



INTERNATIONAL
Women's
DAY

8
MARCH



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

Women have the greatest potential to bring about lasting change in their communities.

It has been said that women have the greatest potential to bring about lasting change in their communities. But around the world, women have not been afforded the same access to education by the social and political structures in their home churches and countries.

You have the opportunity to change that. Every year on March 8, people around the world commemorate International Women's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements throughout history and across nations. On this day, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrate by supporting and lifting up the International Women Leaders initiative – one of 10 priorities part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. We hope you will join us!



CONTENTS

Get started	4
Host a virtual book drive	5
Create a social media campaign	7
Make it a match	7
Plan an International Women's Day service	8
Resources	11

This booklet is intended to assist your congregation in celebrating International Women's Day, whether through a special offering or worship service, a social media campaign or a virtual "book drive."

QUESTIONS? Email or call Global Church Sponsorship at globalchurch@elca.org or 800-638-3522, ext. 2820.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS

Since the beginning of the ELCA, more than 900 individuals have received scholarship support to complete their studies at colleges, universities and seminaries in the United States and around the world through the International Leaders program. As of 2013, less than 30 percent of these recipients were women, a product of a disproportionate number of female applicants and nominees from our global companions.

Launched in 2014, the International Women Leaders initiative, a priority of *The Campaign for the ELCA*, grows out of this well-established program as a way to intensify our efforts to provide opportunities specifically for women from our global companion churches. With a goal of \$4 million, the initiative seeks to provide education and training opportunities for more than 200 women by Jan. 31, 2019.

Already, more than 115 international women have participated in the program through training, networking and educational opportunities, including special seminars in Wittenberg, Germany. What's more, the 2016-2017 academic year marked the first time in ELCA history that more than 50 percent of International Leaders scholarship recipients are women.

While we have made great strides, together, we can do more. Through the campaign, all of us can step forward in our commitment to gender justice and intensify our efforts to provide educational opportunities for women from around the world. After their studies, the graduates will return to their home countries ready to assume important leadership roles in church and society — from becoming a bishop to winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Always
being made
New.
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

The Campaign for the ELCA is a five-year effort to raise nearly \$200 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries, including International Women Leaders, by Jan. 31, 2019.

Learn more at ELCA.org/campaign.

Get started!

★ Set a goal.

Meet with your congregation's budget or stewardship committee to determine your goal for International Women's Day. Consider setting a per-member goal or select a goal amount from the list below.

\$45

Help a future leader start the semester on the right foot by providing the gift of a textbook. Consider setting a goal, such as number of textbooks, one textbook for every three members, etc., depending on the size of your congregation and average attendance. See page 5 for a virtual book drive guide.

\$2,500

Sponsor the participation of a woman from one of our global companion churches in a seminar focused on church leadership, global Lutheran identity, the role of women in church and society, and women's justice.

\$10,000

Provide five International Leaders with education and training awards, allowing them to further their education at an institution in their home country or at another institution in a neighboring country.

\$112,000

Support an international woman with a four-year academic scholarship, including tuition, room and board, and health insurance. *Or, \$28,000 for one year's tuition and related costs.*



How will you reach your goal?

Determine the type of fundraising activities you'd like your congregation to participate in to help reach your goal. Choose from the fundraising ideas in this packet or create your own.

Host a virtual book drive Page 5 | **Create a social media campaign** Page 7

Make it a match Page 7 | **Coordinate a special offering** Page 8



Invite others to join.

Let your members know the congregation will be participating in this ELCA-wide initiative. Consider asking your Women of the ELCA members or women's group to help lead this initiative.

Host a virtual book drive

Help a future leader start the semester on the right foot by providing the gift of a textbook. Better yet, host a “book drive” to provide an entire group of women leaders with textbooks!



SETTING A GOAL

Each textbook costs approximately \$45, so consider setting a goal – number of textbooks, one textbook for every three members, etc. – depending on the size of your congregation and average attendance.



WHEN?

Your book drive could take place the Sunday before or after International Women's Day, the week of March 8, or even the entire month of March, depending on your congregation's Lenten schedule and International Women's Day goal(s). Let your congregation know of your plans ahead of time by making a special announcement during worship, including information in bulletin inserts, the congregation's newsletter and website or by posting on social media.



HOW?

