

# seeds for the parish

Winter 2015

Resource Paper for Leaders of ELCA Congregations

www.ELCA.org



Worship Jubilee gathers people interested in the future of worship.

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Do you and your congregation know what to do in a disaster?

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## Saying yes to opportunities for ministry

By Michael Brenner

Members of Church of the Beloved, an ELCA congregation in Edmonds, Wash., have taken a unique approach to making the gospel come alive among people with the use of music. Their music reflects Beloved's creative, unique style, which is a melding of theology, music and liturgy, and is available to the public through several downloadable albums on the congregation's website or for online listening.

"We started with a number of musicians, writing music that was theologically rich, relatable and at the same time within musical sensibilities that were natural to us," said Ryan Marsh, who goes by the title of "architect," as well as pastor.

The music started eight years ago, when the congregation made music wherever it could find the space – friends' places,

living rooms and sanctuaries. But it's just a portion of Beloved's unique style.

Beloved's uniqueness was deliberate from its beginning. The congregation's genesis came in 2004, when a committee attempted to address declining church attendance. The statistics were particularly discouraging in the Seattle area – only 6 percent of people attended church regularly.

The initial focus was the millennial generation, but the committee soon found itself targeting a mindset rather than a demographic. Their vision as a new congregation developed around creative, experiential worship and striving to create a sense of community in a diverse and fragmented society.

"A lot of what we do is just say yes to new opportunities," said Ryan.

As the congregation embraces new opportunities their community ministry

coordinator, Jacqueline Cuayo, plays a vital role in facilitating communication between groups and church members, between the congregation and the community. And her work with the creative and theological direction of the congregation also involves facilitating and passing information from one place to another and helping people connect.

"We are a group of people that want to worship God and follow the way of Jesus in a way that we can connect to in a modern day language," said Jacqueline. "How do we say the same thing, but in a way that traditional and non-religious people might connect with it?"

Church of the Beloved is a congregation – a faith community – connecting and united in Jesus Christ, who gathers all of us around word and water, wine and bread... and sometimes great music.



New Spanish language resources for worship.

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A new book on Bonhoeffer's impact on youth ministry today.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### CONTACT US

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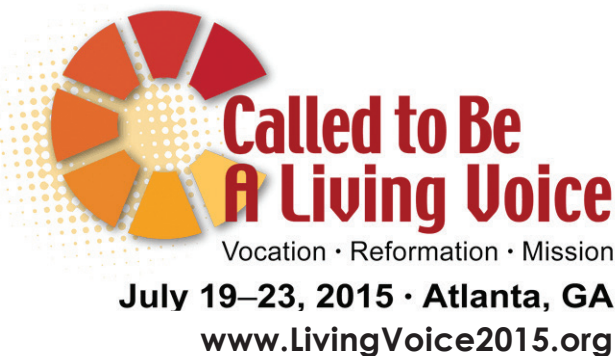
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## A gathering for everyone interested in worship

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton frequently reminds us that worship is the center of everything we do as church. Whether you are a pastor, musician, artist, lay leader or simply curious and concerned about the future of worship renewal in our church for the sake of the gospel and for the life of the world, you are invited to attend the next Worship Jubilee, “Called to be a Living Voice: Vocation, Reformation, Mission,” July 19-23 in Atlanta.

For the first time, Worship Jubilee will be held in conjunction with the Biennial Conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. Their conference will begin one day ahead of the Jubilee, focusing on Luther’s understanding of vocation, especially of the church musician. Participants may register for both events.

Participants will be invited to consider how our historical inheritance shapes our response to our current cultural settings, reflecting on such things as tradition and innovation, inherited and emerging practices, sound and silence, speaking and hearing, words and the Word. With the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017, it is not too soon to begin thinking carefully and critically about how this milestone will be observed in our congregations, synods and communities. We need to remember our history – the positive and negative aspects – in order to propel us into a mission-oriented future. These are the conversations into which a wide range of presenters will lead us during the heart of the combined event. Participants will also experience this Reformation theme at a public event, “The Church’s Journey through Art and Music.” Resources from this event will



be made available for sharing across this church during the anniversary year.

