

# Seeds Monthly

May 2017 For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods ELCA.org

## Called Forward Together in Christ



## ELCA Future Directions 2025

ELCA Future Directions 2025 is the result of the 2015 Called Forward Together in Christ process. The document details the ELCA's five goals and supporting priorities, helping this church journey faithfully and effectively together in the years ahead. These are based in a shared trust and hope that the future is in God's hands. The goals express what the church has collectively said is important for the future: to be a church that is thriving, equipping, welcoming, deeply committed, well-governed and connected.

This document is available for download in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## Living Lutheran 'Living out our commitment'

While the nation has increased in racial and ethnic diversity over the past 30 years, the ELCA's demographics don't reflect it – at least not yet. The ELCA remains committed to having its congregations reflect the diversity of their communities, and several memorials and actions were approved at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly that addressed anti-racism and relationship-building initiatives. "The church is turning the corner in striving for justice," said Judith Roberts, ELCA racial justice ministries program director. "At the assembly, it felt like the church was speaking boldly. It's now up to each of us to carry out that vision."

[Read the full article.](#)



## Not too late to register for the Rostered Ministers Gathering

During this event held Aug. 7-10 in Atlanta, participants will come together under the theme "On the Way – Together." The event includes:

- assembly keynote speakers: Elizabeth Eaton, James Forbes and Rachel Held Evans
- an interaction center, exhibit and vendor areas
- service-learning and service project opportunities
- 49 unique workshop topics
- an opening reception featuring music by The Tams; a celebration banquet; pre-events for young rostered ministers and ELCA chaplains; and "Beer & Hymns," a 20th-anniversary Fund for Leaders concert

Early registration ends May 31. [Learn more.](#)

## WATCH THIS

'Called Forward Together in Christ: Synod Assembly 2017'



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**MAY 31** ROSTERED MINISTERS GATHERING  
Early registration closes  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**JUN 4** EMBODIED FREEDOM  
Minneapolis, June 4-6  
[LEARN MORE](#)

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

**SEPT 10** "GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS." SUNDAY  
Day of service  
[LEARN MORE](#)

## FEATURED RESOURCES



### Pentecost Sunday booklet

Ideas to lift up ELCA Global Ministries on Pentecost.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



### Prayer Ventures

Daily prayers from the ELCA for congregations or personal devotion.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



### ELCA World Hunger Community Gardens Guide

Tips and stories from congregations whose community gardens are vital parts of their ministry.

[DOWNLOAD](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

## BULLETIN BLURBS

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

### Living Lutheran reader call

Send us your recipes. From the feeding of the 5,000 to manna from heaven, the Bible is full of stories connecting food to faith. Now the editors of *Living Lutheran* want to hear from you! What foods have been important to you in your faith life? By or before June 15, send your complete recipe and 300-word story to [erin.stybis@elca.org](mailto:erin.stybis@elca.org) for consideration in a larger story we are planning for the September issue.

### Follow us!

Do you follow the ELCA on social media? Keep informed with church news, events, pictures and video across many platforms. We're on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans); @ELCA on Twitter; @ELCA on Instagram and YouTube.com/ELCA. Join this online community of Lutherans!

### New film – 'Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World'

The newest Martin Luther film is now available for congregations to incorporate into anniversary program planning. "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World" explores Luther and the impact of his teachings in a feature-length film that revisits the dramatic moments that shaped Luther's life while examining his quest to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Find a screening to attend or learn how to host your own at [newluthermovie.com](http://newluthermovie.com).

## Always New. Campaign Corner

UPDATES on *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*

We have much to celebrate as we complete the third year of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Through the generosity of ELCA members and congregations, we reached \$113 million – 57 percent – of our \$198 million, five-year goal, allowing us to strengthen and expand ministries across this church and around the world.

You are part of this amazing progress. In the [2016 Campaign Report](#) and [video](#), you will get a glimpse of what your gifts and support have made possible so far.

Looking to the final two years of this campaign, we are encouraged by your continued involvement and support. From growing work with our global companion churches to lifting up congregations and leaders in the United States, we have more to accomplish together. Thank you for joining us in this historic effort!



Together, we are doing God's work with our hands.

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