kay Mattern, Sandy Whitford, Emerson Allaby, Gloria Fitzpatrick, Sarah Van Staalduinen, John Gingrass, and Dick Starks, those serving in the military and law enforcement and their families, including Ben Wickerham, Jeffrey Clauson, David Bentley and Kris Peterson, those caught up in violence and war who have no safe home in which to live. For all children, that the love of Christ may reach them through all of us who have resources to love, protect, pray and provide for them.

## Council Highlights

- Inside worshiping in addition to the Drive-in Worship has been going smoothly, still following all the NYS guidelines
- Attendance is staying up with more attending the Drive-in than coming inside. 30 – 36 each week.
- Council has approved the money for making necessary repairs at the parsonage.
- Pastor Ivy will be having her back surgery on November 17 and Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Council is pleased that Pastor Heather Allport-Cahoon will serve as our transitional pastor with Ned Lindstrom filling in for Sunday worship services.
- 5 & 2 packing has begun successfully. Donations are always appreciated. Checks can be made out to 5 & 2 Ministry and placed in the offering.

# Monthly Readings

## November 1 , All Saints Day

### Readings and Psalm

[Revelation 7:9-17](#)

*The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb*

[Psalm 34:1-10, 22](#)

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)

[1 John 3:1-3](#)

*We are God's children*

[Matthew 5:1-12](#)

*Blessed are the poor in spirit*

## November 8, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Readings and Psalm

[Amos 5:18-24](#)

*Let justice roll down like waters*

[Psalm 70](#)

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

*The promise of the resurrection*

[Matthew 25:1-13](#)

*The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids*

## November 15, 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Readings and Psalm

[Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18](#)

*The day of the LORD*

[Psalm 90:1-8 \[9-11\] 12](#)

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

*Be alert for the day of the Lord*

[Matthew 25:14-30](#)

*The story of the slaves entrusted with talents*

## November 22, Christ the King

### Readings and Psalm

[Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#)

*God will shepherd Israel*

[Psalm 95:1-7a](#)

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)

[Ephesians 1:15-23](#)

*The reign of Christ*

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

*The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats*

## November 29, First Sunday of Advent

### Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 64:1-9](#)

*Prayer that God would come with power and compassion*

[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#)

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

[1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

*Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end*

[Mark 13:24-37](#)

*The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

Global Mission

*By Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter*

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

In the middle of a pandemic, when so much of the news is bleak, let's stop and give thanks for so many blessings. All the websites below can be copied and pasted, or just go to [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org) and explore. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

We are thankful for:

A church that feeds the hungry. See [elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/ELCA-world-hunger](http://elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/ELCA-world-hunger).

A church that believes everyone deserves justice and dignity. See [elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/advocacy](http://elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/advocacy).

Chaplains that minister to our troops overseas. See [elca.org/our-work/leaders/federal-chaplaincy-ministries](http://elca.org/our-work/leaders/federal-chaplaincy-ministries).

Over 200 missionaries in 40+ countries all over the world. See [elca.org/our-work/global-mission/global-service/support-missionaries](http://elca.org/our-work/global-mission/global-service/support-missionaries).

A church that supports and aids areas that have experienced disasters. See [elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/Lutheran-disaster-response](http://elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/Lutheran-disaster-response).

Lutheran camps that foster the faith journey of our children. See [elca.org/our-work/related-ministries/outdoor-ministry](http://elca.org/our-work/related-ministries/outdoor-ministry).

26 Lutheran colleges and universities. See [elca.org/our-work/leadership/colleges-and-universities](http://elca.org/our-work/leadership/colleges-and-universities).

Campus ministries that minister to our young adults while away at school. See [elca.org/related-ministries/campus-ministry](http://elca.org/related-ministries/campus-ministry).

A devotional tool to learn more about the Bible. See [elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/book-of-faith](http://elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/book-of-faith).

A church that responds to people caught in conflict. See [elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/Lutheran-immigration-and-refugee-service](http://elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/Lutheran-immigration-and-refugee-service).

