



# ST. PAUL VISITOR JANUARY 2022

*The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to **CELEBRATE** and **PROCLAIM** to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.*



We pray for...

LaDonna, Charles, Anne,  
Jackie, Judy, Myles,  
Debbie, Al, Dave, Eric,  
Charles, Elizabeth, Marty,  
and Louise.

Shepherding God, you  
are the source of life and  
health. Surround those  
who struggle with illness  
or other difficulties of life  
and bring them to  
wholeness and healing.  
Amen.

If you would like to add  
someone to the prayer  
list or have a "prayer  
email" sent out please  
call Kathy at 304-525-  
9630.

## WORSHIP

We will have in person worship during January.  
We ask that you wear a mask while in the  
building.

## COVID 19

As of now the council is asking that all persons wear a  
mask while in the church building.

## OFFICE HOURS

Generally someone is in the church office Monday  
through Thursday from 9:30am-1:30pm. If you are  
planning to come to the church please call before-  
hand to make sure Pastor or Kathy is there.

## OFFERINGS

Your offering is still very important to continue  
the mission of St. Paul. Please mail your offering  
to the church address:

721 12th Avenue  
Huntington, Wv 25701

## CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 304-525-9630

Email:  
[secretary@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulhuntington.org)  
[pastor@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulhuntington.org)  
[music@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:music@stpaulhuntington.org)  
[youth@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:youth@stpaulhuntington.org)

**VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE**

[stpaulhuntington.org](http://stpaulhuntington.org)



St. Paul Lutheran Congregation  
Group



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Huntington, WV

## Pastor's Reflections

One of the disciplines I try to do every day is taking a moment of my day to be in prayer. I have a selected set of prayers that I use throughout the week that I have found very meaningful. One of the prayers I use during the week is a familiar one to many of you. The prayer is called the Serenity Prayer. I have written the full version below.

I think a bit of explanation of the how, why and who of this prayer will be helpful. Reinhold Niebuhr wrote the prayer. Mr. Niebuhr was a German – American reformed theologian. He was born to German parents and raised in Missouri; he grew up being a part of the church his father pastored. He eventually became a pastor and has been described as the most influential American theologian of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Mr. Niebuhr eventually became a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

He initially wrote the prayer for a professor friend. The prayer is meant to encourage its readers in challenging times and to be clear about reminding ourselves that God is God, and we are not. The prayer is widely used in AA meetings to help people who are in recovery.

I have to say that I have been praying this prayer much lately. That is because of the “stuff of life” that somehow takes a hold of me and brings me down. I like the prayer because it reminds me that there are things in life I cannot change. There are also things in life that I can change and then probably the most important is the line: “the wisdom to know the difference.” So often I do not have the wisdom I need to let things go and fight/ work for things I think I can change.

Are we living in challenging times? It seems to me that life has been in so much turmoil these days. With a new variant of COVID- 19 coming every several months or so. What is a person/ church/ community/ government to do? Masks? No masks? Singing? No singing? Go into the grocery store or pick up? Gather with family or not? So many questions so much information! So much hyperbole and almost panic in some cases thanks to the 24/7 news cycle.

Aren't we always living in challenging times? It seems to me whether we are in a pandemic or not these are challenging times. The gospel of Luke tells the story of the birth of Jesus. It was a challenging time. The emperor wanted a census taken. This was so the government could get more taxes from people. Everyone had to go to the place of birth. Mary and Joseph head out, problem is Mary is pregnant and Herod wants to get rid of the baby he has heard about through his sages who will be king. Talk about a challenging time! Thankfully, God guides the couple to a place where baby Jesus is born and the rest as they say is history.

January begins a new calendar year. In January we will be bombarded with gym memberships, at home exercise equipment and diet commercials. In January, the church celebrates Epiphany. In Epiphany we will hear texts from the Bible about how God in Jesus is “being revealed.” What is God revealing to you these days? Is it a time to pick a prayer like the Serenity Prayer and praying it regularly every day? Is God revealing to you that it is time to get back to the gym and start eating better? Is this Epiphany God calling you to take more opportunities in your day to be quiet, silent, and practicing more deep breathing?

Whatever it is please remember God is with you. Please remember that Emmanuel – God with Us – Jesus has come into our world, amid challenges, struggles, and joys and celebrations.

