



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

A Prayer for Christian Unity
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
Jan. 21, 2022

We're in the midst of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It's a time when Christians all over the world focus on the unity that is actually already in Christ. When we come together in baptism or for holy communion, we are manifesting the unity that Christ has already brought about.

But people might say, "There are hundreds of denominations, and church folks seem to fight with each other, and how can there be unity?" We know that these days, with this unending pandemic, our weariness, our collective grief and anxiety, that more than ever, we need to have some kind of witness of the unity and the love that come from Christ. The church, yes, is a divine institution with Christ as its head. But we're also a human institution in need of reform and forgiveness on a daily basis.

During this week, it gives us the possibility to be a witness to the unity, to the Beloved Community, to the peace and wholeness that everyone knows in God, to God's shalom, to God's fulfillment of all our longings. I'd like to leave you with a prayer as we go through this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, reminding us that it's not our church but Christ's.

Let us pray. Gracious Father, we pray for your Holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it. Where it is in error, direct it. Where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is in need, provide for it. Where it is divided, reunite it. For the sake of Jesus Christ your son, our Lord, amen.

Be well, dear church.