Migrant minors who are protected and advocated for. See [elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/AMMPRO](http://elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/AMMPRO)

A church that thoughtfully and carefully explores social issues. See [elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statement](http://elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statement).

All these widely varied and essential programs are possible because of your Mission support.

Thank you!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.



## Ways to Help this Month:

- ☐ 5 & 2 donations. Lists of food items and sizes available on the church website.
- ☐ Bemus Point Food Pantry. Items needed are cereal, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, soups, canned fruit, applesauce, toilet paper, dish soap, shampoo and toothpaste. **Monetary donations are always welcome.** Contact Marty Hunt 720-0460 for donations and questions.
- ☐ Can tab collection: The Synod Assembly planning team has decided to DISCONTINUE with the collection of aluminum can tabs for THIS year.
- ☐ Love, INC - many needs - see E-Ministry for more details
- ☐ Honduras Promise Children Project needs new sponsors
- ☐ **Mailing in your weekly or monthly offering would be greatly appreciated for November if you haven't already done so.**

Dear Fellow Travelers on the Journey,

I am so thankful to God for the way the Spirit moves in and with the faithful witness, learning and connecting happening in the FLATT courses. What a powerful witness to the way God is meeting us in these times.

Even with all of the courses we have already offered, I continue to hear of the desire to unite as a synod and learn together even more. All of the courses have the intention of learning across congregational divides. These three offerings especially move us toward the goal of learning and growing together:

- On **Sunday, November 22**, we are beginning our commemoration the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the first woman in the Lutheran Church, the 40th anniversary of the first women of color ordained and the 10th anniversary of the rite of reception to the roster of minister and word and sacrament for LGBTQ+ people. There will be a **learning opportunity and a gathering for those who are word and sacrament ministers or identify as women and/or LGBTQ+**. The day of being together culminates with a **service of worship with the Rev. Leila Ortiz, bishop of the Metro Washington DC, as our preacher.**

- **Wednesday evenings in December**, during the season of **Advent**, we will be offering a synod wide opportunity for learning and listening with each other through small group conversation and a time for corporate practice of contemplative prayer as we walk toward Christmas. **For conversation and learning we will use a film series called "Birthing God's Movement of Grace" produced by The Work of the People.**

- The new **Abide** small group series that will begin in **early November**. Those who participated in the small groups in the Spring series were grateful for the time to be with other seekers exploring the way God abides in our world and in our lives. This time **the series will focus on faith, justice and love.**

I hope you will take a look at all the offerings listed below, taking special care to think about participating in the commemoration of women's ordination and the Advent learning and prayer series. Also, remember to share the offerings with others by forwarding this email or adding the information to your church website.

Be well,

Pastor Lori Kochanski

Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation

#### **Courses include (details for the offerings in the boxes below):**

**Learning at the Crossroads: *Preparing to Cast your Vote: 2020***

**SATURDAY, October 24, 2020 9-11:30**

**SIGN UP TODAY!** Limited to 50 participants **SIGN UP HERE:**

([https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/416934](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/416934))

**COST: \$10 PER PERSON**

Keynote Presentation with Tom Henry

**Growing Young: *Helping Congregations Authentically Engage Young People***

4 Weeks

**Wednesdays** at 7PM on November 4, 11, 18 and December 2

Class is **Limited to 20 people**

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

Led by Abby Mandris, Nick Stroczkowski, Megan Wolling, Pastor Norma Malfatti

**Art and Spirituality: *Gather with the Saints at the River: Julian of Norwich and Hildegard of Bingen***

Friday, November 6, 13, 20

9:30-10:30 AM

**Limited to 15 people**

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

Led by Pastor Lori Kochanski

**Abide: Faith, Justice and Love**

**6 Meetings** with your assigned small group

**November 8 - December 17**

**Varied times based on the assigned small group**

**SIGN UP**

**HERE:** ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjV8rLH1tXg8PhFzTDNgX06uUT5PusPtTEwucqKavxu\\_c5Ww/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjV8rLH1tXg8PhFzTDNgX06uUT5PusPtTEwucqKavxu_c5Ww/viewform?usp=sf_link))