Help your congregation visualize its progress – and say thanks to those who participate – by offering textbook cards (shown on the next page) before and/or after worship. Set a price per card, such as \$45, and ask contributors to write their names on a card upon donation. Add some color to your books by making crayons and markers available for kids to decorate.

Be sure to hang these cards in a prominent place so your congregation can see and celebrate its progress towards its goal.

Say thanks!



Once your book drive is finished, let your congregation know the final total(s) and the impact of their giving.

Share the story of one International Women Leaders scholarship recipient, Sarah Abendanon, in your congregation's newsletter or bulletin insert. Sarah's story can be downloaded at [ELCA.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship](https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship) under the “IWL” tab. The story booklet can also be downloaded at [ELCA.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship](https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship) under the “IWL” tab.

Show the International Women Leaders video, also located at [ELCA.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship](https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship) under the “IWL” tab.

Create Global Church or International Women Leaders bookmarks to distribute to those who participated as a thank you.

INTERNATIONAL *Women's*

DAY

Name(s): _____

Create a social media campaign

Use your social media pages to celebrate International Women's Day and share your congregation's plans and progress for the initiative. Consider creating a special International Women's Day campaign for your Facebook and/or Twitter pages and encourage your members to participate.

HOW HAS EDUCATION IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

On March 8, ask your members to share the difference education has made in their lives on their Facebook or Twitter page, using the hashtag #ELCAwomen. Ask them to share a photo along with their post, such as a picture from their first day of school or graduation day. Re-share the posts on your congregation's page or create a Facebook album of the photos and testimonials.



Share some of your favorite posts – or your congregation's activities for the day – on the ELCA's social media pages.

#ELCAwomen



Facebook.com/Lutherans



Twitter.com/ELCA

Make it a match!

Dollar-for-dollar matches are a great way to get your congregation involved in fundraising efforts. Is there a generous individual or group of people who would match your congregation's giving for International Women's Day? If your congregation has an endowment, you may be able to use some of those funds as a match, as well.

If you are able to secure a match, be sure to specify a timeframe and total goal amount – and share the impact that goal will make! Provide updates along the way so members know exactly how much has been raised towards the match.



Plan an International Women's Day service

International Women's Day is March 8, but any Sunday can be International Women's Sunday. Plan a service to draw attention to the International Women Leaders initiative and how members and congregations can get involved in this work.



SERVICE IDEAS

- **Plan a contemplative prayer service** focused on the work of women in the Bible and throughout church history. Find icons of female saints to station throughout the space. These saints could be women the church designates as saints or women recognized as saints to the people in your community.
- **Take a special offering** for International Women Leaders. Consider having the young women and girls in the congregation do the collection.
- **Set up St. Thomas Prayer Stations** in your worship space to use during the Prayers of the People. One station could be reflecting upon the work of women in the Bible and the saints in our church. Another station could be letter writing to representatives and senators advocating for equal pay for equal work and legislation to protect women from violence.
- **Pray through the Vespers service in the ELW**, focusing on the work of women in the Bible and throughout the history of the church. Replace the opening Litany in the Vespers service with either the Thanksgiving or the Order for Confession and Forgiveness provided on the next page. Use the suggested prayer petitions to inspire your own Prayers of the People. Sing songs and pray prayers inspired by and written by women.



Suggested Hymns

- Magnificat (ELW 236)
- My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (ELW 251)
- Unexpected and Mysterious (ELW 258)
- Light Shone in the Darkness (ELW 307)
- Bless Now, O God, the Journey (ELW 326)
- Loving Spirit, v. 1-2, 4-5 (ELW 397)
- O Holy Spirit, Root of Life (ELW 399)
- For All the Faithful Women (ELW 419)
- Remember and Rejoice (esp. appropriate if choosing Confession and Forgiveness) (ELW 454)
- Crashing Waters at Creation (esp. appropriate if choosing the Thanksgiving) (ELW 455)
- My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord (ELW 573)
- Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)
- Holy God, Holy and Glorious (ELW 637)
- Signs and Wonders (ELW 672)
- Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)
- Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth (ELW 735)
- Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life (ELW 816)

LITANIES

THANKSGIVING:

My soul proclaims
the greatness of the Lord,
**Our spirits rejoice in God,
our Savior**

