



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Using “Stories of Faith in Action” in Your Congregation

“Stories of Faith in Action” is a free resource for congregations, sharing dynamic stories of how God changes lives through the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Use this colorful magazine to inspire new ministries in your congregation and to deepen members’ understanding of the importance of their financial contributions to the work of the greater church.

Adult education classes and forums

Stories are a great educational tool for all ages. Find online resources for adult classes designed around “Stories of Faith in Action” at www.ELCA.org/stories. Topics include leadership, public church, congregational life, stewardship and more. It’s a great way to engage members in dreaming about your congregation’s future in mission and ministry.

Retreats/Leadership planning

Looking for creative ways to spark new ministries in your congregation? “Stories of Faith in Action” can provide fresh ideas for leadership planning events or council retreats.

Prior to the event, assign selected reading in “Stories of Faith in Action” for your attendees. During breakout sessions, use these assignments as a springboard for brainstorming.

Devotions

At meetings in your congregation, read one story as part of an opening devotion and include a prompt for reflection. Questions might include:

- Where do I see myself in this story? Where do I see our congregation?
- Which partnerships made this ministry possible?
- What potential for ministry do I see in our congregation? How can I make that possible?

Close your devotion with a prayer for the ministries and people featured in the story and for the continued good work of the ELCA.

New members

To help new members become better acquainted with the ministries of this church and to inspire them in their giving, present them with their own hard copy of “Stories of Faith in Action.”

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Mission moments

Read aloud one of the stories as a mission moment during worship or a meeting.

Mission Sunday events

“Stories of Faith in Action” can be an integral part of your Mission Sunday events. Visit www.ELCA.org/stories for online resources and ideas.

Educational materials

Use the facts and statistics in “Stories of Faith in Action” to design educational games for confirmation students and youth to introduce them to the ministries of this church around the world.

Visitors

Place hard copies of “Stories of Faith in Action” in waiting areas in your congregation. Put a label on the cover that reads “Please take me!” to encourage visitors to take it home.

Homebound and hospitalized members

The colorful, inviting features in “Stories of Faith in Action” help those with limited mobility feel more connected to the work of the wider church.

Weekly bulletin and monthly newsletters

Promote “Stories of Faith in Action” by providing the ordering information in weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. Members can place individual orders or office staff in the congregation take orders and place a bulk order.

Find “Stories of Faith in Action” resources online at www.ELCA.org/stories.