



# Disability Ministries

## *Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God!*

On behalf of the ELCA Disability Ministries Program Advisory Table, thanks for reading the latest edition of the Disability Ministries Newsletter. In this edition, we highlight the grant program we have developed as we continue to encourage the ELCA to invite, embrace and include people with disabilities fully in the life of the church.

My name is Deacon Susan Lindberg Haley, and I am the convener of the Program Advisory Table. Members of the table include:

- The Rev. Lisa Heffernan
- The Rev. Brian Krause
- Chris Ludwig
- Anita Smallin

The table's focus is on guiding the work of Disability Ministries as we work together to achieve the full, just and equitable involvement of people living with disabilities in our congregations and in society.

Through the many generous donations given to Disability Ministries through *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, we now have funds available to award grants to congregations and ministries in the ELCA that are looking for seed money (up to \$5,000), to provide innovative ministry in collaboration with people who have disabilities. The focus of this grant program is to create a place at the table for all people by working toward these core goals of Disability Ministries: **preparing leaders; equipping synods, congregations and members; and connecting and gathering people together.**

We are currently accepting grant proposals for projects. Applicants must show how the grant will be used to address one or more of the above goals in any of the following areas:

- accessibility in congregations (including physical, communication, theological and/or cultural)
- mental health ministry
- outdoor ministry

For more information on Disability Ministries and *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, [click here](#).

To submit a grant proposal or to request more information, please contact us at [Disability.Ministry@elca.org](mailto:Disability.Ministry@elca.org).



Be well,  
Susan

Find additional information on Disability Ministries [here](#).  
To financially support this work, [click here](#) and select Disability Ministries.

My name is Shane Brinegar, and I reached out to Disability Ministries in the summer of 2016 at the invitation of the Disability Ministries Program Advisory Table to apply for an educational grant. The generous grant from Disability Ministries enabled me to complete my doctoral coursework and my qualifying examinations.

In the summer of 2017, I was invited to give a lecture at Augsburg College for the Embodied Freedom conference on Martin Luther's eucharistic ethics in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. My thanks to Disability Ministries for supporting my travel to and participation at the conference.

In continuing to develop an ecumenical liturgical ecclesiology centered in the eucharistic assembly, my goal is to uplift the voices and bodies of people with disabilities within the church as a visible sign of the presence of the crucified and risen Christ in our midst. The progression of this good work would not have been possible without the grant from Disability Ministries.

For instructions on how to submit a grant proposal to Disability Ministries, or to receive general information about Disability Ministries, please contact [Disability.Ministry@elca.org](mailto:Disability.Ministry@elca.org).



*Shane Brinegar*