



“For what shall we pray?” is a weekly post inviting individuals, groups, and congregations to lift up our world in prayer. This resource is prepared by a variety of leaders in the ELCA and includes prayer prompts, upcoming events and observances, and prayer suggestions from existing denominational worship materials. You are encouraged to use these resources as a starting point, and to adapt and add other concerns from your local context.

Prayer prompts:

For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Venezuela...

For recovery and healing after natural disasters, especially the earthquake in Colombia, Typhoon Dolphin in China, extreme heat and wildfires around the globe, and severe storms in the Midwest and Northeast...

For rescues and victims of ferry accidents in Bali and Zimbabwe...

For those around the globe observing this week’s solar eclipse...

For the mental health of all, especially young people experiencing social pressures, cyberbullying and harassment on social media platforms...

For elections for lawmakers returning to Congress...

For all who advocate for the interests of those most vulnerable...

For students, teachers, and staff preparing for the new school year...

Events and observances:

August Observances: National Black Business Month, National Back to School Month, International Peace Month

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano (August 11)

International Youth Day (August 12)

Florence Nightingale, Clara Maass, renewers of society (August 13)

Maximilian Kolbe, Kaj Munk, martyrs (August 14)

Mary, Mother of our Lord (August 15)

Benard, Abbot of Clairvaux (August 20)

Prayers from ELCA resources:

A prayer for faithful living in society (ACS p.50)

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants [names], that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

A prayer for teachers (ELW p.78)

God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher. Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education: give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and

enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship

ACS = All Creation Sings: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement

Additional topical prayers are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (pp. 72–87) and All Creation Sings (pp. 46–55), as well as in other resources provided in print and online at sundaysandseasons.com.

Crafted intercessions for every Sunday and festival are provided in the [Sundays and Seasons](#) worship planning guide published in-print and online by Augsburg Fortress.

[Prayer Ventures](#), a daily prayer resource, is a guide 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.