

TAKE ACTION

in a Congregational Setting



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

There are many ways for members of a congregation to take communal action to address issues of mental illness.

Study the message: Study the ELCA's [message on mental illness](#)

Embody the **commitments** of the ELCA message ([LINK](#))

Find someone to talk to my congregation: NAMI's many local chapters will send representatives to speak to groups. [Find your local NAMI.](#)

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill has developed a public education program. [In Our Own Voice](#) (IOOV) is a unique training in which two trained consumer speakers share compelling personal stories about living with mental illness and achieving recovery.

Help me talk to people in my congregation: Pathways to Promise has a series of downloadable Powerpoint presentations. They are downloadable from the Pathways site at [Pathways2promise.org](#).

Find Training or Presentations

Pathways to Promise, Mental Health Ministries, and NAMI all offer different types of training to equip people for action.

Pathways to Promise offers:

Mental Health 101,

Companionship: A Ministry of Presence,

Organizing a Mental Health Team in Your Congregation,

NAMI's FaithNet offers three different trainings:

- 1) [Bridges of Hope](#) is a three-part PowerPoint presentation created for NAMI members and friends who wish to speak to people of faith. Bridges of Hope is used to create stronger connections and safety nets for people living with serious mental illness in and through faith communities
- 2) [Reaching Out to Faith Communities](#) is a four-part training curriculum provided by NAMI FaithNet to encourage and equip NAMI members to engage with and share their story and NAMI resources with local faith groups.
- 3) [Sharing Hope](#) is an outreach and education initiative, offered through NAMI's Multicultural Action Center, aiming to create partnerships in African American faith communities.

Develop ministry in my congregation:

Pathways to Promise has a downloadable plan for [a year of congregational action](#)

Mental Health Ministries has a 5-step program called "[Creating Caring Congregations](#)"