



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

**Why we need new, young and diverse people**  
**ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message**  
**Oct. 15, 2021**

I hope by now you've heard of our goal of reaching and engaging a million new, young and diverse people by the end of this decade.

New? Young? Diverse? What about the rest of us? What about those of us who've been in this church for forever? I mean, we go to church. We pay the bills. We're the 99 sheep who manage not to get lost. We're the older brother who didn't run off and squander his father's money. What about us?

Well, actually, you're missing the point. The wonderful point is that we need each of you in order to reach these people, so they might know the same intimate and infinite love that we experience in Jesus and the community that we share with one another. Wouldn't that be great if a million new, young and diverse people who do not know Jesus were to come and understand what it means to be at this fellowship. And why stop at a million?

You know, the flock was not complete until the one was returned. And the older brother only realized at the last minute that everything that was his father's was his all along. We're called to this mission and ministry together. Let's see it as an adventure, that we might engage and invite a million new, young and diverse people into the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.

Be well, dear church.