

**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH MOUSE**

**July, 2022**



**Sunday, July 3, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship With Communion 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

**Sunday, July 10, 2022**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship With Communion 10:00 am

Bishop Lee Miller II

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

**Sunday, July 17, 2022**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship With Communion 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

**Sunday, July 24, 2022**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

**Sunday, July 31, 2022**

**Eight Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship 10:00 am

Paster Ivy Gauvin



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

## *Pastor's Pondering:*

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It's summer!! Graduations have occurred (including my granddaughter, Grace's). The air is warm and of course, in my head run various songs about summer: "Summertime and the livin' is easy," (from Porgy and Bess,) "Summer breeze makes me feel fine. Blowin' through the jasmine in my mind" (Seals and Croft) and not to be forgotten, "Summer in the City," (The Lovin' Spoonful). There are many others, of course, both older and newer. My point is, we feel like we can kick off our shoes, relax and take a deep breath. Somehow, with the arrival of summer, we can relax. We certainly need such relaxation in our busy world.

My question and challenge to you is, how will you use this "extra time?" Vacations are a good idea. I'll be taking one the first full week of July. We'll be going to Rochester for my granddaughter's graduation party. Will you be getting away at all and will it be a time to feed your soul as you vacation?

I want to encourage you to not take a vacation from God this summer, but to find rest in him. In this more relaxed time, draw near to God as the letter of James states, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

Maybe you've been trying to figure out your relationship with God. What does God want you to do with your life? Something I found very helpful and easy to use is the Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tool by the ELCA. It's easiest to do online, where it is automatically scored. Here is the link: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/faith-practices/spiritual-renewal/assessment-tools>. There is also a paper copy I can give you if you are interested.

There is a great big world outside of Bemus Point and the Jamestown area with many needs—whether you think of Buffalo, Ukraine, the Middle East. God calls each of us to impact our world by our lives in Christ. We are to share God's love in any number of ways and yet...we still need to

not only live, but proclaim the gospel of the good news of God in Christ Jesus with our mouths.

I know this is hard for many of us, including myself, but the reality is, we are seeing fewer people in our churches everywhere. More churches in our synod are closing. That news is hard, but we can take heart. We can rely on the God whose church this is, just as the disciples in [Luke 10:1-11, 16-20](#) had to.

If you can, please join us at church Sunday, July 10, when our bishop, Lee Miller II, will be with us for worship. He will be preaching and presiding at holy communion. Let's get better acquainted with him.

Have a good, rest-filled summer. God bless you all.

God's peace,

Pastor Ivy



#### JULY BIRTHDAYS

5-Mardell Hanson  
5-Carly Hanson  
5-Cheryl Shagla  
9-Marla Oste  
11-Scott Oste  
14-Susan Benjamin  
18-Barb Simpson

18-Luke Briggs  
20-Gale Svenson-Campbell  
25-Ann Bentley  
29-Susan Caruso  
29-Laurie Wickerham  
30-Stacie Cummings

## St. Timothy Church Council

*President- Kristie Bloomquist*

*Vice President - Marty Hunt*

*Secretary - Marcy Saar*

*Kathy Carlson      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.*

### **June 2022 Council Highlights:**

- Bishop Lee Miller II is preaching at St. Timothy on July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Taking donations for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund
- Celebrating Pastor Ivy's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Special coffee hour following worship on July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Nearly all work on parsonage is complete
- Report on Synod Assembly from Pastor Ivy
- New Bible Study ..... starting in September



Prayer Requests: Mary Peterson, Kay Marker Magnuson, Rose Johnson-Prieur, Roy Pihl, George Balcom, Trudy Fetzner, Thom Shagla, Norm Wolff, Sarah VanStaalduin Stephen Gilboy, Roger Samuelson, Charlene Hunter, Dave Bentley, Joe Gauvin, Emerson Allaby, Karen Brown, Tom West, John Alm, Eileen Beichner, John Gingrass, those serving in the military and law enforcement and their families, including Ben Wickerham, those caught up in violence and war who have no safe home in which to live.

