



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## October 2019 All CAPS Newsletter

### for the ELCA Congregations of the Capital Conference, Phoenix

All Saints Lutheran Church  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Iglesia Luterana Vida Nueva  
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church

Native American Urban Ministry  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church

### CALL

#### **Confirmation Among Local Lutherans**

During October, CALL participants meet on Sundays, October 6 and October 20 at Faith Lutheran Church, 801 E Camelback, Phoenix.

#### **Phoenix Area Lutheran Youth PhLY)**

Saturday, October 12, 4-8 pm  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Maryland & 15th Avenue

At PhLY this month, participants will be exploring the world cell-phone-less, eating tacos, and creating IV machine covers that will be sent to Phoenix Children's Hospital. For more information, contact Casey at [PhLYministry@gmail.com](mailto:PhLYministry@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/PhLYministry](http://www.facebook.com/PhLYministry).

#### **Phoenix CROPWalk**

Sunday, November 10  
1:30 pm Check in, 2:00 pm Walk  
Grace Lutheran Church, Phoenix

Each year, people of faith of various traditions gather to raise awareness and funds for local and global hunger through the CROPWalk. A one to three mile walk that happens in large cities and small towns throughout the United States, the CROPWalk is the oldest of all fundraising walks and funds both local food security efforts as well as global hunger relief programs. This year, the local designee of the Phoenix CROPWalk is HART Pantry in Peoria which serves teenagers who experience food insecurity over the weekends when they cannot access school meals. Congregations may sign up as a team by contacting Pastor Sarah Stadler ([pastorsarah@graceinthecity.com](mailto:pastorsarah@graceinthecity.com), 602-318-6876), or individuals may register on the CROPWalk website: [www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz). Those who wish to support our efforts but cannot walk are welcome to donate at [www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/phoenixaz)!



The Day of the Dead is a day of retreat and prayer, but also of celebration. In honor of our ancestors' lives, we will have an altar upon which offerings may be placed in dedication and memory of our dearly departed loved ones.

Come celebrate this special day with us at Faith/La Fe Lutheran Church (801 E Camelback Rd) on Saturday, November 2, from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm. There will be traditional Mexican food and beverages in honor of this day!

# Reflections on the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Peace and blessings to my siblings in Christ! It was my honor and privilege to attend the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, WI the first full week of August. What an amazing experience!

The Churchwide Assembly consisted of 927 voting members from 65 synods, 9100+ congregations representing the more than 3.5 million baptized members of the ELCA.

There was much important work to do as we discern where the Lord is leading us as an entire church body. Along with the usual financial discussions regarding the budget, revisions to the Churchwide Constitution and rejoicing in all the ministries we as the ELCA are involved with across the globe, there were some noteworthy items that I would like to share.

The first order of business was to discern and elect a new Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Rev Elizabeth Eaton has served in this role for the past 6 years and was overwhelmingly re-elected on the first ecclesiastical ballot with over 81% of the vote. She is truly a special leader and it was amazing to see the Spirit at work in this process. The Assembly was also tasked with the election of a new Secretary. Deacon Sue Rothmeyer was elected to serve as the Secretary after having been the executive for administration in the Office of Secretary and will replace Rev Wm Chris Boerger who is retiring at the end of his term.

The Assembly approved a plethora of memorials, social statements, a budget in excess of \$68 billion dollars each of the next three years, declared itself a sanctuary church body, affirming our commitment to immigrants and refugees, celebrated the conclusion of the Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA having raised almost \$250 million dollars since 2013 and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women, the 40th Anniversary of the ordination of women of color and the 10th Anniversary of the decision to remove barriers to ordination for individuals in same-gender relationships. A list and description of all highlights can be found at the ELCA website - [2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly summary of actions](#).

I was overcome with the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the week. From the time I wandered into the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, not knowing what to expect and trying to figure out where in the hall the Grand Canyon Synod was supposed to sit, I could feel the Spirit at work. The myriad of volunteers, making sure everything was in place and working smoothly, the church leaders from not only the ELCA but from church bodies across the world discussing our ministries together and the worship services that were held each morning were awe-inspiring. I established new relationships with people from our local synod that I may have known casually or by sight as well as forging brand new relationships with Pastors and lay leaders on the other side of the country. There are so many ways that we as the ELCA strive to share the love of Christ in our world and the Churchwide Assembly embodied that spirit of service.

Please don't hesitate to come up and ask me about the Churchwide Assembly when you see me at church! I can't possibly do justice to the whole experience in this brief note in our newsletter. I could not be more humbled and honored to have been able to represent Grace and the Grand Canyon Synod as a voting member at Churchwide Assembly. We truly are Church Together!