### Presenters, topics and opportunities

Presenters will include Presiding Bishop Eaton, R. Guy Erwin, bishop of the ELCA Southwest California Synod; Paul Westermeyer, Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Luther Seminary; Gordon Lathrop, Professor of Liturgy Emeritus at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; composer and theologian Clay Schmit; and Nadia Bolz-Weber, pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, an ELCA congregation in Denver. Maggi Dawn will share ecumenical perspectives as a priest in the Church of England and professor, author and composer, and younger emerging leaders like Emily Scott, pastor of St. Lydia’s in Brooklyn, and Leila Ortiz, associate pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, Md., will also share. Musicians will include internationally-known organists like Martin Jean and well-known Lutheran contemporary musicians, like Jonathan Rundman, those from varied ethnic communities, global leaders and more. A wide range of diversity – age, ethnicity, pieties, perspectives, styles and opinions – will be evident among the presenters and topics to be addressed.

Participants will also worship together in diverse ways: cathedral and contemporary, global and emerging, broadly participatory with an eclectic mix of music and the arts. Participants will be exposed to a wide variety of worship practices and perspectives, broadening the palette of possibilities within their own worshiping community. Those who attend will have the opportunity to network with others across

the ELCA, finding energy and renewal in singing, worshiping and learning together, returning to their congregation to share what they experienced and, perhaps, find ways to extend the experience to others in their synod.

On the final day of the Jubilee, working in smaller groups around specific topics, participants will have the opportunity to share their ideas and concerns about the future of worship renewal in the ELCA. The worship staffs from the ELCA churchwide organization and Augsburg Fortress will listen carefully to the input received as plans are crafted for the coming years. Make sure your voice is heard by being present for these conversations. Time and space will also be made available for conversations around topics of participants’ choosing.

As we continue to embrace the depth of our Reformation heritage while also treasuring the diversity within our church, “Called to be a Living Voice” will be an important venue to experience and rejoice in that healthy tension. Make your plans now to be present in Atlanta for this extraordinary gathering. Complete details and registration can be found at [www.LivingVoice2015.org](http://www.LivingVoice2015.org).

**seeds** for the **parish**

[ELCA.org/seeds](http://ELCA.org/seeds)  
[LivingLutheran.com/seeds](http://LivingLutheran.com/seeds)

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**Note:** Not all resources and program ideas listed in **Seeds for the Parish** have received official ELCA review or endorsement.

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## Living Lutheran: A place to witness and share everyday living faith

At Living Lutheran, there’s something new for you every day. Well, almost every day. How about something new posted five days a week, all year long? Martin Luther said, “Our faith is a living, busy, mighty, active thing.” Living Lutheran invites you to share in the sense of purpose and call to action that our faith brings to our lives.

As an online publication of the ELCA, Living Lutheran’s goal is to pro-

vide a place for members and friends alike to find lively engagement in faith and life. At Living Lutheran you’ll find the voices of ELCA members, as well as what’s happening in communities, congregations, synods and ELCA-related organizations across the country and around the world.

Something new is posted each week-day: feature blogs, stories, photo blogs, an

“Ask a Pastor” column, videos or new Seeds resources and programs for congregations.

Living Lutheran offers a place for ELCA members to share their diverse experiences of what it means to live Lutheran. Visit Living Lutheran every day throughout the year at [www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran](http://www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran).



## The Campaign for the ELCA annual theme toolkit now available

*Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* seeks to raise \$198 million by Jan. 31, 2019 to help sustain and grow the ministries of this church. The additional resources will provide our church with opportunities to deepen relationships and expand ministries that serve communities in the United States and around the world. Keeping the campaign at the forefront of ELCA members' hearts and minds throughout the five-year span will be crucial in reaching the goal.