**We are Church, We Are Called: History of Women's Ordination in the ELCA**

**Sunday, November 22**

2:00-3:15 PM

Limited to 40 people

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

Limited to 40 people

**We are Church, We Are Called: Prayer and Story Circle of Celebration, Lament and Imagination for Ministers of Word and Sacrament Who Identify as Women and/or LGBTQ+**

**Sunday, November 22**

3:30-4:45 PM

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

**Participants:** Women and/or LGBTQ+ ONLY

**Advent Quiet Day: Retreat at the Threshold**

Saturday, November 28, 9AM-3PM

LIMITED to 20 participants

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

Led by Pastor Lori Kochanski

**Faith Formation: Walking Together Through Advent**

**Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23**

**7:00-8:15PM**

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

**Art and Spirituality: Artful Journaling with Biblical Songs of Promise, Expectation and Blessing**

3 week session

Fridays, December 4, 11, 18

9:30-10:45

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

Limited to 15 participants

Led by Pastor Lori Kochanski

**UNYS Zoom Book Group**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

**1PM**

Valerie Kaur [See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love](#)

**Zoom Link for EVERY month:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89134086193?pwd=VmdwNFNmQTR0dVFrWkFUViBQVONGdz09>



*We have returned to  
worshiping in the  
sanctuary as well as  
worshiping in our cars.*

*Time: 10:00 a.m.*

*Place: 3748 Rt. 430*

*Length: 30 minutes*

**WEAR YOUR MASKS**

**Coming inside? COME EARLY!**

Pastor Ivy will be on vacation 11/10-11/16. In the event of a pastoral emergency, you can contact Ned Lindstrom at 490-3820.

Pastor Ivy is having back surgery on 11/17 and a second procedure on 12/1. While she is out, you can contact Pastor Heather Allport-Cohoon if there is a need for pastoral care. She can be reached at 716-708-6466.

Synodically Authorized Minister Ned Lindstrom will be leading worship and preaching on Sundays. He can be reached at 716-490-3820.

### *The Freedom of a Christian*

In our adult study on Sundays, we're making a slight shift. We have gone through a number of *30-Day Journey with...* books. To celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this writing of Martin Luther's, it has been made available to us for free, along with study questions. We will begin this study this month. If you want to get a head start, here is the [link https://www.elca500.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Freedom-of-a-Christian\\_final-proof\\_3.17.20201.pdf](https://www.elca500.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Freedom-of-a-Christian_final-proof_3.17.20201.pdf) to the document. We meet Sundays at 10:45 in the Council room.

The Bemus Point Methodist Church, along with St. Timothy Lutheran Church, will be helping our community over the Thanksgiving holiday. BPMC will be having a Distribution Day on November 20, 2020 to hand out bags filled with a turkey and all the fixings to anyone who needs assistance. If you know of anyone who needs to receive a bag, please tell them the date.

I would like to ask our congregation to support the Food Pantry with monetary help. You can either give cash or a check. Please place in a small white envelope and put in the offering plate. Mark *Food Pantry* on your check or envelope and please make your check out to *Bemus Point Methodist Church* or you can mail your check directly to the church.

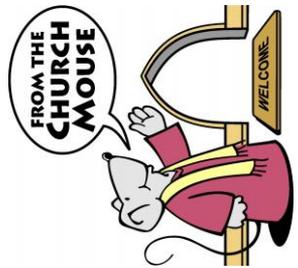
We appreciate how caring our congregation is and we "thank you" in advance. Please make your donation by November 10<sup>th</sup> so that they have time to shop for supplies. Any questions, please contact Marty Hunt at 716-720-0460.

