

# Seeds Monthly

June 2017

For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

ELCA.org



## Living Lutheran: A look at the ELCA's interreligious relations

Since its inception, the ELCA has been committed to fostering interreligious relationships. Most of the church's engagement has been in Lutheran-Jewish and Lutheran-Muslim relations, with consultative panels for each that help in guiding the dialogue and partnerships. The ELCA recognizes these non-Christians as neighbors and sees interreligious partnerships as invitations to understanding. Read more about the ELCA's efforts and stories from congregations engaging in interreligious ministry in *Living Lutheran's* June cover story.

[Read the full story.](#)

## Reformation anniversary commemoration planned for Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will co-host a commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The event, which will include a worship service and speakers, will be held at Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Eaton will be joined by co-hosts ELCA Vice President Bill Home, Bishop Bill Gaffigan of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and Bishop Richard Graham of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod.

The event, which will meet under the theme "Looking Back and Called Forward," will be available online via livestream for all to watch.

[Learn more.](#)



## Record number of young adult volunteers

Ninety-six young adults accepted the call to serve as volunteers with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program during 2017-18. This is a record number of volunteers for the program, which started with eight young adults in 1999. The Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers are ages 21-29 and spend a year in service, living and working with ELCA companion churches and partner organizations around the world. This year's volunteers will begin service Aug. 23.

[Learn more.](#)

### WATCH THIS

"ELCA Advocacy: Set free to do justice"

Why are we called to be involved in advocacy?



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**JUL 13** WOMEN OF THE ELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING  
Minneapolis, July 13-16  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**JUL 15** ELCA YOUTH GATHERING  
Volunteer application closes  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**AUG 7** ROSTERED MINISTERS GATHERING  
Atlanta, Aug. 7-10  
[LEARN MORE](#)

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

### FEATURED RESOURCES



#### With New Voices: First Commandment

Eaton offers deeper context for Martin Luther's meaning of the First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

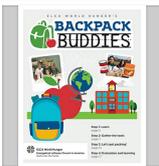
[VIDEO & RESOURCES](#)



#### Effective Camp Research Project

Research funded by Siebert Lutheran Foundation and others documents impact of Lutheran summer camp experience.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



#### ELCA World Hunger Backpack Buddies

Tips for starting a backpack hunger relief program in your community from congregations who run them.

[ORDER | DOWNLOAD](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

### BULLETIN BLURBS

These snippets are available for you to copy and paste into your bulletins.

#### How can your congregation energize giving for years to come?

The ELCA Foundation exists to sustain and grow ministries of the ELCA. We work in partnerships to support and strengthen congregations, synods and ELCA-related agencies and institutions through education, gift planning resources and investment management services. Contact your gift planner to get started today or visit [ELCA.org/foundation](#).

#### Take the Living Lutheran reader survey

You can help shape the storytelling of *Living Lutheran*! Take a short reader survey and share your thoughts and opinions on what kinds of stories you like seeing in the publication and what you'd like to see included more. Go to [LivingLutheran.org](#) and click "2017 Reader's Survey" in the right column.

#### Traveling this summer?

Find an ELCA congregation along your summer vacation route and experience worship in a different church. Lutherans are ready to welcome you all over the U.S. and Caribbean. Search by location at [ELCA.org/FindACongregation](#).

## Always Being Made New. Campaign Corner

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

With the support of ELCA members and congregations like you, we are committed to establishing the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan. With a goal of \$1.5 million by 2019, the project includes building a new Lutheran community center and health clinic in Juba, training mission leaders, conducting outreach programs and, ultimately, raising up an ethnically and culturally diverse church. In addition, based on an evangelism strategy found effective in other African nations, the Lutheran Center hopes to offer information technology and English as a second language courses, contributing to youth employment. A new [video](#) about this project is now available.

Working alongside our companions in South Sudan, we are building a place for worship, learning and health care – a place of hope rooted in the love of Christ! Learn more about how you can support this important work today by visiting [ELCA.org/SouthSudan](#). As part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, 11 new [Global Ministries](#), including the project in South Sudan, have been initiated by our companion churches around the world.



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