## TIMOTHY TIDBITS

Hello from St. Timothy! It's July and flowers are blooming everywhere. Fields and gardens are growing everywhere. Excited high school seniors are enjoying a summer knowing that their high school days are behind them. Congratulations to **Alex Daniels**, daughter of Deb and Torrey Daniels, **Grace Alessi**, granddaughter of Pastor Ivy and Ray, **Leah Bloomquist**, granddaughter of Kristie Bloomquist and Brett Svenson, nephew of Gale Svenson-Campbell and Lucy Kohl, daughter of Mary and Andrew!!! Also, congratulations go to **Mary Kohl** on her new job with ERA Real Estate. While most of us were celebrating Memorial Day last month with parades and picnics, **Sandy Carlson** was moving to Lutheran. Enjoy your new place, Sandy! A number of our members took part in Juneteenth festivities this year: **Pat Helfrich**, **Lee Magneson**, **Pr. Ivy** and **Ray Gauvin** and **Sarah Goebel**. And last, but certainly not least, **Marcy Saar** has a new grandbaby - Emmanuel Creed Strudwick ....born June 10. And Donna Ciacio has a new grandson, Hudson David Zink... born June 17. Both families are growing!

Until next month enjoy the summer. And we hope to see as many as possible of our church family throughout the summer.



## 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.



◆ Mailing in your weekly or monthly offering would be greatly appreciated for April if you haven't already done so.

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### Who WE are Praying For By Ray Gauvin

As we all know, from time to time, we are asked by someone to pray for them, or to have their name put on our prayer list. Many times, we just see the names, and think "OK, I'll pray for Joe Jackson; but we don't know who they are, or what their situation is. I would like to rectify that situation for a number of people on our prayer list, who have asked me to put their names on the list so they could be prayed for. I have their permission to share their story.

**Joseph Gauvin:** Joe is my older brother. He is 72; and was diagnosed with prostate cancer in late 2019. 76 months later, in 2020, his doctors discovered that the cancer has traveled into the bones. So, now Joe is dealing with bone cancer. He is taking meds; and radiation treatment. In monthly conversation, Joe says that he is not in pain; but he is moving somewhat slower than he use to.

**Charlene Hunter:** Charlene is a cousin of mine, living in R.I. She is 68, and was diagnosed about 10 years ago with progressive aphasia. This is a neurological disease that affects the language center of the brain. In its mild state, Charlene just had trouble with word retrieval. (This means that she would have difficulty finding the word that she wanted to say.) As the aphasia progressed it made it more difficult for Charlene to express herself verbally; then reading; then writing; and now talking at all. Over the last year, my cousin has now developed mild Alzheimer's disease; which complicates her treatment. She is living in a nursing facility in R.I. My cousin, Lucille, Charlene's mother, tells me that when she and/or Charlene's sister, Sue, visit her, she seems to recognize them. But it is very difficult to determine what she would like, or what she is thinking; as she is totally non verbal now.

**Norman Wolff:** Norman is 71 and a friend of mine, who I have known since high school. We were church members at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church where I was a member until I married Ivy in 2003. We were both members of the Men's group, and worked together on numerous committees and of course, church functions. We were both members of the choir, which Norman eventually became choir director. He has developed kidney failure over the past 2 years; and at present his kidneys are functioning at about 13%. He is doing dialysis, and is on the kidney transplant list; and waiting for a donor.

**Emerson Allaby:** Emerson is a work colleague of mine. We worked together as vocational rehabilitation counselors for 19 out of my 28 years working at the R.I. Office of Rehabilitation Services. Emerson will turn 81 this August. Over the past 6 years, he had a total knee replacement, which got infected; and did not heal properly. This resulted in him having to have the knee replacement done a second time. He did heal properly, but it took way longer than expected. Emerson had a reaction to one of the medications that he was given; which resulted in affecting his inner ear in his left ear. This has caused him some hearing loss, requiring him to wear hearing aids; and some slight loss of balance. Emerson also now has to walk with a walker.