May God give you the strength and courage to meet each day with: “serenity to accept the things you cannot change, courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Amen and Alleluia!

Pastor Kevin L Mackey <><

**God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as the  
pathway to peace;  
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
If I surrender to His will;  
That I may reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with Him forever  
In the next**



Dear St. Paul Congregation,

Greetings from Germany! My international trip to Germany went surprisingly smooth, despite CoViD requirements and flight cancellations. The weather here is cold, wet, and gloomy, but I am enjoying the time with my family. After an overnight flight, I arrived yesterday morning at the airport in Frankfurt and took the train straight to my brother and sister-in-law's house in Soltau, a small city in northern Germany, where we celebrated my older niece's sixth birthday. They told me about their Christmas Eve service, which was held outdoors, in the snow! Today, I am at my mother's place in Bad Oeynhausen, a spa town about one-and-a-half hours southwest of Soltau. For the remainder of the trip, I will stay with my mother and visit cousins and my godmother, most of whom live in this area.

Thank you so much to Emily Conzett and Ben Jones, who performed a piano duet for us during the special music for our Christmas Eve service. I hope we will hear them again, soon! Thank you also to Jill May and Barbara Garnett, who prepared the children (and adults!) so well for the children's service on Advent 4 and the bell choir prelude on Christmas Eve. Last, thank you to Keith Wellman for filling in for me at the lessons and carols service, while I was flying to Germany. We are blessed with so many active musical members.

My student James Newsome will play for the service on Sunday, January 2. He is a senior at Marshall University, pursuing a B.F.A. in Piano Performance, and he is also taking secondary organ lessons with my colleague, Dr. Johan Botes. I am sure you will enjoy his playing.

I will be back on the organ bench at St. Paul on January 9, and the first choir rehearsal of 2022 will be on Wednesday, January 12 at 7 pm. Please feel free stop by or talk to me, if you are interested in singing or otherwise contributing musically. Pending the CoViD situation, state mandates, and church council decisions, I am planning on holding weekly choir rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7 pm, as usually.

I look forward to seeing all of you again in the New Year!

Henning





We celebrate Christ's birth and the end of another year. We celebrate a New year to come.

With all the celebrating, we cherish the love we share with one another. We look into ourselves and share our love and light with all we meet, as Jesus wills us to do.

The youth continue to serve in our community. The Girl Scouts provided milk & cereal for the 25 backpacks at Southside Elementary. These bags will provide a few extra meals for kids through the holiday season. Our CCC group packed all the cereal & milk in double bags for delivery. Together, our youth in the community and youth in our church serve and help others in need around us.

The youth delivered a wonderful Christmas program called "A Christmas Gift". The CCC group dressed as the characters and delivered "Away in a Manger" through song and signing. The LYO group read all the scriptures, poems and prayers, while also participating in the bell choir and presenting "He is Born". We also had other gifts of music. Katie Dowis and Alex Mackey sang a beautiful duet of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". Cameron May played a trumpet solo, "O' Little Town Of Bethlehem". Our youth used their time, talents and dug deep to find other gifts to offer. I am proud of their efforts and love and dedication to help deliver the greatest story of all, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Through this Christmas, Epiphany, New Year~ Let us embrace the love and light of Christ to help and love one another and to serve God with grace and praise.

