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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Seeds Monthly

July 2017

For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

[ELCA.org](#)



Living Lutheran: 'After the media leaves, Lutherans stay'

Last year Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) worked on 47 relief and recovery projects in 29 countries and distributed nearly \$6.6 million. The ministry has a reputation for staying in and serving communities long after other agencies and media have left. "Because Lutherans are at work in communities and in the congregations, we walk with people every day through their lives," said Michael Stadie, LDR-U.S. program director. "LDR is just another way for us to walk with people. Our disaster response is a natural outreach of being the church. We were there before the disaster, and we'll be there after." Read more about Lutheran Disaster Response in the *Living Lutheran* July cover story.

[Read the full article.](#)

Subscribe to ELCA newsletters

As a Seeds Monthly subscriber, you're accessing the latest resources, stories and events from around this church. Do you want to keep in touch with other church news? Now you can subscribe to many ELCA newsletters in one place. Keep up-to-date with the ministries that mean the most to you, or share with a friend and encourage them to subscribe. Sign up for news about the global church, Lutheran Disaster Response, stewardship and ELCA World Hunger.

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'I'm a Lutheran: Kathryn (Kate) Koob'

Perhaps most widely known for being the only living female survivor of the Iranian hostage crisis, Kate Koob talks about how her faith got her through that challenging time and has played a significant role in her life in *Living Lutheran's* July "I'm a Lutheran" feature. "I know firsthand the power of prayer for others. During my time in Iran, I felt held up by the safety net of prayer that was being said for all of us during the time of our captivity," she said.

[Read the full article](#)

WATCH THIS

'Beyond the Steeple: New Life in Dripping Springs, Texas'

An outdoor church in Texas hill country



Beyond the Steeple: New Life in Dripping Springs, Texas

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**AUG
31**

SOCIAL MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Feedback deadline

[LEARN MORE](#)

**SEPT
10**

**"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."
SUNDAY**

Day of service

[LEARN MORE](#)

**SEPT
15**

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Registration opens

[LEARN MORE](#)

**OCT
31**

LOOKING BACK & CALLED FORWARD

Reformation worship

[LEARN MORE](#)

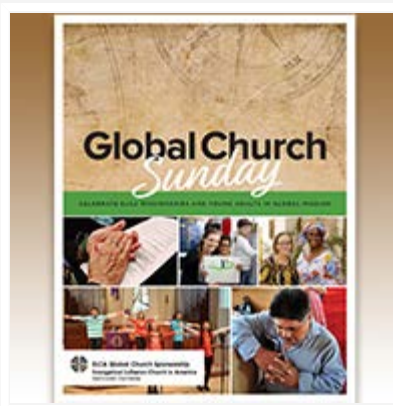
FEATURED RESOURCES



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

Resources to help with your congregation's planning, promotion and more.

[VIEW](#)



Global Church Sunday booklet

Plan a celebration of our global church.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



ELCA Branding resources

Build awareness of the ELCA with graphics and landmarks.

[VIEW](#)

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

BULLETIN BLURBS

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

Presiding Bishop Eaton's columns available in Spanish

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's monthly columns in *Living Lutheran* are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Go to LivingLutheran.org and click on the "From the Presiding Bishop" tab in the column on the right. An archive of her monthly messages is also available on the website.

Financial assistance available for ELCA Youth Gathering

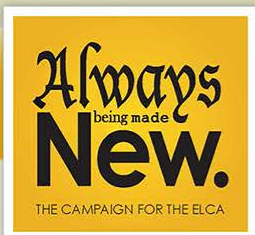
The ELCA Youth Gathering wants everyone to have an opportunity to attend. The Gathering offers financial assistance to youth participants based on the financial needs of an individual and their family. Assistance will be offered to applicants on a rolling basis, and adult leaders are encouraged to apply early. Leaders will begin receiving email notifications of financial assistance offers on Aug. 15. Applications for 2018 are now open at ELCA.org/YouthGathering/Registration/Financial-Assistance.

Read and respond: ELCA social message on human rights

The draft of a social message on human rights is now available for viewing and response on the ELCA website, ELCA.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages. Reviewing the draft gives you a chance to weigh in on the development of this important document. After reading the message, there are two ways to respond: Fill out the online response form found on the same webpage, or email comments to eva.johnson@elca.org. Both will be shared with the staff and consulting group that are preparing this message. The comment period closes Aug. 31.

Pray, fast and act together

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Michael Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, issued a joint statement in May inviting people to a time of prayer, fasting and advocacy. Their call was based on concern about proposals in Congress to cut federal programs that are essential to hungry people in poverty. On the 21st of every month, Eaton and ELCA Advocacy invite Lutherans to pray and fast. The 21st of the month was chosen because it's the monthly date when 90 percent of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits run out for families. To learn more about the #PrayFastAct action, go to ELCA.org/PrayFastAct.



Campaign Corner

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

Each year, more than 225 ELCA missionaries serve in more than 40 countries around the world. They are sent by the ELCA in response to invitations from our companion churches and serve in a variety of roles, working alongside our companions to proclaim the gospel, raise up leaders, care for those in need and develop new ways of being church together.

This October, as we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, join us for [Global Church Sunday](#) by celebrating and supporting our church's missionaries! If each of the ELCA's 9,300 congregations made a gift of \$500 or more to Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission in commemoration of the 500th anniversary, we could raise nearly \$5 million for these life-changing ministries. This is a historic milestone for the Lutheran church and an exciting opportunity to participate in the ongoing Reformation. Will you join us?



Your congregation received a packet with a Global Church Sunday booklet and other materials earlier this month. View the electronic versions of the [Global Church Sunday booklet](#), [poster](#) and [bulletin insert](#) to get started today!

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