**John Gingrass:** John is a classmate of Falla, and mine from my November 2019 Seeing Eye Class. John lives in Florence, S.C., and is 75. Surprisingly we found out while in class, that we both grew up in Coventry, R.I., went to the same high school; and had many of the same teachers. Since John is older; we never crossed paths, but he does think that he remembers my brother from high school. John developed bladder cancer late in 2020; and has been going through continuous treatments of chemotherapy. John has been holding his own for the last 6 months, but at our last conversation; he said that there might be signs that the cancer is coming back. His doctors are waiting to decide whether to remove his bladder completely. While in class, John received a lively German Shepherd, named Manni, who was Falla's heartthrob during class!

Please keep all these folks in your prayers; and feel free to ask about them.

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If any of these ideas sound good to you, let's get started. Just give me a call!



Pastor Ivy

Listening to Your Community - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/listening-to-your-community/>

[Monthly Readings and Psalms](#)

Sunday, July 3, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

[Isaiah 66:10-14](#)

*Jerusalem, a nursing mother giving life to her children*

[Psalm 66:1-9](#)

*All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)*

[Galatians 6:\[1-6\] 7-16](#)

*Do what is right now and reap at the harvest time*

[Luke 10:1-11, 16-20](#)

*Jesus sends out seventy disciples into the harvest*

**Sunday, July 10, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

[Deuteronomy 30:9-14](#)

*The LORD will take delight in your fruitfulness*

[Psalm 25:1-10](#)

*Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4)*

[Colossians 1:1-14](#)

*The gospel is growing, bearing fruit in the whole world*

[Luke 10:25-37](#)

*The parable of the merciful Samaritan*

**Sunday, July 17, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

[Genesis 18:1-10a](#)

*The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah to three visitors of the LORD*

[Psalm 15](#)

*LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

[Colossians 1:15-28](#)

*Hymn to Christ, the firstborn of all creation*

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

*Jesus says: Martha, your sister Mary has chosen the better part*

**Sunday, July 24, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

[Genesis 18:20-32](#)

*Abraham bargains with God for the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah*

[Psalm 138](#)

*Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)*

[Colossians 2:6-15 \[16-19\]](#)

*Buried with Christ in baptism, raised with him through faith*

[Luke 11:1-13](#)

*Jesus teaches the disciples to pray*

**Sunday, July 31, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

[Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23](#)

*Search out wisdom, for all is vanity*

[Psalm 49:1-12](#)

*My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)*

[Colossians 3:1-11](#)

*Clothed in Christ, your life is hidden with him in God*

[Luke 12:13-21](#)

*Jesus says: Be on guard against greed; be rich toward God, your treasure*

## **What Is Juneteenth? How Christians Can Engage with Black History** By Karen Savella Stallard

## History of Juneteenth

Known as Juneteenth, Emancipation Day, or Freedom Day, commemorates June 19, 1865, the day that Major General Gordon Granger [delivered the message of emancipation from slavery](#) to the town of Galveston, Texas. This took place over two years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and months after the end of the Civil War. Though we observe Juneteenth on June 19, it's important to remember that it would be [even longer until the news reached all enslaved people](#).

In the years following emancipation, some formerly enslaved people and their descendants would make yearly trips to Galveston in honor of Juneteenth. The tradition of commemorating the day spread across the nation, and soon Black communities across the country began celebrating the holiday, even in the face of barriers such as being banned by White people from celebrating in public spaces. Some early Juneteenth celebrations even included [helping newly freed Black people learn about their voting rights](#).

Today, Black families, churches, and communities celebrate with cookouts, parades, church services, concerts, and other public events. After many years of hard work by activists and community leaders, [Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021](#).

## How Christians Can Engage with Juneteenth and America's Black History

It can be difficult for White or non-Black people of color to know how to engage with Juneteenth. As Christians, Juneteenth is an opportunity to learn, lament, and be a part of God's work in our world. For all of us, Juneteenth is a time to expand our knowledge and take practical, meaningful steps toward being part of the continuing story of liberation and reconciliation right where we are.

