



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

Be Vigilant—Help Is on the Way
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
Feb. 26, 2021

The vaccines are coming! Some of you have already been vaccinated. And there's promising news about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which may be approved as soon as next week. Help is on the way, and this long pandemic, this long time of sheltering in place, is going to come to an end.

But now we need to be even more vigilant. We need to continue to wear masks. We need to wash our hands, practice physical distancing, not gathering indoors with large groups of people. It's critical that we do this as we move closer and closer to having the country vaccinated. And there's something else I need you do help me with.

Many people in this country do not trust either the government or the medical establishment. They fear that this might be an experiment or somehow the government intruding on this. I've even heard people say that they're afraid that a chip is going to be inserted in their arm when they get the vaccine. That's not true. The vaccine is safe, it's effective, and it's being made available to many, many, many people.

So I need you to talk to folks in your congregations, pastors and deacons and all lay leaders, to convince them that this is safe, that it's effective and that it will make it easier for us to return to life in person.

Also, should you have the vaccine, I encourage you to take a selfie or somehow video that and send it to your congregation, so that they can see that this is in fact safe. And one last thing: we've waited this long and we're almost there. Please do not pressure your pastors and church staffs into returning to in-person worship before it's safe.

Be well, dear church.