

The
ELCA
Strategy
on

HIV/AIDS



While tremendous advances have been made in response to HIV and AIDS over the past three decades, there is much more to be done. In 2009, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS and called on the ELCA to respond faithfully and effectively to this pandemic.

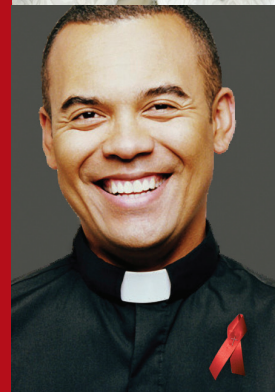
Why the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS?

- Approximately 36.7 million people live with HIV and AIDS around the world,¹ 1.1 million in the United States alone.²
- “Stigma and discrimination against individuals affected by and living with HIV and AIDS continue to be significant forces that undermine progress on HIV prevention, treatment and care throughout the world.”³

¹ UUNAIDS, 2017. Fact Sheet 2017 [9/18/2017] www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet
² Centers for Disease Control, 2017. HIV in the United States: At A Glance [9/18/2017]. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/ata glance.html>
³ The ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS, 2009.

“This churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy acknowledges that the reality of AIDS in the twenty-first century demands strong action. Indifference or a shallow response is not an option if the church is to be faithful to its calling.”

— ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS
Download the full strategy at ELCA.org/hiv.



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

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What are the goals of the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS?

The ELCA believes a world is possible where new cases of HIV are prevented and all individuals living with HIV or AIDS are able to live with dignity. The strategy names the following goals:

- Halt the spread of HIV through effective prevention, treatment and care.
- Eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive.
- Reduce the conditions of poverty and marginalization that contribute to the spread of HIV.

How will the ELCA accomplish these goals?

With about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations in the United States, in addition to the relationships with 70 million Lutherans worldwide, the ELCA is well-positioned to respond faithfully to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Specific actions include:

- Equipping congregations with study materials, worship and devotional resources to engage in dialogue and theological reflection.
- Encouraging ELCA congregations, synods and church-related social ministry organizations to welcome, support and advocate with individuals living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in their communities.
- Sharing resources with trusted global partners and companion churches that will enable them to expand their service to the most vulnerable through effective ministries of HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and advocacy.

How can I help?

- **Donate.** Give today by visiting ELCA.org/hiv, calling 800-638-3522, or mailing your gift to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Please note "HIV and AIDS" on the memo line of your check.
- **Advocate.** Ask your elected officials to support legislation that will halt the spread of HIV and AIDS, eliminate stigma and reduce conditions of poverty.
- **Learn.** Learn more about the HIV and AIDS crisis and invite your congregation to participate in educational activities.
- **Serve.** Invite your congregation to partner with an agency that is involved in HIV and AIDS work in your local community.
- **Pray.** Pray for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS and for the ELCA, that it will respond faithfully to the challenge of HIV and AIDS.

Visit ELCA.org/hiv for more information, resources, ways to get involved, and to download the strategy.

