

How do we **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?

**We are a church** that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life.

“Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing,” said Martin Luther. We continually strive to build our faith and live in response to God’s teachings.

Through baptism, we are called to “... live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth” (ELW, p. 236). In the ELCA, we describe these instructions as “faith practices” that guide our daily living.

**How do you build faith practices in your daily living?** Read on for ways to get started!

For an online overview of Faith Practices, visit [www.ELCA.org/faithpractices](http://www.ELCA.org/faithpractices) and click on “Living our Baptismal Covenant.”

As believers in Christ, we are called to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. With a justice mindset we speak out and encourage positive change in our communities and throughout the world.

The ELCA Advocacy Network and our ELCA Advocacy Office work to create and influence public policies that embody the following biblical values:

- Peacemaking
- Hospitality to strangers
- Care for creation
- Concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger or disease

We advocate based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States.



**Take action now!** You can join in the conversation and strive for justice and peace by following ELCA Advocacy activities and action alerts. Visit [www.ELCA.org/advocacy](http://www.ELCA.org/advocacy), **ELCA Advocacy** on Facebook and **@ELCAadvocacy** to learn more.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Congregational and Synodical Mission**

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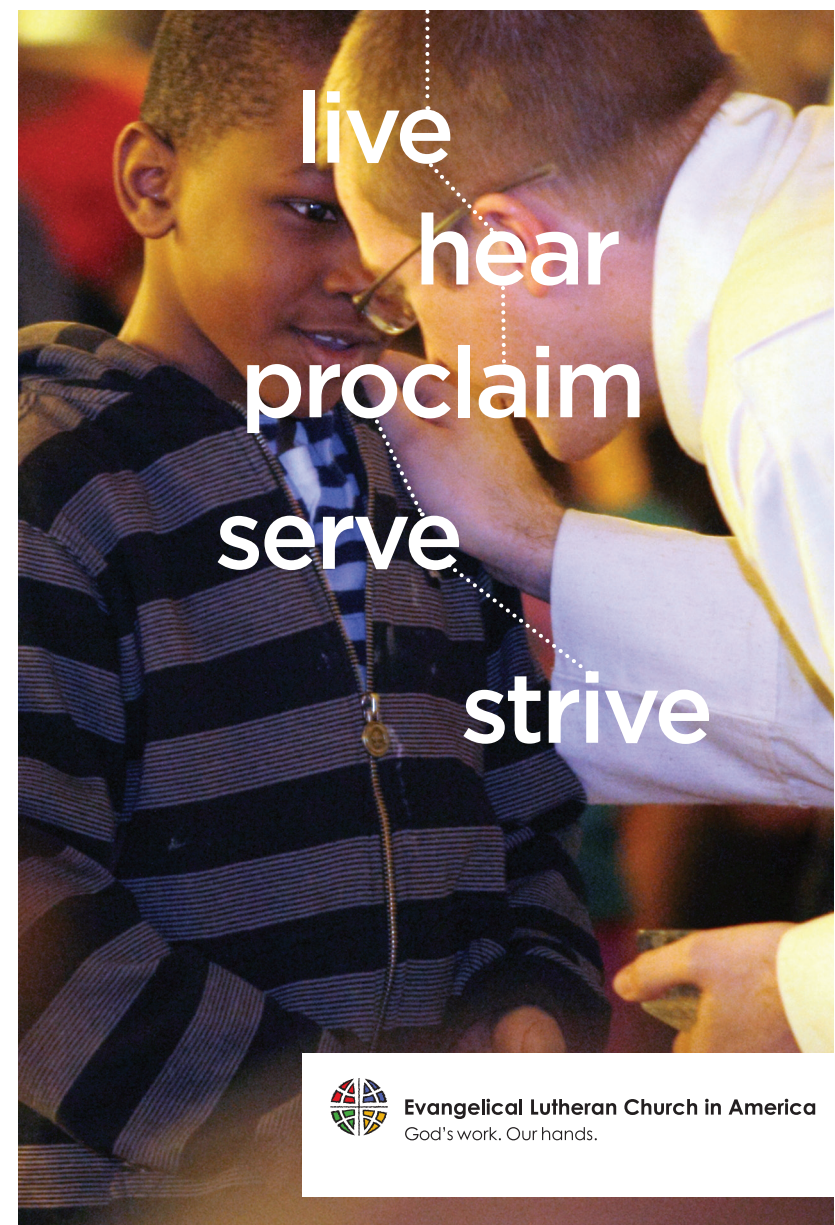
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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God’s work. Our hands.

# Building

{ faith practices }



live  
hear  
proclaim  
serve  
strive



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God’s work. Our hands.

## How do we **live** among God's faithful people?



As members of the ELCA, we are called to practice our faith by “living among God's faithful people.” This means we gather as people of faith and fulfill our call to be the body of Christ in our congregations, community and the world by worshipping, engaging in mission and praying. But we always want to build our faith.