Your Loving Sister in Christ,  
Jill

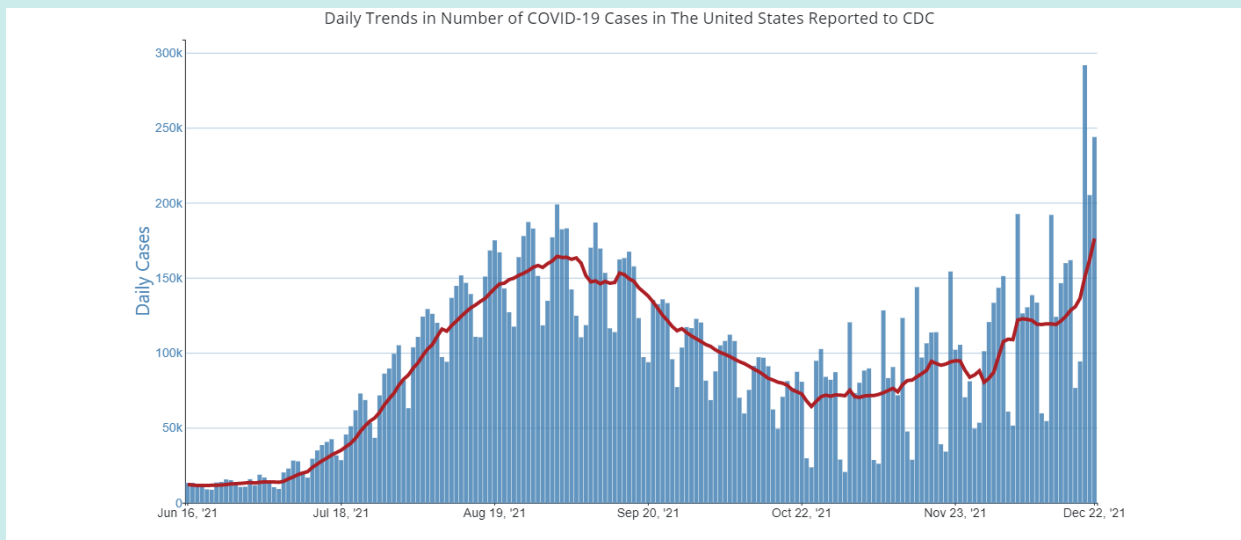


## FROM JENNY MURRAY:

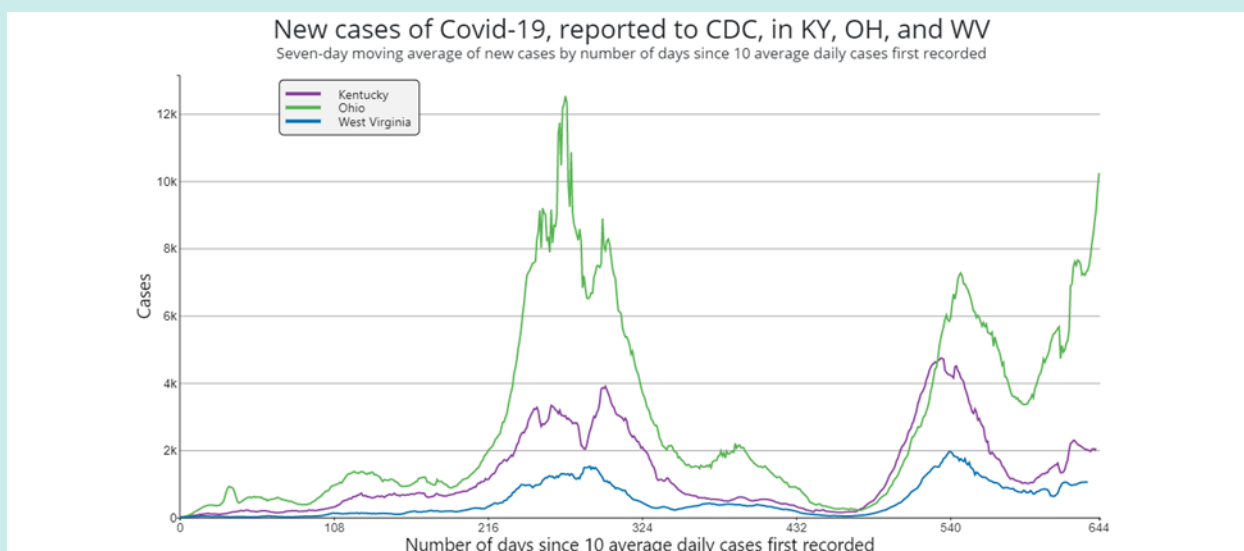
I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas and New Year It's really hard to believe that we are headed into year three of the Coronavirus pandemic. I would like to commend Pastor Mackey, the council and congregation for always choosing to put the health and safety of others first. SPLC has done a phenomenal job during this pandemic, and I couldn't be more proud of everyone that has been making the tough decisions related to COVID.

