



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



June 2017

For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

[ELCA.org](#)

BISHOP EATON'S

Leadership Initiative

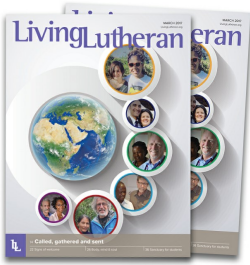
Bishop Eaton introduces Leadership Initiative

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reminds us, "It's not only the job of our seminaries and universities to identify and raise up leaders in the church. This is something that belongs to all of us." [The Leadership Initiative](#) encourages all of us to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations and communities to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel. If you know someone who shows a gift for ministry, help mentor and foster them. Together – pastors, deacons, lay people – we can bring the word of God to the world.

[Find resources](#) to guide discussions and offer inspiration for becoming a leader within the ELCA.

Living Lutheran: 'Called, gathered and sent'

There are about 225 ELCA pastors, doctors, nurses, teachers, communicators and community organizers who serve as missionaries on every continent excluding Antarctica. They are couples and families, lay and ordained. *Living Lutheran's* March cover story explores the unique calls of ELCA missionaries and how they work with our partner church bodies to spread the good news. "Missionaries are how the church engages in sharing its resources, including people, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ," said Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of ELCA Global Mission. [Read more.](#)



Her-stories, a global Lutheran storytelling project

Women have always led and participated in the reformation of the church, but we only know a handful of their stories. Join The Lutheran World Federation in sharing women's stories through the global Lutheran storytelling project, Her-stories. The Rev. Laura Ingersol was the second African American woman ordained in the Lutheran church, and [she shares her story on Living Lutheran.](#)

Do you have a story of how women have reformed the church or influenced your spiritual life? Email it to justiceforwomen@elca.org with "Her-stories" in the subject line. [View story prompts and submission guidelines.](#)

WATCH THIS

'Cultivating Curiosity at STEAM Preschool'
First Lutheran Preschool, Ellicott City, Md.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APR
15

YOUTH GATHERING THEME SONG
CONTEST
Contest deadline
[LEARN MORE](#)

MAY
31

ROSTERED MINISTERS GATHERING
Early registration closes
[LEARN MORE](#)

JUL
13

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

SEPT
10

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

FEATURED RESOURCES



Customizable graphics for Holy Week

Invite your community members to join you for worship.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



One Body, Many Members

A journey for Christians across race, culture and class.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



Global Church Passport

Around the world with the global Lutheran communion!

[ORDER | CURRICULUM \("Annual Themes" tab\)](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

BULLETIN BLURBS

[These snippets are available for you to copy and paste into your bulletins.](#)

Embodied Freedom

This interactive conference commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation brings Martin Luther's dynamic notion of Christian freedom into contemporary conversations about personal, social and global bodies. The theological event will take place in Minneapolis June 4-6 at Augsburg College, and all are welcome to participate. Learn more at ELCA500.org/events/embodied-freedom/.

ELCA matching gifts

Find out if your gift to the ELCA can be matched by your employer. Go to matchinggifts.com/elca and search for your company's name. If your company participates, directions for obtaining and submitting matching gifts are available. Employees, retirees and employees' spouses are eligible to receive matched gifts to tax-deductible contributions through the Matching Gifts Project. If your company doesn't participate, there are also descriptions of the project you can share with your Human Resources Department.



Campaign Corner

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

Join the International Women Leaders \$1 million challenge

Earlier this month, we celebrated International Women's Day by announcing a challenge to this church – empower 12 women from our global companion churches with scholarship opportunities through the International Women Leaders initiative. With the support of ELCA members, congregations and synods, we are following the example of a group of ELCA women leaders by raising \$1 million for this important work by the end of 2017.

Join us! Any Sunday can be International Women Leaders Sunday. Use the [congregational booklet](#) for worship ideas, fundraising activities and more. More information on the initiative, as well as ways to give, is available at ELCA.org/internationalleaders.

By focusing on education, together, we are supporting the present and raising up the future of women's leadership in church and society.



FOLLOW US



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

You have received this email as a leader of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. To ensure that you continue to receive these emails, please add constituent.care@elca.org to your address book or safe list. Did you receive this email as a forward from a friend? [Subscribe to Seeds Monthly.](#)

© Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631 800-638-3522

[Home](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)