

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
General Information



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We give thanks to the following for their generous support of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly:

Church Mutual Insurance Co.: for the water stations available in Hall B throughout the whole week of the assembly.

Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: for the reusable coffee mugs and iPad stylus with pen and light.

Portico Benefit Services: for the reusable lunch bags and Genius charging station.

The Thrivent Financial Foundation: for the generous grant that has made many 500th anniversary initiatives possible, including the Grace Gathering.

Local Arrangements Committee: for their tireless work and countless hours of service in preparation for this event.

Volunteers: for their work during this assembly and their dedication and love for this church. Many have paid their own way and are using personal time to be in New Orleans.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name badges

Admittance to certain areas of the plenary hall of the assembly will be by color-coded badges, provided for all registrants:

- Yellow – voting members
- Blue – advisory, college/university/seminary presidents and faculty resource people
- Purple – guests, VIPs, speakers/greetings, synod staff, bishops' spouses, regional coordinators and congregational observers
- Grey – visitors
- White – volunteers
- Green – staff, unit staff and vendors
- Red – print and electronic media

Assembly participants are required to display name badges when attending all assembly-related events.

Shuttle Service from the Sheraton and Marriott to the Convention Center

Shuttles will run between the Sheraton New Orleans (500 Canal St.) and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center continuously throughout each day. They will drop off and pick up at the main entrance.

TECHNOLOGY

Electronic device use in plenary hall

Most voting members will be using iPads and other tablet devices to access the Pre-Assembly Report. A very limited number of electrical outlets will be available in the plenary hall. Please charge electronic devices overnight in your hotel rooms.

Other electronic devices will be permitted in the plenary hall provided their use does not disturb others. See the Rules of Organization and Procedure Part Twenty for more details. Please do not connect personal electronic devices not being used for assembly business to Wi-Fi, as additional connections may overload the network.

Cellphones

Please remember to turn off the ringer on all cellphones and mute iPads and other tablet devices while in the plenary hall throughout the course of the assembly. Speaking on any device is prohibited in the plenary hall during assembly sessions. Use of computers and other electronic devices is precluded during worship.

Charging stations

Device charging stations will be available in Hall B throughout the week.

REGISTRATION DESK

Hours

Monday, August 8:	11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday, August 9:	7:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Wednesday, August 10:	7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Thursday, August 11:	7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Friday, August 12:	7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, August 13:	8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Emergency medical technicians

Medical personnel will be available throughout the week to assist with any medical situations that occur from serious emergencies to minor cuts. They are in the first-aid office near the registration desks.

In case of a serious medical emergency, dial 911 from your cellphone.

SPECIAL EVENTS

500th Anniversary and Grace Gathering

Oct. 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The anniversary of the Reformation is an opportunity to rejoice in the life-giving, liberating power of the gospel. As part of the observance, we are hosting the Grace Gathering, in partnership with the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 10-13. This will be an opportunity for non-voting members to experience the ELCA when gathered as the Churchwide Assembly, prepare for further observances of the 500th anniversary and reflect on how the Reformation can continue to guide us today.

Morning Meditation: Awakening Body, Mind & Spirit

The morning meditation will be a time for participants to join with leaders of the ELCA Renewal/Prayer/Revival Team and Tammy Devine, the ELCA wellness manager, in a time of non-strenuous exercise, reflecting on Scripture and prayer. This activity will be Tuesday through Friday during the assembly and will take place outside the space designated as the prayer chapel, from 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Greet Vice President Carlos Peña

On Tuesday, Aug. 9, at 10:30 a.m. in Hall B, you will have an opportunity to share your gratitude with ELCA Vice President Carlos Peña for serving the past 13 years as this church's vice president.

ELCA College, University and Seminary Reception

ELCA college, university and seminary presidents invite assembly participants to a reception on Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 6 p.m. outside the Great Hall. The presidents of these ELCA institutions welcome the opportunity to engage voting members and guests in informal conversation about the ELCA's partnerships in education for service in church and the world. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. (Alcohol will only be served to those who are at least 21 years old with proper identification.)

God's Grace in Action Afternoon

As Lutherans, we believe we are freed and renewed in Christ. On Thursday afternoon, Aug. 11, we will have an opportunity through experiential learning to explore a basic conviction as Lutherans: All of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The unique context of historic New Orleans provides a launching point for learning, action and reflection on significant issues. Each track also includes take-away ideas to apply your experiential learning back home.

Beer and Hymns

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Evangelical Lutheran Worship, all are welcome to join in some fun and singing on Thursday evening at 9 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in the Armstrong Ballroom. A cash bar will be available.

Augsburg Fortress is graciously providing the ELWs used at this event. They will be offered to mission congregations in the region following the assembly.

500th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday evening, Aug. 12, we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation highlighting our Lutheran heritage of sharing God's grace in action and looking forward to our future through an evening of entertainment. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. in the La Nouvelle Orleans in the convention center. A cash bar will be available. (Alcohol will only be served to those who are at least 21 years old with proper identification.)