As a country, we are getting closer and closer to ending this pandemic. Vaccines are now approved for everyone 5 years and older, and boosters are approved for everyone 16 years and older. I'm sure we've all heard of the new variant Omicron. The good, bad and ugly of Omicron is that it doesn't seem as virulent (potent) as Delta, but it is more contagious. The CDC continues to gather data about the Omicron variant. We have the tools to fight Omicron in vaccines, masks and testing.

We are seeing a spike in cases again in the US, and community transmission is in the red. The chart below represents total US cases from June 16, 2021 through December 22, 2021.



The cases in Kentucky (purple line), Ohio (green line) and West Virginia (blue line) are mimicking the spike in the entire country. The chart below represents KY, OH and WV cases.



continued on next page



The most common question that I get as a Healthcare Provider is "When should I quarantine?" It seems that this changes from time to time, and it can vary from institution to institution, especially with schools and workplaces. The below information is from the CDC and was updated on December 9, 2021.

Quarantine if...

You have been in close contact (within 6 feet of a COVID+ person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period), unless you are fully vaccinated

Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a COVID+ person

Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID symptoms

Try to stay away from people you live with, especially if they are high risk

If you are fully vaccinated, you do NOT have to quarantine unless you have symptoms (but you should get tested 5-7 days after your exposure and continue to wear your mask)

You may also be able to shorten your quarantine...

After 10 days without testing

After 7 days after receiving a negative test result on day 5 or after

There is a lot of good information out there if you choose to look into it. Also, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me. Here is a list of websites that you can look at for national and local data related to COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://cabellhealth.org/>

<http://www.lawcohd.org/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://abchdkentucky.com/>



Prayer shawls are available in the narthex if you would like to give one to someone in need of prayer and comfort. Cards are also available to give with the shawls.

Sign-Up Here!



The Sign up sheets for flowers, bread, candles for 2022 are up!

Flowers are \$30.00 per month which includes two bouquets. Sanctuary and Chapel Candles are \$12.00 each for one month. Communion bread can be purchased or made. Please consider signing up to make our worship more meaningful.

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																														
						1																														
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																														
10:00am Worship 1:30pm Pastor at Woodlands		9:30am Quilting	Bible Study on YouTube	Noon Bible Study in person																																
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																														
10:00am Worship Council Installation	7:00pm Writers Group	9:30am Quilting	Bible Study on YouTube  7:00pm Choir	Noon Bible Study in person																																
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																														
10:00am Worship		9:30am Quilting	Bible Study on YouTube  7:00pm Choir	NO Noon Bible Study in person  Pastor at Conference meeting																																
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																														
10:00am Worship 1:00pm Council Meeting		9:30am Quilting	Bible Study on YouTube 4:00pm 3rd year Confirmation students meet 7:00pm Choir	Noon Bible Study in person																																
30	31																																			
10:00am Worship	<div><div>Worship Helper for January</div><div>Altar Guild: Creigh Pemberton</div><table><tr><th>Reader/Worship Assistant</th><th>Acolyte</th><th>Flowers</th><th>Candles</th><th>Bread Providers</th></tr><tr><td>1/2 Doug Korstanje</td><td>Owen Murray</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1/9 David Stuart</td><td>Alex Mackey</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1/16 Steve Golder</td><td>Katie Dowis</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1/23 Linda Schneider</td><td>Jacob Hale</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1/30 Bernadette Wellman</td><td>DeLaney Utley</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div>						Reader/Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Flowers	Candles	Bread Providers	1/2 Doug Korstanje	Owen Murray				1/9 David Stuart	Alex Mackey				1/16 Steve Golder	Katie Dowis				1/23 Linda Schneider	Jacob Hale				1/30 Bernadette Wellman	DeLaney Utley			
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- 2 Paula Simpson
- 3 Cindy Jones
- 4 Steven Brown
- 5 Ryan Vickers
- 7 Kathie Cunningham
- 10 Emma Arneson
- 11 Wyatt Utle
- 16 Mary Lou Fricke; Steve Nord
- 17 Emma Kist
- 18 Nellie Kirby
- 23 Matthew Konzett
- 27 Cheryl Konzett; Al Schneider
- 28 Kathy Mackey

23 Rex and Cam Hale

29 Brad and Jeanna Bell

We would like to thank everyone who remembered us during this Christmas season with cards and gifts. We have been blessed by your kindness. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.  
—Pastor Kevin, Kathy and Alex.