Renewing Congregations and Disability Ministries. These ministries will help us share the love of Jesus far and wide by starting more congregations, discovering innovative ways to grow and renew our existing communities of faith and expanding our ministries with people living with disabilities. By focusing on these ministries in the coming year, we are beginning the campaign with a top priority – growing and adapting our

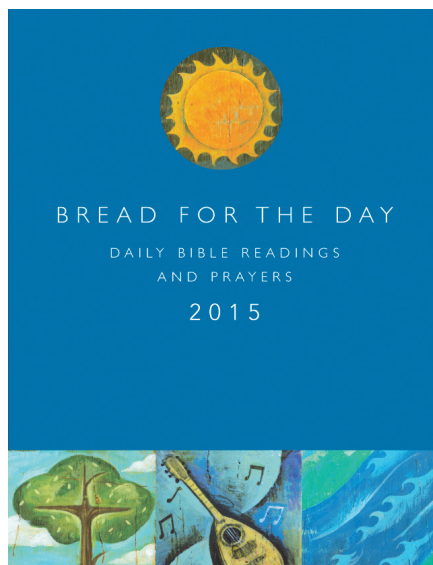
church for those communities that need it most.

To assist in the promotion of this year's theme, congregations will receive an annual theme toolkit in mid-January. The toolkit includes bulletin inserts, worship resources, a pew offering envelope, video, poster, social media resources and more. For digital copies of these resources, please visit [www.ELCA.org/campaign](http://www.ELCA.org/campaign).

For more information as you plan your involvement in *The Campaign for the ELCA*, please feel free to contact the campaign team at 800-638-3522, ext. 2612, or by email at [campaignforELCA@elca.org](mailto:campaignforELCA@elca.org).

## A small book filled with daily treasures

“Bread for the Day: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers 2015” is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures. This is the perfect resource for individuals, congregations, households, Bible study groups, prayer groups, pastors, church councils, outreach teams, confirmation students and teachers. Purchase with a group, congregation or parish and take advantage of quantity pricing. Visit [augsburgfortress.org/breadfortheday](http://augsburgfortress.org/breadfortheday) or call Augsburg Fortress Sales & Service at 800-328-4648 to learn more and to order.



**We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here.**

As members of the ELCA, we have an important message to share and people are ready to hear it: We are saved by God's grace and God's grace alone. Help us share the love of Jesus far and wide by starting new communities of faith, renewing our existing congregations and expanding our ministries with people living with disabilities.

Through *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, we have pledged to deepen our churchwide ministries to support congregations like yours. We hope you will join us!

[ELCA.org/campaign](http://ELCA.org/campaign)

**Always**  
being made  
**New.**

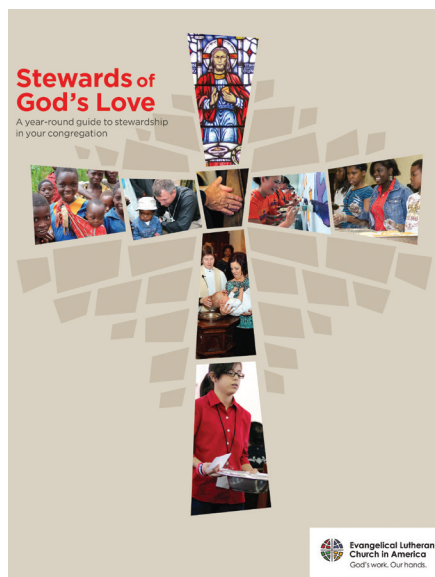


**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



## Resolve to do year-round stewardship



Do you have a resolution for the New Year? If not, consider introducing

year-round stewardship as a pathway to discipleship in your congregation.

Year-round stewardship is a way to get out of the habit of just talking about stewardship in one season, like the fall, and bringing it into the life of the congregation throughout the year. Year-round stewardship enables a congregation to separate stewardship from the financial response and instead focus on all of the different aspects of what it means to be a good steward.

