



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

Our Mission as This Church

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message Sept. 11, 2020

The pandemic has disrupted our lives and in ways more than just worrying about the disease. We know that people are searching for rituals as we work day and night from our devices without any real understanding of how the day begins or ends.

And so we find that companies are hiring divinity consultants to find a way to bring ritual and meaning into employees' lives. That's not the only place. We know the church has changed as well. Many if not most of you are working on online services. And you have reported that more people attend online than have attended in person and that people attending online tend to have folks who would never, ever come into a church.

We're on to something, as are the divinity consultants. People long for meaning. People long for the transcendent. We need to know that there's more than just what we see and feel and touch here. That there's a purpose in life. That we're loved.

That's our mission as this church. Our mission is to activate each one of us. To invite people into the way of Jesus. It might be online. It might be in other ways. The message is the same, however. And it's held in this old hymn. It says, "My love is love unknown, my savior's love to me; love to the loveless shone, that they might lovely be."

People crave meaning, They crave to know that they're loved and valued. That's our old message. That's the old, old story. But Church, we need to find new ways to make that clear.

Be well, dear Church.