If you would like to make a prayer request for yourself or someone else there are several ways you can do this:

Call the church office at 304-525-9630 and request a name to be put on the prayers that are read on Sunday morning.

Call the church office and request that a prayer email be sent out to the congregation

Request prayer on our Facebook page—  
"St. Paul Lutheran Congregation Group"

You may also email the church at  
[secretary@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulhuntington.org)



For the Month of December we will be collecting cans of vegetable soup for Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry. Please place your items in the bin in the narthex.



The Social Ministry committee has resumed the Backpack program for Southside Elementary. They will be packing and delivering 25 bags of food each week. The bags contain enough food for the weekend. Our supplies are very low. Donations would be greatly appreciated. Some suggestions of needed items are:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Individual mac and cheese | shelf stable milk     |
| Individual pasta meals    | pop tarts             |
| individual fruit cups     | individual applesauce |
| individual cereal cups    |                       |

Please do not donate items that contain peanuts.





Our condolences to Ingeborg White and family on the death of Bill White. Bill passed away on December 4.

Our condolences to Jo and Larry Kendall and family on the death of Jo's mother, Wailana Grove, on December 5.



Quinn Kennedy Garrett was baptized at St. Paul on December 28th. Quinn is the daughter of Will and Erin Garrett and the grand daughter of Ron and Judy Pease. Congratulations!

## NOON BIBLE STUDY



### BIBLE STUDY

We will begin in person Bible Study on Thursday, January 6 at noon. Pastor will continue to post his Bible study each Wednesday on our YouTube channel.

## Daily Devotional

in your inbox



The readings listed below are sent to the congregation each day (Monday-Friday) by email. If you are not currently receiving the Daily Devotional and would like to please contact the church at [secretary@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulhuntington.org) with your email address.

### READINGS FOR JANUARY

December 27-December 31: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:1-18

January 3-7: Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 10-14: Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, I Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

January 17-21: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, I Corinthians 12:12-31, Luke 4:14-21

January 24-29: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, I Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30









# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

721 12th Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701  
304-525-9630



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Kevin L. Mackey, pastor  
pastor@stpaulhuntington.org  
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Church office: 304-525-9630

