



## **Who We Are**

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the women's organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This network of nearly 500,000 participants in 64 geographical areas (called synods) in the United States and the Caribbean exists for mutual support and bold action on participants' faith in Jesus Christ.

We build on the strong history of women's missionary movements, Bible study, and service in which our foremothers engaged over the centuries. Today, our lives have changed and we enjoy access to a wide variety of careers and have greater freedom and ability to contribute to ministries we value. We also have opportunities to respond to the call to ordained ministry as well as the call to teach Sunday school.

Still, embracing the world as God's gift and God's people as sisters and brothers, being committed to growth in faith and action, standing for justice with the poor and oppressed remain. We strive to support all the ministries of women and to offer guidance for daily life. Women have always been a powerful force in the church and continue to be so today.

## **Participants**

Women who are members of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and subscribe to our purpose statement are participants.

## **Churchwide Representation**

We have one representative to the churchwide Women of the ELCA, Charleen Walker-Horton.

## **Synodical Representation**

The Board of Women of the ELCA in the Delaware-Maryland Synod has 13 representatives elected during our annual convention. Of the 13 members, 4 are executive board members (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). The remaining 9 are members-at-large. The board meets periodically to conduct the business of the organization and to plan events.

## **Cluster Representation**

Our members are organized into clusters, each of which has a coordinator responsible for disseminating information from the board. Cluster coordinators are volunteers and receive special training from the board. Our board vice-president is our Cluster Administrator responsible for keeping cluster coordinators in the loop.

Cluster Coordinators assist local units wherever possible and gathers units within the cluster together twice a year for a retreat or special program.

## **Unit Representation**

A unit can be congregational or special in the case of university students or other Evangelical Lutherans who do not have a local congregational unit. Each unit is responsible for electing or appointing their own executive leadership in accordance with the local unit's constitution. Each unit also sends a representative to vote at the annual business meeting.