



# Seeds Monthly

August 2017

For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

ELCA.org



## Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative

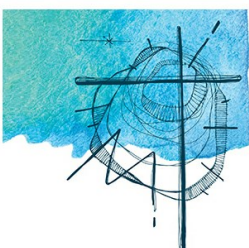
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reminds us, "It's not only the job of our seminaries and universities to identify and raise up leaders in the church. This is something that belongs to all of us." The [Leadership Initiative](#) encourages all of us to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations 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 and testimonials](#) to guide discussions and offer inspiration for becoming a leader within the ELCA.

## Living Lutheran: 'Thy kingdom come'

Martin Luther believed God is at work in the world in and through the created world and through the gospel. This has often been known as Luther's "two kingdoms" doctrine, but Lutheran theologians today say the "kingdom" language can be confusing and misleading. The August *Living Lutheran* cover story explores the distinctions between the spiritual authority of the gospel and the earthly authority. It also covers the history of this doctrine and what it means for Lutherans today.

[Read the full article.](#)



## 'Resourceful Servants'

The ELCA introduces "Resourceful Servants," an initiative to encourage habits that strengthen and sustain individual and congregational financial wellness and growth. The goal is to help rostered ministers move toward financial wellness early in and throughout their ministry developing the skills needed to manage household finances, assist congregations in the management of finances, teach stewardship and promote faithful giving, and engage in these activities in a direct, positive and forthright manner.

[Get started.](#)

### WATCH THIS

'Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative'

Identifying and raising up leaders belongs to all of us.

BISHOP EATON'S

# Leadership Initiative

Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPT  
10

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY  
Day of service

[LEARN MORE](#)

SEPT  
12

"MARTIN LUTHER: THE IDEA THAT  
CHANGED THE WORLD"  
Airing on PBS

[LEARN MORE](#)

SEPT  
15

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING  
Registration opens

[LEARN MORE](#)

OCT  
31

LOOKING BACK & CALLED FORWARD  
Reformation worship

[LEARN MORE](#)

### FEATURED RESOURCES



ELCA World Hunger  
Reproducible Stories

Use these stories of impact in your congregation's bulletins and newsletters.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



"God's work. Our hands."  
Sunday

Resources to help with your congregation's planning, promotion and more.

[VIEW](#)



"Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity  
and Culture"

The ELCA social statement on confronting racism and anti-Semitism.

[DOWNLOAD](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

These snippets are available for you to copy and paste into your bulletins.

#### PBS to air 'Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World'

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 8 p.m. EDT, PBS gives the Reformation television exposure when it airs "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World." This one-time, nationwide showing is a great reason for congregations and communities to gather together and explore Luther's lasting impact on Christianity. The film is also available for private showings for those unable to watch that evening. Check your local PBS listings for specific air times. Learn more about the film at [NewLutherMovie.com/ELCA](http://NewLutherMovie.com/ELCA).

#### Become a Monthly Partner to provide ongoing support for ministries that you love

With your monthly recurring gifts to ELCA ministries, join a steadfast group of members committed to advancing the work of the church. Sign up today and receive an exclusive Monthly Partners calendar each year that features photos and information about the work we're doing in the world together. Sign up at [ELCA.org/monthlypartners](http://ELCA.org/monthlypartners).

#### Subscribe to ELCA newsletters

Do you want to hear the latest news and stories from the ELCA? Now you can subscribe to many ELCA newsletters in one place. Keep up-to-date with the ministries that mean the most to you, or share with a friend and encourage them to subscribe. Sign up for news about the global church, Lutheran Disaster Response, stewardship and ELCA World Hunger at [ELCA.org/subscribe](http://ELCA.org/subscribe).



## Campaign Corner

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

Thanks to the support of ELCA congregations and members, a new class of students, future pastors and young-adult volunteers will begin studies or service over the next couple of months.

- In August, 93 young adults embarked on a year of international service with the [Young Adults in Global Mission](#) program. Serving in one of 11 country programs, the volunteers grow in faith and self-understanding as they engage in relationship and service with local host communities. Service placements vary widely, from congregational and youth ministry to alternative education and health and development projects.
- This fall, seven women from our global companion churches will begin studies at ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries through the [International Women Leaders](#) initiative. After their studies, these women 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. With the addition of the incoming class, 24 international women have received scholarships to study at ELCA institutions through this initiative since 2015.
- During the 2017-2018 academic year, the [ELCA Fund for Leaders](#) is providing 245 students with more than \$2 million in seminary scholarships. The ELCA Fund for Leaders enables us to attract men and women of tremendous promise to become pastors and rostered lay leaders and to study at an ELCA seminary. The fund is the ongoing promise of this church that candidates for ministry will have the opportunity to pursue a path toward informed faith and passionate discipleship.



With your continued prayers and [gifts](#), we can support even more of the global Lutheran church's future leaders.

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God's work. Our hands.

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