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3748 Route 430, P.O. Box 9190

Bemus Point, New York 14712

Address Service Requested



**NOVEMBER 2020**  
**WORSHIP AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**  
**AT ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

	NOVEMBER 1	NOVEMBER 8	NOVEMBER 15	NOVEMBER 22	NOVEMBER 29
Assistant Liturgist	Sarah Goebel				
Ushers/Greeters	Marty Hunt Linda Milks				

St. Timothy Lutheran Church 716-386-7280  
Church Email: [sttimothy2015@gmail.com](mailto:sttimothy2015@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.sttimothybemus.com](http://www.sttimothybemus.com)  
Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/sttimsbemus>

# ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH – NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bible Study 11:00 am</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Pastor Gauvin Sabbath</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> 	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Sandy Carlson Wendy Adams</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>P. Gauvin in office; Prayer Room at noon</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Jenna Jablonski</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship Bible Study 11:00 am Church Council Meeting 10:30am</p> <p>Marty Hunt</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Pastor Gauvin Sabbath</p> <p>Linda Milks Desmond Drischell</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Pastor on Vacation Before surgery</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>  <p>Reese Anderson</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Pastor on Vacation</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bible Study 10:45 am Finance Mtg 10:45 am</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Pastor's Surgery #1</p> <p>5&amp;2 Packing 7pm</p> <p>Dick Adams</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bible Study 11:00 am</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> 	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship Healing Sunday Bible Study 11:00 am</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p>Pastor's surgery #2 Out on Medical Leave until further notice</p>				

25 Praise God for our creative siblings in Christ whose hymns stir our faith, inspire us, speak of God's work and express our joy and gratitude to God.

26 *Thanksgiving Day* As we celebrate Thanksgiving, lift up prayers of gratitude for the blessings and abundant resources we enjoy, and remember the people in our communities and world who suffer food insecurity, hunger and poverty. Ask the Spirit to increase our generosity and engagement with our neighbors in need and to help our communities become more just, generous, compassionate and committed to addressing difficult social issues.

27 Pray that we will be humble but not shy about praying in private or with others, trusting that God understands us even when our words – spoken or silent – feel awkward or inadequate.

28 "O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Like the immense, complex and awesome universe, we are God's handiwork. Raise up prayers of glory and thanksgiving to God!

29 *First Sunday of Advent* This is a year of hope, yearning and anticipation, when we cry out for relief, healing, positive signs of change in the world and reassurance that we'll all be OK. Pray that we will trust in God's promises and presence through faith in Jesus Christ – son of man and son of God, our hope, security and salvation in all times and circumstances.

30 In the course of your day, envision the people who, working behind the scenes in service industries, attend to our needs, ease our stresses, make our lives more enjoyable, help us manage each day and attend to the little things we take for granted. Pray that we will open our eyes and see them, valuing their work, advocating for their fair wages and benefits, and expressing our gratitude for their hard work serving others.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

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### NOVEMBER 2020

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*These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

1 *All Saints Day* Give thanks for everyone God has gathered in the body of Christ – those who are living and those who have passed. Praise God for the diverse talents given to us that the Spirit uses to encourage faith in others, strengthen the community of believers and do God's work in the world.

2 *Native American Heritage Month* Lutheran witness of the gospel with American Indian and Alaska Native people stretches back more than 350 years. The ELCA's American Indian and Alaska Native membership is around 4,850, and American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries works with 30 native congregations around the country. Pray for the ministry and witness of native congregations and the work of the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, that they might flourish and grow.

3 Pray for the Spirit to grant us wisdom and courage in our discernment and decisions as we elect leaders for our nation, states and communities. Pray that those chosen to serve will do so with compassion, justice, concern for people with critical needs and a commitment to the well-being of all people and communities.

4 We are called to be disciples and students of Jesus, to study Scripture and to learn from the bearers of faith who live by what they teach. Pray that the Spirit will open our hearts and sharpen our minds to distinguish between those who are trustworthy and those who use their position and powers of persuasion to tempt us from the truth and ways of God.