For Eve, the first witness
to your creating work in
the world

**For this, and all faithful women,
we give you thanks,
O God**

For Miriam, who
witnessed your redemption
of Israel at the Red Sea

**For this, and all faithful women,
we give you thanks,
O God**

For Mary Magdalene,
Mary of Clopas, and
Mary Salome, who witnessed your
ultimate redeeming act
at the empty tomb

**For these, and all faithful women,
we give you thanks,
O God**

For Ruth and Naomi,
whose sustenance of each
other witnessed to your sustaining
love

**For these, and all faithful women,
we give you thanks, O God**

For Deborah, whose
wisdom witnessed to acts
of creation, redemption,
and sustaining love

**For this, and all faithful women,
we give you thanks,
O God**

You have come to the aid
of your servants,

**To remember the promise
of mercy, the promise made
to our forebears**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
Who forgives all our sin,
Whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
Come to the help of your people,
Turning us from our sin
To live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
That we may confess our sin,
Receive your forgiveness,
And grow into the fullness
Of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

For our struggles to name you, our God who mothers us like a
hen, as mother and sister,
We are truly sorry.

For the ways in which we have not honored the work of female
apostles, who spread the story of Jesus' unending love,
We are truly sorry.

For the times we have ignored women leaders in the church, who
preach, teach, and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ,
We are truly sorry.

For the violence the church has perpetuated against women,
We are truly sorry.

For our struggles to fully include LGBTQ women in the work of
the church, who challenge us to more fully live into God's vision
of radical, inclusive love,
We are truly sorry.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
Even when we were dead in sin,
And made us alive
Together with Christ.
By grace we have been saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
Our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God
Strengthen you with power
Through the Holy Spirit,
That Christ may live in your hearts
Through faith.
Amen.

PRAYER PETITIONS

Mothering God, praise to you for your whole creation. As your power moved over the waters at the time of creation, send your Spirit to move over us now and attend to us with your strength and care. Inspire in us the will to care for your world and all that lives in it with the care a mother hen shows to her brood. Turn us from careless actions and towards beloved stewardship of this good creation.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

or

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great

Redeeming Christ, thanks be to you for your redeeming and reconciling work in the world. Gather all scattered peoples together, nurturing unity among us. Praise to you for the work of faithful women who work to show your redeeming and reconciling work in the world, nurturing unity among us across the nations. We name before you now women known to us who witness to your work. (*pause*)

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

or

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great

God of justice, compel us to hear the cries of the oppressed. Renew in us your call to care for all those who suffer at the hands of power. Send your Spirit so we can discern the needs of the widows, orphans, and disenfranchised among us. Work in us the will to demand an end to violence against women.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

or

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great

God, who orders our world and economic life, Jesus dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace that we may prioritize people over things. Lead us into equality that women are afforded the opportunity to receive education and to receive equal pay for equal work.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

or

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great

God of our mothers, praise to you for the faithful women whose witness has sustained us through the ages. Thanks be to you for Sarah and Hagar; Leah and Rachel; Miriam; Ruth and Naomi; Esther; Mary, the mother of Jesus; the prophet Anna; the apostle Mary Magdalene; Mary and Martha; and the apostle Junia. Thanks be to you for Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Katherine von Bora, Elizabeth Platz, Laymah Gbowee, Ruth Frost, and Phyllis Zillhart. Sustain us by their witness to your creating, redeeming, and sustaining work in the world.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

or

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great

RESOURCES



Now that you have chosen a goal amount and have a plan for International Women's Day, share the news with your congregation. Use the resources shown below to help spread the word.



Meet some of the women making up the first class of International Women Leaders scholarship recipients and hear their stories. Consider showing this video as part of your International Women's Day worship service, as part of a "thank you" after International Women's Day and on your social media page(s).



Use the International Women's Day bulletin insert as a way to announce the congregation's participation leading up to your celebration, as well as on your celebration day. The bulletin insert provides a variety of ways individuals may get involved in this special initiative.



The Global Church Story Series can be downloaded at ELCA.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship under the "IWL" tab. This resource features stories of International Women Leaders scholarship recipients, as well as a highlight of the Wittenberg seminars, which may be used to share the impact of your congregation's efforts.



Use the International Women's Day book drive cut-out as a way to visually show the impact of giving during your celebration.



Download these and other resources at ELCA.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship under the "IWL" tab.

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