

“For what shall we pray?” is a weekly resource 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 victims of flash flooding in Nepal and Tibet, and for safety in recovery efforts...

For those grieving following a hospital maternity ward fire in Pakistan...

For victims of violence in Haiti...

For victims of a car attack in northern France...

For those in the path of tropical storm Dolly...

For storm and flood risk in the northeastern United States and for all areas facing extreme weather events...

For immigrants and international travelers...

For all who face economic uncertainty...

For those returning to school as learners, teachers, and leaders...

Events and observances:

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

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430 (Aug 28)

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400 (Aug 28)

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872 (Sept 2)

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano (August 11)

Prayers from ELCA resources:

A prayer for those affected by natural disasters (ACS)

Save us, O God, for the waters are rising, and there is no firm place to stand. Life as we know it has been swept away. Draw near to us in this time of need and be our protection. Support us as we rebuild what has been ruined. Do not let us drown in our sorrow, but raise us to new life in your promise of rebirth, already claimed for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A prayer for peace among the nations (ELW)

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of

opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; 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.