After dinner, Master of Ceremonies, Dave Allen, ELCA member, actor, musician and writer, will host an evening of celebration of the 500 years of the Reformation, Freed and Renewed in Christ. The program will also feature the Glocal Musicians, who will help us explore the Reformation with music and learning, through the lens of local and global missions. We hope you will enjoy this fun-filled evening and be inspired to share your enthusiasm and learnings back home.

HALL B

Coffee and water stations

Water stations will be available in Hall B from Monday, Aug. 7 - Saturday, Aug. 13.

Complimentary regular coffee is available during the following hours:

- Monday, August 8:** 9-10 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 9:** 9-10 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 10:** 9-10 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 11:** 9-10 a.m.
- Friday, August 12:** 9-10 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 13:** 9-10 a.m.

Out of concern for the environment, no disposable cups will be provided. Instead, complimentary mugs will be included in tote bags given at the start of the assembly for use throughout the week.

Meals

All meals, with the exception of the Friday night banquet, will be in the dining area of Hall B. Please remember to bring your tickets.

Exhibit Hall

You're among friends in the Exhibit Hall. It's where you can take a break, get some exercise, shop and relax.

- Check out the ELCA Churchwide Ministry exhibit – it rotates daily!
- Visit our friends from the ELCA Federal Credit Union, Portico Benefit Services, Augsburg Fortress, Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, ELCA Seminaries, ELCA colleges and universities, and more.
- Wake up your mind and muscles along the ELCA Walking Path. Two courses let you Walk for a Healthier ELCA (sponsored by Portico Benefit Services) and Walk for Water (sponsored by ELCA World Hunger). Find the 0.2 mile walking course in the Exhibit Hall.
- Shop for books, vestments, handcrafted housewares and jewelry, accessories and clothing.

Hours

Monday, August 8: 1-7 p.m.

*Churchwide exhibit open 1-3 p.m., 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9: 12-7 p.m.

*Churchwide exhibit open 12-2:30 p.m., 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 10: 12-7 p.m.

*Churchwide exhibit open 12-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 11: 12-5 p.m.

*Churchwide exhibit open 12-2:30 p.m.

Friday, August 12: 12-4 p.m.

*Churchwide exhibit open 12-2:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 13: Closed

Vendors

A Thread of Hope, Bethlehem Christian Families, CM Almy, Colores del Pueblo, Cottonpatch Designs, Crafts from Jerusalem, Day 8 Strategies, Jeff Wunrow, Tree of Life Imports and WomenSpirit

Exhibitors

Augsburg Fortress, ELCA Colleges and Universities, ELCA Federal Credit Union, ELCA Foundation, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Portico Benefit Services, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission

ELCA Churchwide Ministries exhibit*

This rotating exhibit will change daily, giving you the opportunity to learn about 20 churchwide ministries. Please note that this exhibit is open for limited hours each day, surrounding mealtimes.

Be sure to visit the ELCA Churchwide Ministries exhibit each day to collect each of the five buttons that will be given away. Quantities are limited!

Monday, August 8: Leadership, Global Ministries in China and South Sudan, Living Lutheran, and 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Tuesday, August 9: Ethnic-Specific and Multicultural Ministries, Young Adults in Global Mission and International Women Leaders, and Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

Wednesday, August 10: Poverty and Justice Ministries, AMMPARO, ELCA World Hunger, and The Lutheran World Federation

Thursday, August 11: Faith Formation, Peace Not Walls, ELCA Foundation, Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

Friday, August 12: Advocacy, Peace Not Walls, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, and Theological Discernment

WORSHIP

Gathered by the Holy Spirit around the means of grace in worship, we are rooted and nourished by God's grace through word and sacrament.

The readings for worship have been chosen to supplement the assembly theme of being freed and renewed in Christ. This week we will hear of renewal through the work of the Holy Spirit, reconciliation and renewed relationships in the community of faith, and God's call for our participation in that work.

The readings proclaim to us God's continued work of freedom and renewal. In biblical stories, letters and poetry, through water, bread and wine, in our shared experience in the worship life of this assembly, we are formed as a community, the gathered church, inspiring faith, and always making things new in Jesus Christ.

Services of Holy Communion will be held in The Great Hall each day of the assembly.

Monday, August 8 at 3:00 p.m.

Preacher/Presiding Minister	Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop
Assisting Minister	Mr. Carlos E. Peña, ELCA Vice President
Readers	Pr. Linda Norman, ELCA Treasurer
	Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary

Tuesday, August 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Presiding Minister	Pr. Jared Stahler, New York, N.Y.
Preacher	Pr. Leila Ortiz, Gaithersburg, M.D.
Assisting Minister	Ms. Tempie Beaman, Diaconal Minister, Los Angeles, Calif.
Reader	Ms. Ade J. Monareh, Somersworth, N.H.

Wednesday, August 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Presiding Minister	Pr. Sarah Flatt, Capac, Mich.
Preacher	Pr. James Phillips, Washington DC
Assisting Minister	Mr. Jacob Krueger, New York, N.Y.
Reader	Mr. Alex Lawrence, Eagle, Neb.

Thursday, August 11 at 11:00 a.m.