### **Educate yourself, your family, or your church about Black history and the current lived realities of Black people in the United States.**

Take time as an individual, family, or church to learn—not only about Juneteenth itself but also about Black history more widely, as well as the systemic barriers that Black communities face today. Though it can seem daunting, there are so many informative, eye-opening resources for learners of any age or at any stage in the journey. In fact, Juneteenth can be an opportunity to unlearn harmful narratives that we've picked up from our culture. Prioritize learning directly from Black folks and seek out perspectives that may differ from yours, even ones that may make you feel uncomfortable.

Not sure where to start? **These books on racial justice by IVP's Black authors are a great starting point** wherever you find yourself on the learning journey. Consider buying from a [Black-owned, independent bookstore](#) if you can!

Looking for more? Here are some **books outside of IVP's catalog** to check out:

- [The Color of Compromise](#), Jemar Tisby

- [\*The Bluest Eye\*](#), Toni Morrison
- [\*Between the World and Me\*](#), Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [\*One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race and Love\*](#), John M. Perkins
- [\*The New Jim Crow\*](#), Michelle Alexander
- [\*Their Eyes Were Watching God\*](#), Zora Neale Hurston
- [\*Truth's Table: Black Women's Musings on Life, Love, and Liberation\*](#), Ekemeni Uwan, Christina Edmondson, and Michelle Higgins

**Wondering how you can engage this holiday as a church community?** Consider incorporating Black theologians, authors, and thinkers into your teaching and curriculum, or organizing a screening of one of the documentaries mentioned below for your church or small group. It's important to hear directly from Black teachers and theologians—we can help with that! Check out these resources from IVP and beyond:

- [\*Reading While Black\*](#), Esau McCaulley
- [\*Soul Care in African American Practice\*](#), Barbara L. Peacock
- [\*Church Forsaken\*](#), Jonathan Brooks
- [\*Subversive Witness\*](#), Dominique Dubois Gilliard
- [\*Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0\*](#), Brenda Salter McNeil
- [\*Black Fire\*](#), Estrelida Y. Alexander
- [\*The Cross and the Lynching Tree\*](#), James H. Cone
- [\*Building a Multiethnic Church\*](#), Derwin L. Gray
- [\*Taking It to the Streets\*](#), Harry Louis Williams II

**Books aren't the only tools for learning. Documentaries, podcasts, web resources, and even social media** can be great for engaging with a variety of stories and perspectives, especially in sustained and continuing ways. Check out these resources if you're looking to diversify your feed, your TV watch list, or your podcast queue:

- [\*Truth's Table\*](#) podcast and [\*Get in the Word with Truth's Table\*](#)
- [\*Pass the Mic\*](#) podcast
- [\*The Disrupters\*](#) podcast
- [\*Jude 3 Project\*](#) courses and curriculum
- [\*Black Liturgies\*](#) on Instagram
- [\*13th\*](#) documentary on Netflix
- [\*Just Mercy\*](#) film

**Take action. Take a step toward becoming a part of God's story of liberation and reconciliation in the world.**

While learning is an essential first step, celebrating Juneteenth is also about action. Finding practical, meaningful ways of investing our time and resources in God's work of justice is just as important as educating ourselves and our churches. Here are five practical steps you can take this Juneteenth as you seek the common good, especially for marginalized sisters and brothers:

1. **Give your time and/or resources.** Take some time to research issues that disproportionately affect Black communities near you and donate or get involved with local organizations that help address those issues. Not sure where to start? Organizations such as the [Equal Justice Initiative](#) and the [Innocence Project](#) advocate for change and support those affected by mass incarceration.
2. **Advocate locally.** Contact executive or legislative leaders in your area and ask them to support or develop a policy solution, grow in awareness of an injustice, or hear a story of a person impacted by a certain issue.
3. **Shop Black-owned businesses in your area.** This is a fun, easy way to contribute positively toward Black entrepreneurs and families in your own community. You may just find a new favorite restaurant or shop in the process!
4. **Divest of businesses that harm Black communities.** If you can, avoid purchasing from companies that contribute to racial injustice. In the deeply interconnected world we live in, it's impossible to do this perfectly, but do what you can with what you know—and try your best to learn more. As a starting point, consider avoiding purchasing from [companies that use prison labor](#).
5. **Pray for justice and peace with your family or church.** When we pray, God listens. It is often in our prayer lives that God grows our hearts for justice and calls us to action. As we develop relationships, engage in intentional learning, and take direct action, our prayers grow deeper and our hearts grow more Christlike in our love for our neighbors.

