

Seeds Monthly

April 2017 For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods ELCA.org



Living Lutheran: 'Church in rural America'

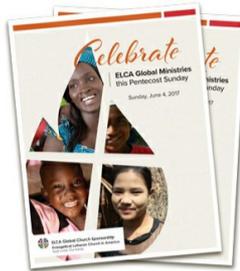
The ELCA has a long history of rural ministry, and rural congregations make up the largest demographic (28.1 percent) of ELCA congregations compared to other population segments. While rural congregations still number higher than suburban and urban congregations, they've been affected by changes that have been happening in rural America over the past few decades. As they adapt to their changing context, rural congregations are getting creative to maintain their vitality by coming together, sharing leadership responsibilities and more.

Read the [full story](#).

Celebrate ELCA Global Ministries on Pentecost Sunday

On June 4, Pentecost Sunday, we will pause to reflect on the global community of which we are a part – a community of people living out our faith, serving our neighbors and sharing God's love with the world – by lifting up ELCA [Global Ministries](#).

Earlier this month, your congregation received a Pentecost Sunday packet, including a [booklet](#) with ideas for coordinating an initiative in support of Global Ministries, whether through a special offering or worship service, an international community meal or a church-building campaign. Please consider joining us for this exciting effort!



'Our Lutheran Life'

'Our Lutheran Life' invites ELCA members to tell contemporary stories inspired by the Reformation about how the power of God's grace plays out in the complexities of daily life, relationships, work and school. Your story is welcome, whether it addresses complex questions, heals suffering or recounts times of joy.

These stories narrate how Lutherans move in today's society as Christians connected to the world around them, seeking to live out their faith for the next 500 years and beyond.

The first story is from the Rev. Amanda Zentz-Alo of Central Lutheran Church in Portland about how, through learning roller derby, she became comfortable with her body as a part of the body of Christ.

Read ['Our Lutheran Life' stories](#).

WATCH THIS

['Beyond the steeple: Servant's Table in Tulsa, Okla.'](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 14 EMBODIED FREEDOM
Registration closes
[LEARN MORE](#)

MAY 15 YOUTH GATHERING VOLUNTEERS
Applications open
[LEARN MORE](#)

MAY 31 ROSTERED MINISTERS GATHERING
Early registration closes
[LEARN MORE](#)

SEPT 10 "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY
Day of service
[LEARN MORE](#)

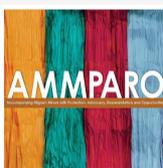
FEATURED RESOURCES



'Declaration on the Way' study guide

Explore 'Declaration on the Way' through song, images, candles and prayer.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



AMMPARO

Resources in English and Spanish supporting the church's work accompanying migrant minors.

[RESOURCE LIBRARY](#)



Lutheran Global Health Volunteers

An informational video on how health professionals can use their skills to serve the global church.

[WATCH VIDEO](#) | [GET INVOLVED](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

BULLETIN BLURBS

[These snippets are available for you to copy and paste into your bulletins.](#)

Embodied Freedom

This interactive conference commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation brings Martin Luther's dynamic notion of Christian freedom into contemporary conversations about personal, social and global bodies. The theological event for laity, scholars and clergy will take place in Minneapolis June 4-6 at Augsburg College. [Learn more at ELCA500.org/events/embodied-freedom/.](#)

Lutheran World Federation assembly

The Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) 12th assembly will be May 10-16 in Windhoek, Namibia. Once every six years, delegates from 145 member churches of LWF gather to set visions and priorities. The assembly is LWF's highest decision-making body, and it also serves as a time to worship together and celebrate the cultural diversity of the communion. The assembly will convene under the theme "Liberated by God's Grace." Lydia Posselt, a pastor at Family of God Lutheran Church in Buckingham, Pa., was chosen from an international preaching contest to deliver the sermon at the closing worship of the assembly. To learn more about the assembly, go to [lwfassembly.org](#).



Campaign Corner

UPDATES on *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*

As part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA's Global Church annual theme year*, we are celebrating and supporting life-changing ministries with our global companions. A [new video](#) showing the work of the Global Ministries project in Senegal and The Gambia is now available. By listening to the needs of communities, the ELCA is able to partner with local Lutheran leaders to provide services and evangelism to people living in Senegal and The Gambia.

Have questions or looking for other ways to get involved? Contact the Global Church Sponsorship team at 800-638-3522 or globalchurch@elca.org.



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