

Seeds Monthly

Spring 2016 For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods www.ELCA.org

Welcome to Seeds Monthly

As a key leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we know there are a lot of people and organizations competing for your attention. And we know that your time is of the essence.

That's why we've created Seeds Monthly. This e-newsletter will feature the same type of information found in the print publication, *Seeds for the Parish*, but with more frequent, timely content. Our goal is to equip you, as a leader of our church, with important updates from the ELCA, helpful resources, ideas for ministry and more -- all in one place. We hope you enjoy this first issue!



ELCAvotes

In this election year, we are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. citizens and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all. ELCAvotes, a new initiative led by ELCA Advocacy, ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and ELCA Young Adult Ministry, was developed to help members advocate for fair elections and engage in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote.

ELCAvotes provides faith-based resources to encourage faithful and non-partisan voter participation, helps young adults understand and speak about what it means to be a young person of faith who is civically engaged, and more.

[Learn more and download resources](#)

Called Forward Together in Christ: A process to discern the ELCA's future

As we anticipate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, people across this church are taking the opportunity to reflect on our history and think about our future. What kind of church is God calling us to become? And how does the ELCA continue to be an inspiring and relevant church in our communities?

Through an initiative titled Called Forward Together in Christ, led by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and other leaders, we'll work together to create a vision for the future ELCA. Your congregation and synod are invited to take part in the conversation this spring. Find resources to help you promote, facilitate and share your thoughts at ELCA.org/future.



WATCH THIS

[Called Forward Together in Christ](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PORTICO HEALTH ASSESSMENT

APRIL 30
Earn wellness dollars and save money.

[LEARN MORE](#)

GRACE GATHERING DISCOUNT

JUNE 15
Register early for reduced registration.

[LEARN MORE](#)

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 11
Save the date.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 8-13
Registration closes July 8.

[REGISTER](#)

HELPFUL RESOURCES



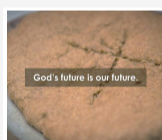
ELCA World Hunger's Community Gardens How-To Guide
Find wisdom harvested by ELCA congregations whose community gardens are vital parts of their ministry.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



AMMPARO resource page
Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

[AMMPARO resources](#)



Called Forward Together in Christ toolkit
Use this resource to guide conversation in your congregation about the future directions of the ELCA.

[DOWNLOAD](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

BULLETIN BLURBS

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

Living Lutheran discount

Beginning with its April issue, *The Lutheran* magazine is now called *Living Lutheran*. Our new name signifies this church's living, daring confidence in God's grace. You can expect the same quality content along with new departments and a more robust web presence. Now through June 30, new subscribers to the magazine receive 25 percent off. Get 12 issues for just \$14.95. Invite members to subscribe at livinglutheran.org/subscribe.

ELCA Good Gifts for Mother's Day

Tell mom she's BEEautiful this Mother's Day with an [ELCA Good Gift of honeybees](#) (\$20). Invite families in your congregation to join in and donate to make a difference for a family around the world. Download the coloring page to let kids in on the fun! Learn more at ELCA.org/goodgifts. [Download coloring sheet](#)

ELCA Youth Gathering applications



The ELCA Youth Gathering is primarily planned and led by amazing volunteers who serve on 15 planning teams. The Gathering is now accepting applications from individuals who would like to participate in the planning. Applications will be accepted until July 1, 2016. Encourage members to [apply today](#). Questions about the application process can be sent to gathering@elca.org. Learn more at ELCA.org/gathering.



The ELCA's first comprehensive campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, is celebrating the completion of its second year with \$80 million in current gifts and pledges, representing 40 percent of the five-year, \$198 million goal by Jan. 31, 2019.

A \$100,000 match for International Women's Day was met and surpassed with a total of \$123.313 raised! The funds will support scholarships for the International Women Leaders Initiative through ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. Meeting this goal was a huge victory for the *Campaign for the ELCA* and the women from our global companion churches who receive scholarships as part of this initiative. We give thanks to the generous donor who made the matching gift, all of the donors across the church (more than 650 individuals and congregations) and for everyone's effort in making this a success. Together, we doubled our impact in women's education.

[Learn more.](#)

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God's work. Our hands.

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