One easy way to keep stewardship year-round is to lift up different ministries that happen through your congregation as part of the weekly offertory prayer. This is a powerful way to connect the dots between the Sunday morning offering and all the wonderful things that happen through your congregation. Use a mix of ministries that happen both inside and outside of the congregation, including the minis-

tries that happen through all expressions of the ELCA.

If you are looking for help to get started with year-round stewardship, you might want to consider “Stewards of God’s Love,” an ELCA comprehensive resource created in 2013. It includes activities, ideas and inspiration for a year-round approach. This resource can be downloaded at [www.ELCA.org/growingstewards](http://www.ELCA.org/growingstewards).

Also on the ELCA website ([www.ELCA.org/Resources/Stewardship](http://www.ELCA.org/Resources/Stewardship) under the Leadership tab) is a downloadable resource called “Year Around Planning.” It provides a monthly calendar with Bible readings, books, group and family activities and more. Whether you go with a monthly, quarterly or some other frequency of schedule, this is a great collection of possibilities to consider as you put together your own plan.

Year-round stewardship looks different in every congregation, but it has the potential of providing much more impact for your stewardship ministry.

**“Stewards of God’s Love” has provided inspiration and ‘doable’ ideas to implement a more thorough year-round approach to stewardship.”**

– Pastor James Lehman,  
St. John Lutheran Church,  
Port Clinton, Ohio

## Does your family or congregation have a disaster plan?

If an emergency or natural disaster occurred today, what would you or your congregation do? Do you consider yourself to be prepared? In a time when news reports about disasters seem commonplace, and when our changing climate continually produces severe weather across the country, there is a great need to be prepared for different kinds of disasters.

Lutheran Disaster Response brings you tips, checklists and best-practice information via our Facebook page to help you and your family know how to prepare for different kinds of disasters.

While you can’t control the disaster affecting you or your family, here are a few things you can do to prepare:

- **Be informed:** In the instance of natural, weather-related disasters, meteorologists can typically predict potential severe weather that may be approaching. Stay tuned to your local TV and radio stations to stay up-to-date on severe weather that may impact you.
- **Make a plan:** Before a disaster strikes, make plans with your family for what to do in different situations. Discuss what to do if everyone is at home and what to do if no one is at home.

Decide on a meeting place. Assign responsibilities or roles to family members, as appropriate.

- **Know your resources:** Contact your local officials to find out if alerts or warnings can be sent to your phone. Find the contact information for emergency management personnel and learn whom you should contact for different situations. Ask about community-wide sheltering and evacuation plans.

Being prepared can help minimize effects of a disaster’s aftermath. Listed below are some of the benefits of having a disaster preparedness plan:

- Preparing your home for a disaster, such as boarding up windows before a storm, can help protect your property and minimize the damage.
- The situation will be less chaotic – you will know what to do and you will know that your family is safe.
- By taking action in advance, you will be better-equipped to help your neighbors and friends.

Lutheran Disaster Response has made available the new “Lutheran Disaster Response Congregational Disaster Pre-

paredness Guidebook” at [www.ELCA.org/disaster/resources](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster/resources). Download the resource for free. To quote the introduction to the guide: “The purpose of this guidebook is to help congregations take some basic and important steps toward resiliency and intentionality in response to disaster so that they will be better able to serve their communities when disasters strike.”

We hope you have a plan in place at your home for addressing disaster situations. You probably also have one at your office or school. What about your congregation? What will your congregation do if there is a disaster? The Congregational Disaster Preparedness Guidebook is divided into five sections and provides a step-by-step approach to creating a comprehensive disaster preparedness and response plan for your congregation.

Lutheran Disaster Response has a long history of responding to disasters, both in the United States and internationally. We help communities that are especially



disaster-prone to understand the context of their environment and to know their resources in the event of a disaster. With a focus on long-term recovery, we work with the local communities after a disaster, providing assistance as they navigate their way through recovery. However, the best recovery work always begins with a preparedness plan.

