



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

Advocating for Children

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message

Sept. 24, 2021

Eaton: I'm here with my dear friend and colleague Michael Curry, who is the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, and we, along with other faith leaders, had a meeting at the White House in order to advocate for children and families, particularly in the Budget Reconciliation Bill.

Curry: We approach this not as a partisan thing. We did not approach this as left or right. We approach these as moral concerns, concerns for the well-being of children and the families that they are a part of, that as we care for our children — of all children, but especially children of the poor, especially children whose lives are tough — that some of these provisions can actually lift children out of poverty. Some of that has already happened, and some of it can continue. And if we can lift any child out of poverty, that is worth doing. That's a moral thing. That's bipartisan. That's ecumenical. That's inner-faith. That's human. Because ultimately the Lord I follow said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Eaton: We used to wear those "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelets, and a lot of people say, "What would Jesus do?" We know. Jesus healed children. He raised children from the dead. He fed people. He took care of these basic human needs, and we know that Jesus also experienced these things; that's our understanding of God. Not far off, but incarnate, with us. And that's what we are trying to do: to incarnate that care so that the least of these, especially little children, who can't really, who have no choice about who their parents are going to be, have a shot in life.

Curry: And you can participate in this and make a difference participating in the Episcopal Public Policy Network. The information for that is provided with this video. Whatever you can do, we invite you to do it.

Eaton: We invite you to join us. With us, it's the ELCA Advocacy Network, who do great work, and it's really, it's important for us. We *can* make a difference. And just once again: this is not partisan. This is caring for children and strengthening families.

Curry: Amen.