



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Greetings voting members-elect!

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Greetings voting members-elect! But for the coronavirus pandemic, we would be starting the [Eleventh Triennial Convention](#) of Women of the ELCA this morning in Phoenix. As we've seen the pandemic play out over the past four months, it's clear the churchwide executive board made the right, albeit, difficult decision to postpone.

I'm writing to you today with three things in mind: 1) words of encouragement; 2) an invitation to support our shared ministry; and 3) cautionary words about meeting in person.

ENCOURAGEMENT. I've learned about many imaginative ways that women in our organization are sustaining community and serving others during this pandemic. Women are gathering for Bible study and fellowship using Zoom and similar virtual meeting platforms. Many are doing something decidedly old school: writing letters in our [Dear Friend in Christ project](#). (Won't you join in?) Some have been working with state public policy offices and the ELCA Washington office to engage in advocacy efforts. And many are sewing masks for local and [global causes](#), along with the loyal quilters making relief quilts. Some of you are participating in Tuesday Prayer at Noon (in your time zone). If you haven't started this practice, here is a helpful [one-page prayer sheet to get you started](#).

I would love to hear about what you and the women of your congregational unit are doing. Maybe you're ~~taking the summer off as many do, but are you~~ planning for fall? How are you [supporting your community of women, virtually?](#) ~~Whatever you're doing,~~ let me know by sending me an email at linda.bushkofsky@elca.org.

SUPPORT. What if you could support Women of the ELCA every month? It's easy to do with Faithful Friends. [When you sign up for Faithful Friends](#), you choose the amount to be automatically charged to your credit card or withdrawn from your checking account each month. Automatic monthly giving

through Faithful Friends is the most powerful, versatile and effective way for an individual to support this organization we all love.



“

Every time I log into my bank account and see my Faithful Friends offering, my heart smiles.”

—Lisa Plorin, Upham, N.D.

welca.org/faithfulfriends



Here’s what some of our community are saying about [Faithful Friends](#).

Once Faithful Friends’ giving is set up, I know that my regular contribution can be counted on by Women of the ELCA. That’s important, especially at this time when we aren’t able to be together for activities that would typically generate an offering. – Myrna Wells-Ulland, Scottsdale, Arizona

I feel connected to the Women of the ELCA in a personal way. I appreciate the work and mission and am happy to do my small part. Sign up for Faithful Friends. It gives you a connection with women around the world. It gives me a voice, and I am seen as a woman of faith. Helping others to be heard and appreciated is important to me. – Anna Thompson, Cheyenne, Wyoming

The pandemic inspired me to become a Faithful Friend. I had been thinking about it and knowing that I would not be attending events to give an offering at gave me the push to fill the information out to become a Faithful Friend. I feel that I am helping to ensure that the organization will continue to function and be around for the next generation. – Jennifer Armstrong Schaefer, Latrobe, Pennsylvania

You can start [giving online](#) right away. Or, if you prefer, download the [form](#),

print it out, fill it in, and mail it to:

Women of the ELCA Faithful Friends
c/o ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009

BE CAUTIOUS. The churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA strongly encourages congregational units to carefully monitor current federal, state, and local governmental orders and recommendations in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the recommendations of their synod.

[All caution should be taken](#) to protect the health of participants and their families. Where appropriate, postponing or canceling in-person events may be necessary. If in-person gatherings are being considered, the pastor and congregational council should be consulted.

Congregational units are encouraged to explore virtual opportunities for gathering, and the [churchwide staff stands ready](#) to consult on ways to gather virtually.

May the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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