

Mission

Vision

History

Congregations



Synods

Leadership

Financial

Churchwide Organization



Congregations

ELCA congregations are centers for evangelical mission, where people of faith celebrate, learn and connect with one another and others around the world through service and weekly worship. We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you among our nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

CLD



Update your ELCA
Congregational Leadership
Directory.



Form A & C





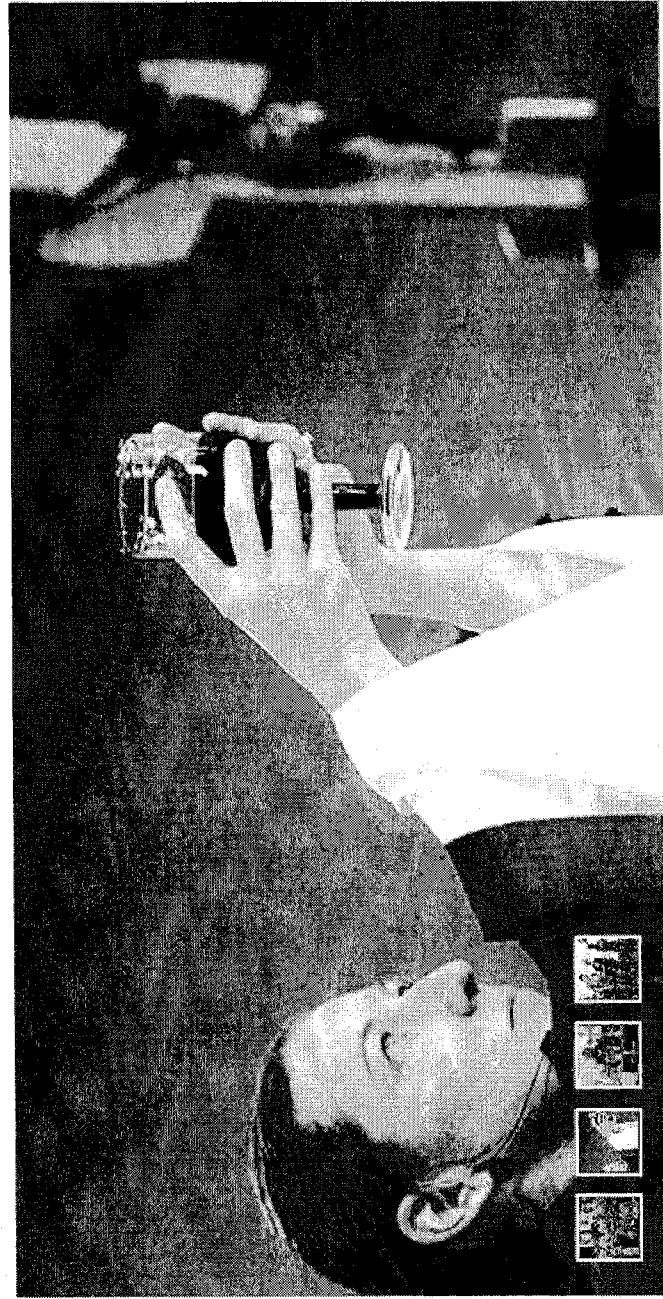
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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About

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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About

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We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us, as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

We are a church that is always being made new, and at the same time, is deeply rooted in Scripture, Lutheran theology and Lutheran confessions. We are also rooted in the vibrant, diverse communities and rich histories of our congregations. It's through these roots that the Holy Spirit guides and nourishes us so that we can be a church that is both resilient and always new.

We welcome you to join this community of faith — the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — regardless of your age, race, gender, life experience, complexities and questions. You have a unique story that can only add to the richness of the larger story that makes up the ELCA. There is a place for you here!

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Churchwide Organization

Since our beginning in 1988, the ELCA has been one church body organized in three expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each expression has particular functions but all three together share a common mission of doing God's work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Together, they ensure a solid foundation of leadership, active involvement in communities, opportunities for dialogue and diverse perspectives, creative partnerships, and support for members and ministries of the ELCA.

The churchwide organization is based out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago and functions for the ELCA's 65 synods and nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states, Caribbean and U.S. Virgin Islands. The churchwide organization's work and functions are guided by the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council and four elected officers. Its staff and elected officers work at the Lutheran Center and in other locations around the world serving as administrators, advisors, conveners, partners and resource people for the ELCA and its ministries.