Presiding Minister	Pr. Tuhina Rasche, Palo Alto, Calif.
Preacher	Bp. George E. Battle, Jr., Sr. Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte. N.C.
Assisting Minister	Sr. Nora L. E. Frost, deaconess, Goshen, Ind.
Reader	Ms. Christine Mwanyika, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Friday, August 12 at 11:00 a.m.

Presiding Minister	Pr. Lucille (CeCee) Mills, Churchwide Office
Preacher	Ms. Louise Williams, Associate in Ministry, former director of Lutheran Deaconess Association, Valparaiso, Ind.
Assisting Minister	Mr. Mason Schmidt, Bottineau, Md.
Reader	Dr. Jeba Mary Inbarasu, Wolf Point, Mont.

Saturday, August 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Presiding Minister	Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop
Preacher	Pr. Gordon Lathrop, Arlington Va.
Assisting Minister	Ms. Hephzibah Penumaka, Floral Park, N.Y.
Reader	Ms. Paris Wicker, Appleton, Wis.

Music

The National Lutheran Choir, under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, will sing at the service of Holy Communion on Monday. The choir seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature. The choir's rich and diverse repertoire ranges from early chant to new compositions and from simple folk anthems to complex orchestral masterworks. Members of the National Lutheran Choir are primarily from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. We thank them for financing themselves to be with us at this assembly. For more information, see nlca.com.

Heritage, a non-profit professional choral ensemble, founded and directed by Clarence Jones, was organized to restore and preserve the legacy of the Negro spiritual. Through its harmonious blending of an obscure past with an illustrious future, Heritage endears this indigenous art form to those who love spiritual awakening and an interest in keeping the legacy alive. In addition to singing at the service of Holy Communion on Thursday, Heritage will be leading the "Music, Justice and Peace" track for the God's Grace in Action afternoon. Explore with Heritage how music has been a catalyst and inspiration for justice and peace. For more information about Heritage, see jheritage30.com.

Calvin A. Johnson Jr. is a saxophonist, composer and bandleader born and raised in New Orleans. He is a third-generation New Orleans musician and was given his first saxophone at the age of 7. Calvin embodies the spiritual essence of his ancestors in his musical expression and in his community involvement through the Jazz Foundation of America, where he is a clinician. He is an avid supporter of the music and youth of New Orleans through his faculty position at the Louis Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp. We are pleased that Calvin and his band, Native Son, will join us in making music at the service of Holy Communion on Saturday. For more information, see calvinjohnsonmusic.com.

Paraments and vestments

The paraments being used for the first time at the Saturday service were commissioned by the ELCA worship staff in memory of the Rev. Peter J.L. Perella, director for worship (2011-2013). The vestments were used for the first time at the Worship Jubilee, July 2015.

Designed and made by Linda Witte Henke (lindahenke.com), "Living Waters" is based on Amos 5:24, "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." This design is suggestive both of the baptismal waters by which Christians are joined to Christ's body, the church, and the calling of God's people of every age to live lives that call forth God's inbreaking reign of righteousness and justice.

The red vestments used at the Monday service were also created by Linda for the installation of the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton as presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Communion vessels

The communion vessels, picking up on the “Living Waters” theme, were designed and created by Rebecca Aitken. About her work, she says, “The various places that I have lived in and the unique people that I have met shape how I see life and are incorporated into my art. This includes the patchwork fields of Iowa, the rugged beauty of the Boundary Waters, the lure of the north and Rainy Lake of Canada, and my love of music, dance, color and rhythm. I try to capture the natural flow and movement from these experiences into my pottery.”

The ELCA Domestic Mission unit has donated the funds for the communion vessel sets so that, after the assembly, they may be distributed to new congregations.

Offerings

An offering will be received at each daily worship service. Offerings are designated for:

- Monday – Disability Ministries
- Tuesday – New and Renewing Congregations
- Wednesday – Global Church Sponsorship
- Thursday – Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Chalmette, La.
- Friday – ELCA World Hunger
- Saturday – Leadership initiatives: Youth and Young Adults, Fund for Leaders, Young Adults in Global Mission, and International Women Leaders

Offerings at this assembly have been designated for various ministries that are priorities of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Offerings may be made in cash, by check (payable to the ELCA) or with a credit card by visiting the registration desk or ELCA.org/offering.

Prayer Chapel

A space dedicated for personal prayer and devotion can be found in the Rivergate Room at the northeast entrance to the Convention Center.

Praying takes on many forms. It might be sitting and reflecting while looking at a cross or an icon. It may be coloring or writing in a journal. It could be naming others in need of prayer by writing them on a prayer wall or on a ribbon that is then tied to a lattice wall. It might be speaking quietly with someone and praying together. Everyone regularly is encouraged to stop by this area to pray, meditate and include prayer requests that you find in the chapel during your own devotional time. Members of the ELCA Renewal-Prayer-Revival Team will be available for individual prayer at various times throughout each day.

During the Prayers of Intercession at each service of Holy Communion, there will be a brief time for you to voice any prayers you may wish to include aloud or silently.