One way you can do that is by deepening your prayer life. Consider having a group of congregations in your area sponsor a prayer event coordinated by the Renewal Team of the ELCA. You might also study “Story Matters: Naming, Claiming and Living Our Biblical Identity.” This resource can help you or your congregation engage with scripture to strengthen the ways you practice your faith.



To learn about prayer events or download “Story Matters,” visit [www.ELCA.org/faithpractices](http://www.ELCA.org/faithpractices).

## How do we **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper?



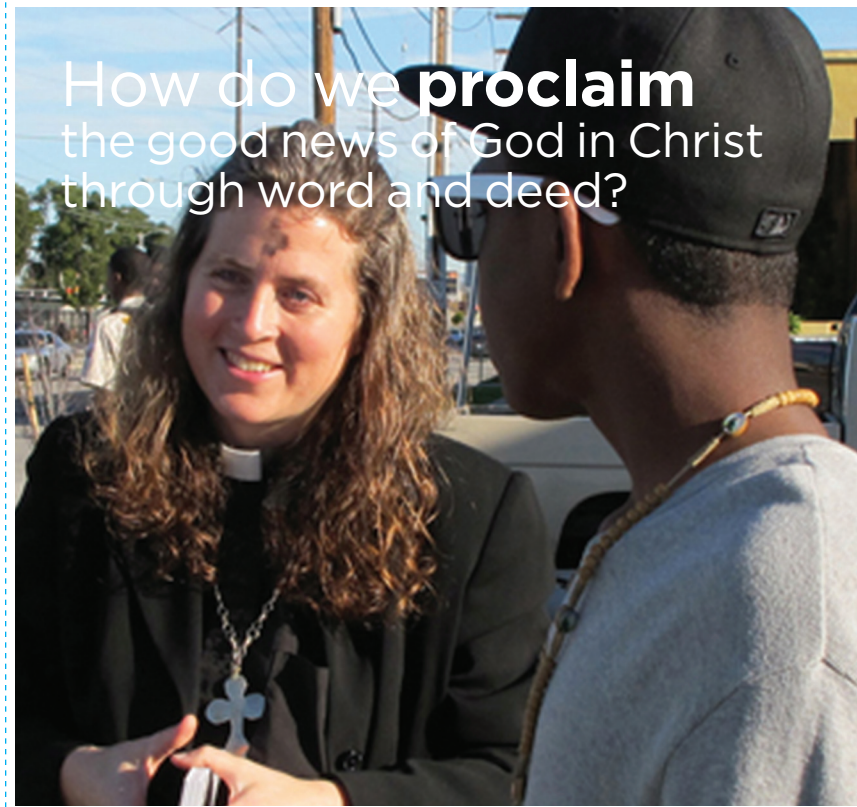
As Lutherans, reading and studying scripture, preaching and sharing in Holy Communion and Baptism are how we define what it means to be the church together. Whether participating in Bible study or worship back home with your congregation, or in other settings, Christ is present in all our gatherings.

But it isn't enough to simply come together to receive God's grace in these tangible ways. We are always sent back out to become God's presence to a hurting world that needs to hear, see, touch and taste God's presence. The baptismal covenant calls each of us to this important ministry: to gather as the body of Christ but, more importantly, to be the body of Christ in the world.



Seek out ways to inspire awe and wonder in your worship experience. Consider volunteering to read scripture or attending a service at a new time or venue. Learn more at [www.ELCA.org/worship](http://www.ELCA.org/worship).

## How do we **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed?



It is easy to envision a pastor in the pulpit on Sunday morning bringing the word of God to the people gathered. But through our baptismal covenant, every believer is called to proclaim the good news in Jesus Christ. This means not only pastors, but everyone. And, we are called to do this not just once, or every once in a while, but every day. We are to do this not only in our own life, but as the body of Christ together.

One of the ways we proclaim the good news is through the story of God's movement in our lives. Whether a personal encounter with God, an experience with a friend or neighbor, or serving others abroad, we have an opportunity to touch the lives of others with God's word. In this way we are stewards of God's word and God's commission to reach out to others. Thus we are living out the story of Christ in us by proclaiming God's saving grace and work in the world today.



Explore ways to steward God's word in your life by visiting [www.ELCA.org/growingstewards](http://www.ELCA.org/growingstewards).

## How do we **serve** all people following the example of Jesus?



Serving as Jesus served is a way to take up the cross and follow Jesus. He set an example for all of us to follow: Jesus washed the feet of others, fed the 5,000, healed the sick, and raised the dead. He did this out of his great love for others. When we serve others we are called to freely share our time, skills, abilities and possessions that God has given us. When we serve, we should serve in love, walking alongside our brothers and sisters in mutuality and vulnerability.

This September, congregations of this church will gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people. Encourage your congregation to participate in “God's work. Our hands.” Sunday and give back to your community.



Get involved with local ministries through your congregation, the community pantry, the after school program or other ministries that serve the neighbor. God is calling you to serve. Learn more at [www.ELCA.org/dayofservice](http://www.ELCA.org/dayofservice).