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Dear Ivy,  
Especially with World Refugee Day approaching on June 20, my mind is heavy with all the challenges our neighbors around the world are facing.

There's the **COVID-19 pandemic** – now in its third year. It hasn't slowed down in the communities where we work, and widespread vaccination isn't yet taking place. Then there is **the war in Ukraine**, which has **driven up fuel prices** and put **a strain on global wheat and corn supplies**, upon which families around the world depend to stave off hunger.

But there are also less obvious dangers. For example, our staff around the world report **spikes in the cost of fertilizer**. For families who depend on agriculture for survival, this is a worrisome development.

As concerned as I am about the state of the world, I am also heartened by your unwavering love for your neighbors. Time and time again you show up for them, God's love in hand.

**THANK YOU.** Your care for neighbors fuels us and we won't stop working until your love reaches every neighbor.

In Faith,



**JULY, 2022**  
**WORSHIP AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**  
**AT ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

	JULY 3	JULY 10	JULY 17	JULY 24	JULY 31
Assistant Liturgist	Sarah Goebel	Kristie Bloomquist	Sarah Goebel	Tammy Haas	Sarah Goebel
Ushers/Greeters	Marty Hunt Ginnie Sloan	Ginnie Sloan Linda Milks	Marty Hunt Linda Milks	Marty Hunt Ginnie Sloan	Ginnie Sloan 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 JULY, 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 am Worship w/Communion	4  Pastor Ivy-Vacation This Week	5 Mardell Hanson Carly Hanson Cheryl Shagla	6	7	8 Ellery Senior Citizens 11:30 – 1:30	9 Marla Oste
10 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bishop Lee Miller 10 Year Ordination- Pastor Ivy- Following Worship	11 Scott Oste	12	13	14 Thrivant Members Council Room 12-4pm  Susan Benjamin	15 Thrivant Members Council Room 9 am – 1 pm	16
17 10:00 am Worship w/Communion No Council Meeting Baptism - Manual Creed Strudwick	18 Barbara Simpson Luke Briggs	19	20 Gale Svenson- Campbell	21	22	23 2pm Bridal Shower
24 10:00 am Worship 31 10:00 am Worship Healing	25 Ann Bentley	26	27	28	29 Susan Caruso Laurie Wickerham	30 Stacie Cummings

colleges, universities and ELCA Global Mission – wherever their diverse gifts are needed in our church and society.

7 Pray for the people and communities, especially in southern Mexico, that suffered devastation and loss of life from Hurricane Agatha.

8 “So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Pray that our faith and gratitude for God’s love might move us to care for people – in our communities of faith and everywhere else – who face difficult situations.

9 Remember our neighbors in Ethiopia and Ukraine who are displaced in their own countries and hope to resettle in their home communities or elsewhere. Pray that their faith, their hope and the support of those accompanying them will sustain them through difficult, wearisome and dangerous times.

10 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). Pray that our love for God will be mirrored daily by our acts of love and concern for our neighbor, especially those who are needy, suffering and passed over.

11 Give thanks that through the work and witness of our global companions and ELCA Global Mission, we might proclaim God’s love and presence in the world, build relationships, renew and transform lives, stir hope and respond to the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

12 Pray that the Spirit will instill in us appreciation and concern for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country as well as the other faith communities of our siblings in Christ. Ask God to help us affirm one another, encourage one another and share generously our assets and wisdom for doing God’s work in the world.

13 Thank God for our special relationship with The United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 2009. Pray for the church’s members and leaders, that together they will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

14 Pray for musicians and worship leaders participating in Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics. Give thanks for their unique gifts that enrich our worship life, inspire faith, facilitate opportunities for using our own gifts and help us express ourselves to God.

15 Pray that the Spirit will soften our hardness and self-reliance and create in us a receptive and eager spirit as we study God’s ways, seek wisdom and truth, and learn from one another how to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

16 Pray for the ELCA Interim Ministry Association and Lutheran Transitional Ministry Association, which train and support pastors and interim leaders for serving congregations in times of transition, vacancy and discernment.