Learn more about how the ELCA responds to disasters, how you can get involved and what resources are available to your congregation at Lutheran Disaster Response, [www.ELCA.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response](http://www.ELCA.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response).

## Looking for young adults to serve around the world

In San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, a 22 year old woman serves at the Cruz del Sur congregation, helping in weekly sewing workshops and playing guitar during worship on Sundays. In Mankara, Madagascar, a 23 year old man teaches at a local English club. In Morelos, Mexico, a 25



year old woman supports grant writing at an environmental justice organization. In Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem, a 22 year old man works at a pre-school run by the local congregation. They are from Texas, South Dakota, California and North Carolina. They are YAGM – Young Adults in Global Mission.

Young Adults in Global Mission are volunteers who serve in a one-year international mission program. The program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 to live and learn and serve in communities across the world. These young

adults experience a transformative, cross-cultural journey as they serve alongside companion churches and partner organizations in 10 countries around the world. Current YAGM country programs include: Argentina and

Uruguay, Cambodia, Hungary, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Southern Africa (South Africa and Swaziland) and the United Kingdom. YAGM volunteers serve in the spirit of accompaniment-walking together with global companions in mutuality, solidarity and interdependence.

During their year of service, YAGM lean heavily into unfamiliarity and vulnerability, confronting issues of poverty, discrimination and systemic inequality. Guided by the communities in which they serve, young adults encounter a

journey that enriches their understandings of faith and grace. They gain perspective on both myths and realities of our shared world and bear witness to the church throughout it. They return home with testimonies of unconditionally lived faith and experiences of hospitality so immense they can only be deemed “radical.” The unique skills and perspectives they develop while in service are helping to reinvigorate corners of the ELCA and are making an impact in areas of advocacy and justice.

### Apply now

The Young Adults in Global Mission program is growing rapidly and the ELCA is always on the lookout for great candidates. For more information about the program, and about what the ELCA looks for in its YAGM candidates, please visit [www.ELCA.org/yagm](http://www.ELCA.org/yagm). You can also find the program on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ELCAYAGM](http://www.facebook.com/ELCAYAGM)) and Twitter (@ELCAYAGM). Applications for the 2015-2016 program year open December 1 and are due by February 15, 2015.

## Getting ready for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering is a prayerfully-crafted, faith-forming experience for teenagers. The 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Detroit, July 15-19. To prepare for the five-day experience, congregational groups are encouraged to use six lessons called the “Getting Ready” materials. Gathering planners hope congregational groups start using the materials in January. The materials are available at [www.ELCA.org/Resources/ELCA-Youth-Gathering](http://www.ELCA.org/Resources/ELCA-Youth-Gathering).

Heidi Hagstrom, director for the ELCA Youth Gathering, says “I think the Holy Spirit works through the ‘Getting Ready’ materials to till the soil of young people’s hearts, preparing them for what God will plant through the intense five-day experience of the Gathering. This time we are also investing in technology to heighten consciousness to faith discoveries after the Gathering.”

The first of six lessons will introduce the theological themes and narrative arc of the Gospel of Mark, the text around which the Gathering is being designed. Metaphorically, this lesson defines the lens through which young people will see what God is up to in Detroit. The

theology of the cross will be a key theme for this lesson and the next.

The second lesson is an introduction to the theology of the cross. Youth will learn why the theology of the cross is so important and be taught how to use it. Detroit’s history and culture is the focus of the third lesson. Many have said that the once great city of Detroit has irrevocably crumbled along with the auto industry. However, young people will be encouraged to wrestle with the question posed by former Labor Secretary, Robert Reich, “Buried within the bankruptcy of Detroit is a fundamental political and moral question: Who are ‘we,’ and what are our obligations to one another?”

A significant quality of Detroit is the racial make-up of its population. More than 80 percent of Detroit’s citizens identify themselves as Black or



African American. To prepare young people for this reality and context, another Getting Ready lesson will take what young people learned about the theology of the cross and weave it into an understanding of Detroit’s history, particularly around the issues of race.