Henning Vauth, Music Director  
music@stpaulhuntington.org

Jill May, Youth Director  
youth@stpaulhuntington.org

Kathy Mackey, secretary  
secretary@stpaulhuntington.org

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

Vice President, Jenny Murray

Treasurer, Andrew Wellman

Secretary,

Financial Secretary, Linda Schneider

Assistant Financial Secretary, Annette DuVall

Linda Hay, Worship and Music

Carolyn Fornash, Christian Education

Doug Korstanje, Stewardship/Finance

Jenny Murray, Fellowship

Bernadette Wellman, Social Ministry

Kevin Knowles,

## PRAYER VENTURES FOR JANUARY 2022

- 1** *New Year's Day* Ask God to ground our aspirational resolutions and ventures in the promise that, through Christ, we will live in grace and freedom, knowing we are not alone in our endeavors.
- 2** Give thanks that, through Jesus Christ, we perceive God's grace, truth, creative might and will for humankind.
- 3** *Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* Throughout this month, pray for those victimized by human trafficking, which disproportionately affects women and girls. Pray for an end to this global tragedy, and pray that all who suffer its abuse, injustice and oppression will find freedom, healing, support and safety, especially in our communities of faith.
- 4** Ask God to bless the studies, service and travel of college and university students involved in "J-Term" experiences. Pray that they will grow in faith, wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the world, and that their experiences will inspire their vocational discernment.
- 5** Praise God for attending to the needs of humanity through us, utilizing our diverse gifts and generosity to serve our neighbors in need, everywhere.
- 6** Ask the Spirit to make us bright lights in our communities and world, sharing the good news of healing and hope in Jesus Christ and demonstrating God's unbiased love through our actions, words and influence.
- 7** Thank and praise God for restoring our relationships as children of God, so that we can live with faith, hope and freedom as new creations and siblings in Christ.
- 8** After a two-year pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program is getting ready to send volunteers out into the world again. Pray that the Spirit will guide the prayerful reflection of young adults as they discern how to respond to God's call to service and ministry with our global companions and churches.
- 9** Pray that everything we do during our baptismal journey in this world will point to God, who has redeemed us and redirected our lives through the birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus — our Savior, teacher, guide and friend.
- 10** Continue to pray for healing and unity in our nation, and ask God to draw us closer to our neighbors, especially those we perceive as different or opposed to our perspectives, beliefs or values. Pray that we will grow in understanding and respect for one another and will work together for the well-being of our communities and neighbors in need.
- 11** Give thanks to God for our companions and partners in ministry, especially the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Network, and our full communion partners.
- 12** Give thanks for the daily, life-giving work of the Spirit, which creates, strengthens and sustains our devotion to Jesus Christ. Pray that the Spirit will renew us and empower us to live as people of faith, gathered and equipped to love and serve our neighbor, bear hope into the world and share the gospel with all people.
- 13** Join our global companion churches in prayers of thanksgiving and hope for the scholarship awardees of ELCA International Women Leaders, which supports the education of women around the world through seminars, south-to-south exchanges, in-country study programs, and degree programs at ELCA colleges and universities.
- 14** Praise God, who is mighty and eternal, the creator of all that exists and the source of our blessings and strength.
- 15** Pray for our neighbors who are struggling with or recovering from COVID-19, discovering the long-term effects that will impact their lives or grieving the loss of friends or loved ones. Continue to pray for the well-being and renewal of health care workers dedicated to serving others in times of illness and vulnerability.
- 16** By turning water into wine during the wedding at Cana, Jesus taught us how deeply God is engaged in every aspect of our human life — our joys, worries, celebrations, problems and sorrows. Praise God for knowing us so well!



**17 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*** Remember in prayer the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his bold work, ministry, vision and sacrifice, which revealed all people to be children of God deserving respect, opportunity, equality and freedom from unjust laws. Ask God's help in righting the injustices that continue in our nation and throughout the world; pray for the wisdom, humility, courage and persistence needed to welcome all people into our church, society and institutions.

**18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*** Throughout this week, pray with our siblings in Christ from diverse cultures, traditions and confessions around the world for the unity of the church, so that, together, we will shine a bright light of hope, healing and good news on our troubled world.

**19** Give thanks for the variety of gifts manifest among our siblings in Christ and for the unity we have in Jesus, which enables us to accomplish together much more than we could on our own.

**20** Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find new strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

**21** "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 36:7). Thank God for surrounding us with love and mercy on which we can rely.

**22** Pray that the Spirit will inspire and lead people to respond to God's call to service through ELCA Global Mission as it seeks missionaries, volunteers and interns to walk alongside our global companions.

**23** Give thanks that Jesus is our true Savior, light and hope — the Son of God, who lived among us and continues to dwell with us through the Spirit.

**24** January is when outdoor ministry leaders begin recruiting staff for our summer camps. Pray that the Spirit will inspire young adults to respond to the call to serve in our outdoor ministries across the country and to share their faith and enthusiasm with campers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

**25** Ask God to help us understand that force, vengeance, wealth disparity and dominance over others are inconsistent with God's justice and power, and that these are revealed to us through Jesus' life and teaching, which exemplify humility, compassion, generosity, service, love without prejudice and advocacy for neighbors in need.

**26** Rejoice and give thanks to God for uniting us in the body of Christ, which welcomes our diverse gifts, experiences, questions, complexities, ethnicities and cultures.

**27** Pray for victims of violence and their families, that God will ease their pain, suffering and grief; pray for those who commit murder or other acts of violence, that God's grace will transform their hearts and lives.

**28** Pray for our leaders and congregations, which create opportunities for us to study Scripture, share our questions and thoughts in conversation, and affirm one another's gifts for living the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

**29** Pray for the ministry and impact of Lutheran Services in America, a nationwide network of 300 Lutheran social ministry organizations that serve 6 million people each year, using the gifts and skills of 250,000 paid staff and 150,000 volunteers.

**30** Pray that our faith and confidence in Christ will embolden us to be public bearers of good news, hope and wholeness for all people, even in the face of intimidating challenges, criticism or skepticism.

**31** Pray that the Spirit will help us understand and practice the qualities of love that God has shown us and that the apostle Paul commends to members of the church in Corinth: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6).