The ELCA also nurtures important connections with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and related organizations. We work alongside 26 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, eight seminaries, more than 2,000 schools and early childhood education centers, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social service agencies, and other agencies and institutions across the country and throughout the world. The work God calls us to do in the world is never done alone or in isolation, and the churchwide organization plays a key

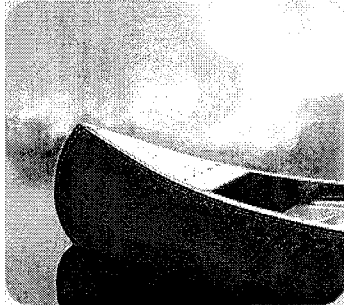


Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Home » Who We Are » Welcome to the ELCA

Welcome to the ELCA

Experience God's Extravagance



God's waters flow through every area of our lives. Discover God's riches in creation and in your community.

Find a congregation near you. Get involved. Strengthen your faith. Help your community.

Regardless of age, race, or status in life, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America welcome you to join this community of faith. If you're unfamiliar with our church, some of what you learn may surprise you.

The ELCA is an engaged, active body of people who put faith in God into action -- in millions of ways, all over the world.

To get started, we invite you to explore this site. You'll find:

Stories about how our members have made positive changes in the world

Statements that may help guide your values and beliefs

Ways this church lives out its faith through ministry

Opportunities to donate your time and financial resources

This page will give you a brief overview of this church, some quick facts, and guide you around the site. We also invite you to learn What We Believe, and to Find a Congregation in your community.

How to Use this Site

WHO WE ARE

You are here! You'll find information about our church, its history, leaders, and organization.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Learn about the ELCA's theology, traditions, and statements — and find resources on prayer and beliefs.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

From disaster relief to advocacy, we are actively engaged in helping our neighbors throughout the world.

GROWING IN FAITH

Through education, ministries, and evangelical outreach, we are continually deepening our faith.

Having trouble finding a Web page? Visit [Site Help](#). You'll also find helpful links and resources at the bottom of every page to help you find what you're looking for.

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

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Churchwide Organization

Visit a Unit or Office of the ELCA

The churchwide organization functions interdependently with congregations and synods to carry out God's mission in the world – to share God's boundless love with the world. The churchwide organization is guided by the biennial Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council and the four elected officers of this church.

The churchwide organization also has staff who work from the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill., and from locations around the globe. Staff members serve as administrators, advisors, conveners and resource people for this church and its ministries. Each of its individual departments (called "units," "offices," and "sections") shares a common goal to advance the mission of the ELCA. A detailed description of churchwide offices, units and sections is available in chapters 15-17 of the ELCA constitution.

To follow recent activities of a specific churchwide ministry, click on its title below:

Program Units

Church in Society

Coordinates ELCA involvement in and statements on social, policy and justice issues in our world.

Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission

Grows the church and spreads God's Word through stewardship and discipleship.

Global Mission

Serves the church's mission outside of the United States by walking faithfully with global companions.

Multicultural Ministries

Celebrates diversity and welcomes all of God's people in this church and our communities.

Publishing House of the ELCA

Provides products and services that enrich the life of the Christian community from a Lutheran perspective.

Vocational and Education

Nurtures our calling to serve others and promotes education through all parts of the ELCA.

Women of the ELCA

Encourages and supports women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Service Units

Board of Pensions

Provides retirement, benefits and services to ELCA pastors, leaders and employees.

Communication Services

Shares the ELCA's message of God's love to all audiences, across all media.

Development Services

Directs efforts for support of ELCA churchwide ministries.

ELCA Foundation

Encourages lifelong stewardship in support of ELCA ministries.

The Lutheran

Publishes *The Lutheran*, the magazine of the ELCA.

Mission Investment Fund

Grows this church through loans to ELCA ministries for vital capital projects.

Offices

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Serves as the administrative office of the ELCA Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson.

- **Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations**
Works toward a vision of unity among all Christians and coordinates dialogue among other faiths.
- **Human Resources**
Serves the ELCA Churchwide Organization by hiring and supporting its employees.
- **Research and Evaluation**
Conducts, coordinates and provides data and analysis for the ELCA.
- **Synodical Relations**
Provides support and coordination for the 65 synods of the ELCA.
- **Worship and Liturgical Resources**
Supports Word and Sacrament ministry and provides resources for worshipping assemblies.

Office of the Secretary

Prepares and preserves the records and policies of the ELCA; led by Secretary David D. Swartling.

Office of the Treasurer

Manages the finances, financial policies and business affairs of the ELCA; led by Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton.

- **Information Technology**
Provides information and technology services that support the mission of this church.
- **Management Services**
Manages the building operations for the Lutheran Center and the ELCA Archives.

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