Congregations not attending the Youth Gathering can participate virtually. Morning and evening devotions will be posted online so parents and others can pray along with youth in Detroit. Some congregations use the Gathering’s closing worship, which will also be online. Still others host live stream events from the Gathering for families and younger children.

Learn more about the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering at [www.ELCA.org/gathering](http://www.ELCA.org/gathering).

## Earth Day Sunday 2015



JUSTICE FOR GOD’S  
PLANET AND GOD’S PEOPLE

Earth Day is April 22, 2015, and many ELCA congregations will be celebrating creation on the Sundays before and after. Spring might seem far away, but getting a jump start on planning your congregation’s Earth Day service will make celebrating God’s creation and our call to stewardship that much easier.

For more than a decade, Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program) has developed Earth Day resources that provide educational information, worship resources, sermon starters, stories and activities that highlight various aspects of God’s creation.

This year’s resource will focus on how our changing climate impacts food security and how our food choices impact climate change. This resource will be expanded to include even more tools for pastors, educators and worship leaders to learn and teach about how our climate is affecting the food that we eat and those that grow it.

Please email [info@creationjustice.org](mailto:info@creationjustice.org) or call 202-827-3975 to request a copy of the 2015 Earth Day resource. For more information about the ecumenical work of Creation Justice Ministries, visit [www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org). To find ELCA resources on climate change, food security and other stewardship issues, visit [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org).



## Recursos en español

### New resource for teaching First Communion in Latino congregations

Among some Spanish-speaking congregations, the first time a child receives Holy Communion is not only an important religious celebration but also a social celebration.

Until this point, the ELCA has not had a specific resource tailored for teaching First Communion to young Latino Lutherans. A project several years in the making, the ELCA churchwide organization's Latino Ministry team is thrilled to introduce a new resource specifically designed for the needs of Spanish-speaking ELCA congregations: "Manual para la Primera Comunión."

New this winter, "Manual para la Primera Comunión" is a bilingual teacher's guide – offered in both Spanish and English – complete with twenty 90-minute lessons for Latino children in grades three through six.

Each lesson in "Manual para la Primera Comunión" contains three parts: a teacher's lesson plan, student



worksheets and a step-by-step craft. Each part is designed to be completed in 30 minutes to fill the space of a 90-minute class. This spiral bound teacher's guide can be flipped from one side to the

other for Spanish or English lessons and activities; found at the end of each section is an answer key.

"Manual para la Primera Comunión" also comes with a CD containing recordings of 20 Christian songs from "Libro de Liturgia y Cántico" -- the ELCA's Spanish-language hymnal that correspond with each lesson. Also included is a CD with PDF versions of each section of the workbook, so lessons can be taught from a tablet or worksheets can be printed directly from the PDF.

Leaders in Latino Lutheran congregations, take advantage of this exciting new tool for teaching First Communion to children. For a free copy of this new resource, contact Hector Carrasquillo, director for ELCA Latino Ministry, at [Hector.Carrasquillo@elca.org](mailto:Hector.Carrasquillo@elca.org) or 800-638-3522 ext. 2836, or visit <http://resources.elca.org/Congregational-Life-Manual-para-la-Primera-Comunion-1.html>.

### Make an impact with Thrivent Action Teams



What's your passion? Thrivent Action Teams are a new way for Thrivent Members, their friends, family and church community to get involved to make a difference in a congregation or within the community. The project should bring people together for a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days.

Dee Ricketts of Colorado Springs, Colo., loves the simplicity of the new program. "Whatever anybody's passion is, they can dream a little bigger now because support is so easily available," she says. "Any member can do it!"

#### Getting started is easy

A Thrivent member identifies an unmet need and then completes an online application at [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam). Once approved, the Thrivent member will soon receive a Thrivent Action Kit in the mail. It comes complete with promotional signage, T-shirts and other resources to make your project a success. It even comes with a Community Impact Card with \$250 in seed money to help cover some of the project costs like promotional, material and rental expenses. It's not intended to be used as a gift or a grant. The idea is to inspire more people to take action and together make an even bigger impact.

