



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

I'm baptized. You're baptized. We are in this together.
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
Sept. 25, 2020

By any measure, this has been a tough week. The death of Justice Ginsburg, the grim milestone of 200,000 Americans dead from the pandemic, continued racial inequity in our country, protesters trying to make the point that we should all experience liberty and justice.

We've got fires on the West Coast, hurricanes in the Gulf Coast, and as we move closer to the election, this will only intensify. It seems that we want to cut ourselves off from each other. Not only do we disagree, but we say the other is wrong, or they say we are wrong, or we accuse each other somehow of mounting a platform like we want to divorce each other. But this is not possible. In baptism, the Spirit has forged us together in a bond that is unbreakable by any human sin or even by our anxiety or our desire to get away from the other side.

St. Paul said, "Though we are one body, we have many gifts and we are individually members one of another." I asked a colleague of color, how does he keep working in this church? How does he keep going forward when things are so stacked against him? And he said, "I'm baptized. You're baptized. We are in this together. And in the Spirit's bound, there is no way that we can step outside of that relationship that we have. As difficult as it might be, as painful as the truth might be, nevertheless we are one body in Christ.

This is the witness we in the ELCA need to give to the world and to understand and live ourselves. Be well, dear church."