17 What distractions in your life draw you away from being mindful of God’s presence and activity in the world? Pray that the Spirit will help us refocus our attention on God’s ever-present grace, the work to which God is calling us and the needs and laments of people around us.

18 Pray for the worship leaders and church musicians gathered for Lutheran Summer Music, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians’ annual conference at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Ask that their gifts will be strengthened, that their imaginations will be stirred and that they will develop new skills for working with all generations.

19 Pray that, throughout life, we might understand and remain faithful to the ways of God – humility, persistent love, and forgiveness of others. Pray that God will be patient with our weaknesses and guide us back when we stumble or stray from these paths.

20 Give thanks for the work we do together across all expressions of our church – congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Pray that we might value and draw upon the unity and strength we have in Christ and that, when we experience conflict or disappointment, we show grace and humility toward one another, grounding ourselves once more in our bond as children of God, siblings in Christ.

21 Ask God to help us comprehend that we have the ability, wisdom and resources to address the root causes of poverty and hunger in the world – especially when we work together and exercise generosity.

22 Praise God for the beauty and complexity of the universe that stirs our awe, imagination and appreciation, and for a creative power that stretches beyond our understanding.

23 God’s persistent, undeserved grace and mercy restore us every day. Praise and thank God!

24 Ask the Spirit to reassure us of God’s loving concern and attentiveness, especially when we feel the burden of thinking our prayers need to be worded perfectly and meet the expectations of others.

25 Pray for pastors, church musicians, artists and lay leaders participating in the Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts, sponsored by St. Olaf College in Minnesota, as they explore how the power of imagination can change, challenge and inspire churches responding to COVID-19 and structural racism.

26 Give thanks for Scripture, the creeds, Lutheran confessional writings and the ELCA Confession of Faith, which provide a foundation for our Christian faith, practice and witness and give expression to our relationship with Jesus Christ, the risen son of God and savior of humanity.

27 Remember in prayer those confined in our jails, prisons and correctional facilities. Pray that they will be treated justly and humanely, be renewed by the good news of Jesus Christ, and find hope and strength in God's love and mercy. Pray for the Spirit to help us extend our hospitality, acceptance and support to people previously incarcerated as they do the challenging work of building new lives in our communities.

28 Give thanks for musicians and artists who, through their creative gifts and work, proclaim the gospel, inspire our faith and convey the experiences, emotions and needs of humankind.

29 Remember in prayer our neighbors who struggle financially and live with the uncertainty of how they will support and care for themselves and their families. Pray that the Spirit will inspire us to respond with respect for their dignity and to affirm our interdependence as children of God.

30 With humility and joyful hearts, give thanks for God's steadfast love, which sustains and strengthens us through the twists and turns of our baptismal journey.

31 Pray that we might find identity, value, purpose and hope in God and not in accumulating short-lived wealth, possessions and power.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

JULY 2022

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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 Gun violence is the leading cause of death among children and youth in our nation today. Pray that we might overcome the feelings of indifference and impotence bred by the tragedy, trauma, complexity and frequency of gun violence. Pray that the Spirit will turn us toward Scripture, the teachings of Jesus and one another for the strength, wisdom and courage needed to change our laws and culture for the sake of safeguarding our communities and society.

2 Pray that we might notice and take to heart small acts of hope and kindness, and that these might renew our faith amid world events that inspire anger and despair.

3 "The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go" (Luke 10:1). Respond to God's call that we pool our gifts and resources to share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve our neighbors in need and bear hope, peace and equity into the world.

4 *Independence Day* Give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States and for all those who work to sustain them in our behalf. Pray that we might value our freedom and use it to benefit and uplift all people, especially those excluded, forgotten and oppressed.

5 "Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!'" (Psalm 66:3). We can never proclaim too often God's acts of mercy, redemption and creativity throughout world history.

6 Give thanks to God for deacons, our siblings in Christ who serve as ministers of Word and Service. Pray for their ministries in congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, chaplaincy ministries, seminaries,

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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.*