

Seeds Monthly

Sept. 2016

For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

[ELCA.org](#)



Live webcast: Ecumenical witness and the Reformation anniversary

Join Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on Thursday, Oct. 27, from 7-8 p.m. CDT for a live webcast that will explore ecumenical and interreligious witness on the eve of the Reformation anniversary. What was the Reformation, and what does it mean for Lutherans and ecumenical partners? What is "Declaration on the Way" and why is it significant for Lutheran-Catholic relations? What might ecumenical and interreligious relationships look like in the future, and what does this mean for our faith community? Participate and join the conversation by using #ELCAwebcast on social media.

[Learn more.](#)

Upcoming webcast:
THURSDAY, OCT. 27, 7-8 p.m. CDT

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday photo blog

On Sunday, Sept. 11, thousands of Lutherans came together to put their faith in action as part of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, the ELCA's annual dedicated day of service. The 2016 service day coincided with the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Many congregations focused their service projects on honoring first responders in their communities. To see photos and stories from the day, visit [LivingLutheran.org](#).

[Read more.](#)



ELCA webinar on new overtime rules

The U.S. Department of Labor adopted new overtime regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act that go into effect Dec. 1. Among other changes, these regulations increase the minimum salary for exempt employees from \$23,000 to \$47,476. Learn how these regulations apply to congregations, synods and other ministries of the church and their employees with a free ELCA webinar on Oct. 18 at noon CDT. The webinar will discuss the new regulations, and there will be opportunity to ask questions via live chat. Reserve your spot by Oct. 14.

[Register today.](#)

WEBINAR

Fair Labor Standards Act

WATCH THIS




[ELCA World Hunger: Saroj's Story](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCT 27	WEBCAST WITH BISHOP EATON Ecumenical witness LEARN MORE	OCT 18	FREE ELCA WEBINAR Fair Labor Standards Act LEARN MORE
OCT 30	REFORMATION ART EXHIBIT Minneapolis Institute of Art Oct. 30, 2015 - Jan. 15, 2017 LEARN MORE	OCT 31	ECUMENICAL REFORMATION COMMEMORATION Lund, Sweden LEARN MORE

FEATURED RESOURCES

 Churchwide Assembly overview The Rev. Chris Boerger, ELCA secretary, outlines key actions and outcomes. WATCH	 Stories of Faith in Action An annual publication that highlights how God is changing lives through Mission Support. ORDER DOWNLOAD	 ELCA World Hunger poster This map shows where we're at work addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty. ORDER DOWNLOAD
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[MORE RESOURCES](#)

BULLETIN BLURBS

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

Reformation-themed coloring pages
Get creative while observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with fun, themed coloring pages by artist Robbin Isenhour Stewart. The North Carolina Synod created several resources to commemorate and observe the Reformation's 500th anniversary, including a curriculum with corresponding coloring pages called "Ever-Reforming: A Reformation 500 Cross-Generational Study." To download the free coloring pages, go to [nclutheran.org/events/reformation500](#).

Young Adults in Global Mission
At the end of August, 84 ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission were sent off to their countries of service. Each will spend a year of service in relationship with ELCA companions in one of 11 countries. You can support these young volunteers through prayer, by following their stories or through a financial gift. Learn more at [ELCA.org/yagm](#).

Small Catechism app
You can have Luther's Small Catechism with you everywhere with the new Luther's Small Catechism app put out by Augsburg Fortress. Great for confirmation and adult faith classes, the app contains the central sections of the Small Catechism and is available in English and Spanish. The app is a free download in the Apple Store and Google Play. For an upgrade (\$1.99), you can also download the study version of the app.

Take action on criminal justice sentencing reform
We acknowledge that the lives of people in prison are precious gifts from God worthy of our respect and care. Decades of harsh and overly unfair prison sentencing policies have devastated communities. From overcrowding in prisons and skyrocketing federal detention costs, to countless families unnecessarily separated for small, nonviolent crimes, reform is needed now. Join us and faith community partners in the call for reform and [urge your Congress members to pass comprehensive reforms this year.](#) Go to [ELCA.org/advocacy](#) and click on "Advocacy Center."



The second class of International Women Leaders scholarship recipients have begun their studies at ELCA colleges, seminaries and universities, as well as at institutions near or in their home countries. The current group of scholarship recipients, made of up 18 women, includes eight from companion churches in Malaysia and one each from companion churches in Suriname, the Holy Land, Madagascar, Liberia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Senegal, Central African Republic and Japan. Participating ELCA institutions include Augsburg College, Wartburg College, Newberry College, Luther College, Lenoir-Rhyne University and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Please keep these women in your prayers as they begin the academic year.

International Women Leaders grows out of the ELCA's long-standing international scholarship program, which has provided financial support for short- and long-term academic training for established and emerging global leaders over the past 28 years. One of 10 priorities of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, the initiative empowers international women leaders through programming designed specifically for them. [Learn more](#) about International Women Leaders and how your congregation can get involved in this life-changing work.

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