

Grace Gathering



August 10–13
New Orleans

YOU ARE INVITED!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is an opportunity to rejoice in the life-giving, liberating power of the gospel. As part of the observance, we invite you to attend the Grace Gathering, in partnership with the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. This will be an opportunity to experience the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) when gathered as the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, prepare for further observances of the 500th anniversary and reflect on how the Reformation can continue to guide us today.

“The Grace Gathering will bring people together from all across the ELCA. Participants will see the church in action, worship with churchwide assembly voting members, engage in experiential learning and attend a variety of workshops that will equip congregations and synods with tools to prepare for 500th anniversary observances. And, you know that when you get a couple of thousand Lutherans together, the singing will be great!”

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

FEATURED SPEAKERS

“As a synod bishop I was always delighted by the wonder and excitement of first-time synod assembly attendees. People were happily surprised by the scope of the work we do as the ELCA. They found the worship inspiring and were energized by being around so many other Lutherans. So I thought, why not make it possible for people to have that same kind of experience at a churchwide assembly.”



GRACE GATHERING OPENING AND PLENARY REPORT

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton



Hear Leymah Gbowee’s inspirational message on the confidence we share in God’s mercy through Christ. As a Lutheran Christian, she is called to the work of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa and Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace.

Photo credit to Michael Angelo for Wonderland.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize winner and ELCA International Leaders scholarship recipient

Join us in New Orleans! Register today for the Grace Gathering ELCA.org/GraceGathering



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

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

GRACE GATHERING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 10

7:00 pm Grace Gathering opening – welcome from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

THURSDAY, Aug. 11

8:00 am Plenary session with report from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

11:00 am Worship with communion

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm God's Grace in Action Afternoon (*experiential learning*)

5:00 pm Dinner on your own

7:00 pm Evening activities

FRIDAY, Aug. 12

8:00 am Workshops

11:00 am Worship with communion

12:00 pm Lunch

1:15 pm Bible study

2:30 pm Keynote from Leymah Gbowee

4:00 pm Workshops

6:00 pm Celebratory banquet and program

SATURDAY, Aug. 13

8:30 am Worship with communion

10:30 am Grace Gathering closing

Please note that many events will be in conjunction with the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Schedule subject to change.

We give thanks to the Thrivent Financial Foundation, whose generous grant makes these efforts possible.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT

In addition to hearing from our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, registration covers four days of Grace Gathering programming, which includes:

- Keynote by Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize winner
- God's Grace in Action Afternoon (*experiential learning*)
- Presentations by special guests
- Workshops
- Access to all ELCA Churchwide Assembly plenaries
- Lunch on Thursday and Friday
- Celebratory banquet on Friday night



Keynote

Hear Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Workshops

These interactive workshops will focus on the Reformation's history and relevance, planning local observances, as well as Lutheranism today. Workshops include:

- From Conflict to Communion: Common History, Common Prayer, Common Hope
- What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran in a Multi-religious World?
- The 95 Theses and Other Key Reformation Documents
- 500 Years Later: Lutheran Women Today
- Reformation Observance 101
- Art and the Reformation: Connecting to Hearts and Minds
- The "Noble Art" of Music
- Traveling to Luther Country: How and Why

God's Grace in Action Afternoon (*experiential learning*)

As Lutherans, we believe that every act of service flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The unique context of historical New Orleans provides a launching point for learning, engagement and reflection on significant issues. Participate in one of the 11 experiential learning tracks and uncover inspiration for action back home in local communities.

See a full list of workshops and experiential learning tracks on ELCA.org/GraceGathering.

Bible study

Gather with Assembly voting members to reflect on Scripture readings and key passages from Reformation era writings.

Celebratory banquet and program

This evening event will honor 500 years of the Lutheran witness to the gospel through an evening of music and entertainment featuring the ELCA Global Musicians.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Go to ELCA.org/GraceGathering to register today and take advantage of early pricing.

\$350 from Feb. 9 – June 15

\$395 from June 16 – July 17

Please see ELCA.org/GraceGathering for information on discounted Grace Gathering hotel rates.

