



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

Run, don't walk!

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message

Oct. 1, 2021

The leaves are turning color. The air is getting a little more chill. It's fall, and it's also the annual celebration of our Fund for Leaders scholarship program. This year we have 59 full-scholarship recipients—the largest class we've ever had. It's wonderful that these people have said yes to God's call, particularly at this time.

I had a chance to meet with them yesterday, and they are full of confidence and courage and hope and joy in proclaiming the gospel. And they're going to do it, I think, in ways that we have not ever imagined. If you've ever thought about the ministry, about being a minister of Word and Sacrament or a minister of Word and Service, you really ought to pray about that. Talk to your bishop, find out how you can get involved and how you can participate in this wonderful formation.

And I'll tell you, people sometimes ask, Is this the pinnacle of my career now, being the presiding bishop? And I say, "No, the most meaningful parts of my ministry have always been walking with people during important passages in their lives." Giving communion to people where at one point you might be seeing someone who's just had a child and at another point you might be giving communion to a widow. All these people gathered around the sacrament, feeling and experiencing the love of God in Christ. So, if you've thought about this, run, don't walk, and find how you can begin seminary theological education.

Be well, dear church.