



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

God Has Not Left Us
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
July 30, 2021

This summer seemed so full of promise. The weather got better. The vaccinations were at hand. Things were opening up. We could be present with each other in person, with family, with friends, getting to see people we haven't seen in a long time. And then the Delta variant arose. We know it's more virulent and more transmissible. And we also know that it's forcing some places to return to those days of masking; of sheltering in place; certainly of being extremely careful, especially around children and those who are ill. It's critical that we do this. It's hard.

Now there was another time when God's people were also wandering in the wilderness. The story of the Exodus, where they wandered for 40 years, having left the slavery and oppression and infanticide of Egypt on their way to this promise of a land flowing with milk and honey that God had meant for them. They hoped, I am sure, that tomorrow might be the day or maybe next week or next year, but year after year they wandered in the wilderness. God never left them through that whole time, and God has not left us.

So in this time of re-entering the wilderness of increased COVID cases, I urge you, if you have not, to get vaccinated; to wear masks, particularly around children or those who are elderly or ill; to get the vaccination, not just for you but for your family and for your community; and not to lose heart. I leave you with this prayer:

Oh God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Be well, dear church.