5 Pray for people and communities in the western states that are fighting wildfires, recovering from the devastation left by recent fires and worrying about the increased threat of wildfires and longer fire seasons. Ask God to protect the firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers who work tirelessly and at great personal risk to protect lives and property.

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*This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact [info@elca.org](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.*

**6** Praise God for leading us and renewing us with light and truth throughout our baptismal journey.

**7** Continue to pray for our global companions as some countries experience a new wave of COVID-19 infections. Pray for those countries most affected, that we might share physical and spiritual support and resources, mutually encourage leaders and congregations, and wait patiently for the day when we can celebrate our unity and work together in person.

**8** Pray for insight and wisdom from the Spirit that will help us lead lives pleasing to God and glimpse the kingdom of heaven.

**9** Give thanks to God for Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. Ask God to bless and further its work creating resources and partnerships “to support the ministries of faith communities in communicating the good news of God’s liberating grace.”

**10** Pause, reflect and pray for God’s help with whatever is most troubling or perplexing in your life right now – that thing that keeps you awake at night.

**11** *Veterans Day* Remember and give thanks for the service and personal sacrifice of women and men who have served our nation in times of peace and war. Pray for those currently serving in the military and for their families, especially during times of separation, that they will know they are remembered, valued and cared for by their faith community and siblings in Christ.

**12** Pray for people who are recovering from hurricanes, storms and flooding here and in other countries. Ask God to displace their grief and despair with hope, their feelings of loss with comfort and wholeness, and their isolation and loneliness with the reassurance that people, congregations and ministries such as Lutheran Disaster Response will stand with them now and for the long haul of recovery and healing.

**13** Give praise and glory to God! We are alive and free because Jesus died and rose again for the sake of all humankind, that when we pass from this life, we will enjoy life together with God forever.

**14** Pray for pastors and Christian education leaders who are working through the challenges of confirmation instruction in a time when most congregations are still unable to meet in person. Ask God to lead them toward creative, effective solutions that will nurture and strengthen faith in young people, share the teachings of the church and affirm their roles and gifts as members of the body of Christ.

**15** Pray that we might trust in God’s promises and in the certainty of our salvation through Jesus Christ, and not fret or speculate about when Christ will come again. Ask God to help us live in the present as children of God who share the good news of Jesus Christ, grow the church, strengthen one another and serve their neighbor.

**16** Give thanks for the people in our daily lives who lift our spirits, inspire our faith, renew our hope and equip us for serving our neighbor.

**17** Ask God to guide us through the span of our lives and focus us on learning God’s ways, commandments, teachings and priorities along the way.

**18** Pray for federal chaplains serving in the U.S. military and Veterans Affairs hospitals as they minister to military members and their families here and around the world. Give thanks for how they touch the lives of young adults, encourage their faith, connect them with faith communities, and provide care and counseling in unique contexts.

**19** Some students find studying from home more difficult than others, especially those who live with learning disabilities, have special needs or experience the learning environment best when interacting with peers, teachers and counselors in person. Pray that these students will find the care and attention they need – in person and online – to learn, mature and grow strong in their self-esteem.

**20** We direct our attention to God and pray for mercy; we humble ourselves and trust in God’s promise of love, forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ.

**21** Pray for those working through the sometimes long and emotional process of becoming foster or adoptive parents. Pray that we might find ways to support and care for them and to celebrate with them the joys of family and parenthood.

**22** Ask for God’s mercy and forgiveness when we fail to respect our neighbor, care for their needs and love them as Jesus loves us. Pray that our faith will shine in the world through bold yet humble acts of justice, mercy, empathy, advocacy, care and love.

**23** Pray that, as followers of Christ who treasure life as a gift from God, we will exercise patience, caution and concern for our neighbor as the COVID-19 pandemic continues long past our expectations and assumptions.

**24** Give thanks for followers of Christ and children of God who gather in faith communities everywhere to praise God, grow in faith and celebrate the unity we have in Christ. Pray that we might never show bias toward or rebuff people who are curious and seek the good news we have received.