In fact, a community of only 50 people drew in 500 people to a fundraising potluck and auction to help local women facing surgery. The Thrivent Action Team volunteers grew the seed money of just \$250 and turned it into more than \$73,000. You can read the full story on [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam) > Member Stories > Small Town Draws Big Crowd.

If you are not a Thrivent member and would like to learn more about membership and all of the benefits, visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) to find a Thrivent Financial representative near you.

### New Spanish-language resources support Evangelical Lutheran Worship

#### 'Santa Comunión / Holy Communion'

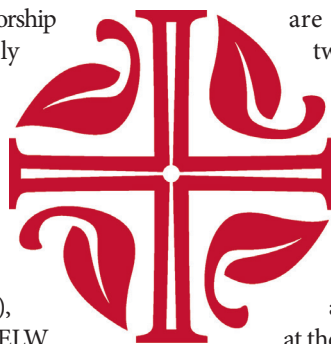
New resources in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) family support worship in ministry contexts using the Spanish language. "Santa Comunión / Holy Communion" is a bilingual version of the ELW Service of Holy Communion, with Spanish and English in parallel presentation. Many of the Spanish texts have been drawn from "Libro de Liturgia y Cántico" (Augsburg Fortress, 1998), which is the principal worship book in the Spanish language for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Additional texts are newly translated for this resource. The Spanish version seeks to capture the sense of the original texts, and at the same time recognize common usage and idioms from across the diversity of Spanish-speaking populations.

The music of the liturgical songs in this edition was combined from several sources, especially for ELW Holy Communion, Setting Seven.

"Evangelical Lutheran Worship Santa Comunión / Holy Communion" is available in two editions: an assembly edition (edición para asamblea), which is comparable to the ELW assembly (pew) edition, and a larger-format leaders edition (edición para líderes), which is comparable to the ELW leaders edition.

#### 'Ensemble Edition of Holy Communion: Setting Seven'

"Ensemble Edition of Holy Communion: Setting Seven" is an enhanced instrumental setting of ELW Holy Communion, Setting Seven. Composer Juan M. Cortez has crafted an arrangement that gives each musical component its own distinctive style that is true to its Hispanic roots. Flexible parts



are included for flute, violin, two trumpets, keyboard, one or two guitars (vihuela) and bass (guitarrón), bringing to life the bilingual songs with original music by Gerhard Cartford, Victor Jortack, José Ruiz and Pablo Sosa. Worshipers at the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly responded enthusiastically to this setting, which has now been published in this Leader Score edition, with instrumental parts available for download at [augsbuorgfortress.org](http://augsbuorgfortress.org).

Visit [augsbuorgfortress.org](http://augsbuorgfortress.org) or call Augsburg Fortress Sales & Service at 800-328-4648 to learn more and to order.

## ‘Grace and Peace’ – a new Lenten resource for your congregation

More than 27,000 people in ELCA congregations used last year’s “Too Deep for Words: Devotions for Lent 2014,” a new pocket-sized, group-use devotional based on Paul’s letter to the Romans. This year’s devotional, “Grace and Peace: Devotions for Lent 2015,” takes readers through Lent with daily readings from Ephesians. “Grace and Peace” is available in regular, large print and eBook for-



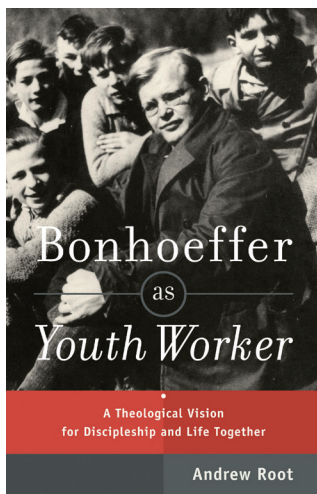
mats, with a quantity discount available for the regular, pocket-sized edition.

