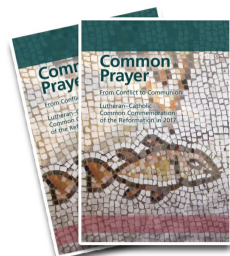


# Seeds Monthly

Feb., 2017

For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

ELCA.org



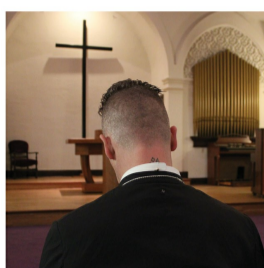
### Lutheran – Catholic service of common prayer

On March 2, there will be a [livestream](#) of a Lutheran-Catholic service of common prayer in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The service, which will be in the Lutheran Center Chapel in Chicago, is co-hosted by the ELCA Conference of Bishops' Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Liaison Committee and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee.

The service will follow the common prayer [liturgical guide](#), which was developed for the joint ecumenical commemoration held in Lund, Sweden, last October.

### Living Lutheran: 'Seminary status check'

For almost 200 years, Lutheran seminaries in the U.S. have been educating leaders. Today many of those seminaries face challenges, including declining enrollment and high costs. As the church is changing in the 21st century, so are the seminaries. Some are making radical changes including merging and relocating, while others are focused on altering curriculum or the way programs are delivered. All of them are looking at ways to better serve and be more available to students. [Read more.](#)



### Save the date: 'God's work. Our hands.' Sunday is Sept. 10

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The suggested date for the 2017 dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 10. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2017! [Get involved.](#)

### WATCH THIS

'One Body, Many Members'  
The faces of Christ Lutheran Church, Chicago



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**MAR 8** **ROSTERED MINISTER GATHERING**  
Scholarship deadline.  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**MAR 8** **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
Support International Women Leaders.  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**APR 15** **YOUTH GATHERING THEME SONG CONTEST**  
Deadline.  
[LEARN MORE](#)

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

### FEATURED RESOURCES



[Customizable graphics for Holy Week](#)

Invite your community members to join you for worship.

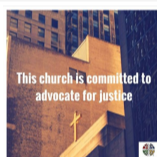
[DOWNLOAD](#)



[International Women's Day booklet](#)

Celebrate International Women's Day with a worship service, a social media campaign or a virtual "book drive."

[DOWNLOAD](#)



[ELCA Advocacy Network](#)

Receive ELCA Advocacy news and action alerts.

[GET INVOLVED](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

### BULLETIN BLURBS

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

- New Leadership Initiative scholarships**  
The ELCA Fund for Leaders supports students studying at ELCA seminaries who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential and exceptional gifts for ministry. As part of the Leadership Initiative, Fund for Leaders is granting 20 full-tuition Leadership Initiative scholarships to applicants who will be first-year students in the 2017-18 academic year. Applications are due Feb. 28. For more information, visit [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](#).
- Youth Gathering Theme Song Contest**  
Calling all musicians and writers! The ELCA Youth Gathering is offering people from across our church the opportunity to submit their original music composition to be selected for the theme song of the 2018 Gathering in Houston, Texas. The contest will run from Feb. 15 to April 15, 2017. The winner will have an opportunity to perform at the Gathering! For details, visit [ELCA.org/YouthGathering/details/theme-song-contest](#).
- New book great for reading groups and individuals**  
In "Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation," pastor and provocateur Alice Connor introduces the women of the Bible and invites us to see them not as players in a man's story but as fierce foremothers of the faith—and invites us to discover our own fierceness as well. Order now at [augsburgfortress.org/fierce](#).
- Living Lutheran story digest**  
Sign up for *Living Lutheran's* e-digest, which will deliver the latest and most popular stories from *Living Lutheran* to your email inbox. You can select how often you'd like to receive the emails, and you can choose from six content categories to select what kinds of stories you'd like to receive. Subscribe at [livinglutheran.org/subscribe](#).



Every year on March 8, people around the world commemorate International Women's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements throughout history and across nations. On this day, members of the ELCA celebrate by supporting and filling up the [International Women Leaders](#) initiative – one of 10 priorities of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

How is your congregation celebrating? New this year, the [International Women's Day booklet](#) provides fundraising ideas, including a step-by-step virtual book drive, ideas for planning an International Women's Day worship service, and much more to help you get started! A [new bulletin insert](#) is also available. Looking for other ideas? Please contact the Global Church Sponsorship team at [globalchurch@elca.org](#) or 800-638-3522, ext. 2820.

With your support, we can provide educational and training opportunities, including four-year scholarships to ELCA colleges and universities, for 200 international Lutheran women by 2019. Together, we can intensify our efforts to support the contribution of women in the life and development of our church and society.

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God's work. Our hands.

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