

# Seeds Monthly

May 2016 For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods [www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org)



Keynote speaker:  
**Leymah Gbowee**

photo by: Michael Angelo for Wonderlano

## Register now for the Grace Gathering

Once every three years voting members gather to make decisions about how to go about God's work as a church. The 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in New Orleans, Aug. 8-13. Not a voting member? Not a problem. For the first time, all ELCA members — not just voting members — are invited to New Orleans.

The Grace Gathering is intersecting with the 2016 Churchwide Assembly Wednesday, Aug. 10 – Saturday, Aug. 13. The event will allow ELCA members to observe the assembly and participate in workshops and worship, with a focus on preparing for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Featured speakers include our presiding bishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee. **Reserve your spot by June 15 and receive a registration discount.**

[Learn more and register.](#)

## Vocation: From worship to the world

Vocation is deeply embedded in Lutheran history and theology. In the May cover story of *Living Lutheran*, Dwight DuBois explores what Martin Luther talked about as the "universal priesthood." He writes about the "many names, one promise" of vocation and the joy that can come with connecting faith and life.

Following DuBois' piece, see the "Related Articles" section to read the profiles of four ELCA members celebrating their vocation by living out their faith in their job. These Lutherans faithfully serve as a physicist, a nurse, a counselor and a radio show host.

[Read more.](#)

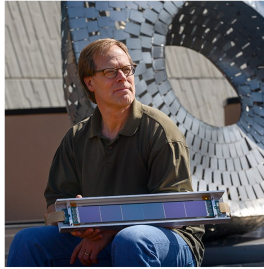


photo by: Ccken Photography



## Word and Service roster unification

This summer a recommendation will come to the Churchwide Assembly to unite the present three lay rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers into one roster of Word and Service. Beginning in 2007, a series of consultations, study and dialogue began to examine the work and ministry of these three lay rosters. These conversations led the ELCA Church Council to form the Word and Service Task Force. The task force determined the central question is whether the mission of the ELCA would be strengthened by combining the three lay rosters into one.

Find out more about this recommendation through the Word and Service Task Force Frequently Asked Questions.

[Learn more.](#)

## WATCH THIS

[We are Church for the Sake of the World](#)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**JUN 30** CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST  
Feedback deadline.  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**JUL 1** ELCA YOUTH GATHERING VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS  
Application deadline.  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**AUG 8** ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY  
Freed and Renewed in Christ.  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**SEPT 11** 'GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS' SUNDAY  
Day of service.  
[LEARN MORE](#)

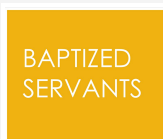
## FEATURED RESOURCES



### Where does my offering go?

This infographic highlights ministries made possible through the Mission Support dollars of congregations.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



### Baptized Servants

Doing a service project? Help your group prepare for and reflect on your shared experience.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



### ELW Braille Edition: Service Music and Hymns

The complete texts for all 743 service music items and hymns from the Pew Edition are now available in Braille.

[ORDER](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

## BULLETIN BLURBS

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

### Lutheran Disaster Response gift match:

Over the last few months, we have seen one of the highest concentrations of significant disasters in decades. As a church, we are called to respond. Through [Lutheran Disaster Response](#), gifts will provide help and hope in the face of devastation. Thanks to a generous donor, [gifts right now](#) will be matched – dollar for dollar – until we reach \$100,000. Share this bulletin insert to spread the word. [Learn more at ELCA.org/disaster.](#)

### Called Forward Together in Christ: A process to decide the ELCA's future directions

As we anticipate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, people across this church are reflecting on our history and thinking about our future. What kind of church is God calling us to become? How does the ELCA continue to be an inspiring and relevant church in our communities? Called Forward Together in Christ, an initiative led by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and other leaders, invites your congregation and synod to take part in the conversation this spring. [Learn more at ELCA.org/future.](#)

### Gather summer Bible study

This summer, *Gather*, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA, presents "The Heart of the Matter," a Bible study by Angela Shannon, a pastor at King of Glory Lutheran in Dallas. The three-part Bible study will focus on learning to deal with conflict through the ministry of reconciliation. Download the Bible study at [gathermagazine.org](#).

### A Place for All



As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for everyone here. On May 25, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton hosted a live webcast, "A Place for All," where a panel explored what it means to be a welcoming congregation within the ELCA. Did you miss the live viewing? Find a recording of the webcast and congregational resources at [ELCA.org/webcast](#).



**Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA's** 2015 report is now available! In [this report](#), you will get a glimpse of what campaign gifts made possible last year, including:

- starting a new camp program for youth with disabilities;
- providing international women leaders with full-tuition scholarships;
- breaking ground on a Lutheran center and health clinic in South Sudan;
- engaging youth in ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water and so much more.

We invite you to continue to give of your time and talents for this amazing work. Together, we are bringing new life to the church here at home and around the world.

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