To ensure you have copies for your congregation in time for the Lenten season, order today while supplies last. Visit [augsbu rgfortress.org/graceandpeace](http://augsbu rgfortress.org/graceandpeace) or call Augsburg Fortress Sales & Service at 800-

328-4648 to learn more and to order.

## ‘Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker’

In his new book, “Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker: A Theological Vision for Discipleship and Life Together,” author Andrew Root argues that Dietrich Bonhoeffer is the forefather to those taking the theological turn in youth ministry. For those seeking to make such a turn, Root hopes to show how we stand on the shoulders of Bonhoeffer, and how we might claim him and learn from him as we turn theological in youth ministry.



ness of Bonhoeffer’s theological projects, seeing what we might learn for our own contemporary ministries, seeing if Bonhoeffer might give us new visions of childhood, faith-formation, family and the church.

Andrew Root is the Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., where he

teaches on youth ministry, young adults, family, church and culture. He is the author of numerous youth ministry books, including “The Children of Divorce,” and coauthored (with Kenda Creasy Dean) “The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry.”

“Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker” is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

## Catholics, Lutherans reflect together on Christian unity

“One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ” is a rich ecumenical resource designed to help Catholic and Lutheran communities mark the approaching 500th anniversary of the Reformation. By gathering together to reflect on and discuss its contents, Christians will foster the church’s unity on a grassroots level and grow in

their awareness of the ways that unity already exists. The essays in One Hope are the product of an intense collaborative process by six gifted scholars and pastoral leaders, three Lutheran and three Catholic. Visit [augsbu rgfortress.org](http://augsbu rgfortress.org) or call Augsburg Fortress Sales & Service at 800-328-4648 to learn more and to order.

## Conversations for Lent

Does being the church matter? If it does, why and how do we as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America make a difference in the world?

A new ELCA resource for Lent provides outlines for five conversations. These



discussions offer participants an opportunity to learn from each other, to name and share the hope we have in Christ and to explore the implications of that hope. The first four conversations focus on the emphases ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has identified for the ELCA:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

The fifth conversation turns to the ELCA’s relationship with its ecumenical partners, particularly The Lutheran World Federation. The five-week study was designed for Lent but can be used throughout the year.

This Lenten resource can be used among a variety of ages in

just about any setting. It draws from scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, contemporary theological resources and the reflections of participants as they consider Luther’s familiar question, “What does this mean?”

Participants might find that as they reflect, listen and speak, they are motivated to think, feel and act differently as an individual, congregation and community.

To find out more, or to download the resource, go to [ELCA.org/Faith](http://ELCA.org/Faith).

## Living a LIFE in Service

Did you know that there are five ELCA-affiliated full-time volunteer programs? Yes, five! These Lutheran Immersion and Formation Experiences (LIFE) seek to give space for people to offer their gifts in service to the world and provide space for robust vocational exploration. Together, they are LIFE in Service.

Who is the LIFE in Service network? They are: ALT Year, Border Servant Corps, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Urban Servant Corps and Young Adults in Global Mission. Together, they have more than 225 volunteers serving annually within the United States and around the world, and more than 3,200 alumni continuing to live out the value of service in the world.

Since spring of 2013, directors and representative of these organizations have engaged in more intentional conversation. Building from long-standing relationships, they have identified goals and ways to collaborate to continue suc-

cess as individual organizations and as a network. In addition to producing joint recruiting materials, they are collaborating their presence at large scale ELCA events. Look for LIFE in Service in Detroit at both the Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in January 2015 and at the ELCA Youth Gathering in summer 2015.

Curious to read more? Find links to all LIFE in Service programs at: <http://ELCA.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Young-Adult-Ministry/Ministries>.

All programs share a commitment to supporting their participants’ journey of self-reflection, cultivating authentic community, serving justly in the world and nurturing sustainable relationships with their partner organizations. The individual programs vary in age and education requirements, so please read more about each to learn about where you or someone you know may find a good fit.





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