



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

**A Message About the ELCA Youth Gathering**  
**ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message**  
**Feb. 4, 2022**

This week, I want to speak directly to our youth, their leaders and their pastors. Once again this pandemic has caused another disappointment and another loss. You've already missed two years of regular in-school, in-person learning. So many things have been disjointed or cut short. And now the Youth Gathering is also canceled for this summer.

I know this is difficult because congregations work for three years in advance in order not only to prepare to come to the Youth Gathering but to support the marvelous ministries that we do, particularly around hunger.

I'm sorry. And I'm sorry this is happening to you in your young lives yet again. But we do have the assurance of a God who can give to us more than we can ever ask or imagine. And we will come back stronger with the Youth Gathering. This is not the end. So, be of good cheer, even in this continuing pandemic and one more disappointment.

And receive this prayer:

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Be well, dear church.