



God's Story, Our Voices



## Why Participate in this Covenant?

Research from congregations in the Oregon Synod who participated in an intentional congregation vitality process showed these long-term effects. . .

- \* Theological imagination expanded - able to articulate how God is active and how they join God in that activity
- \* Clarified sense of purpose within God's mission
- \* Increased mutual agreement with neighbors
- \* Deeper congregational member connections with God, each other, and the world
- \* New lay leaders identified and engaged
- \* Increased mission support
- \* Increased worship attendance

For questions or further information, please contact. . .

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**Purpose:** To help our congregations view our changing culture as an opportunity and invitation to refocus energy and resources toward becoming ***communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another, and the world.\****

Vital Congregations are places where. . .

-  Worship is dynamic and authentic
-  Leaders are respectful of boundaries
-  Leaders participate in and engage with their local communities
-  Members treat each other as fellow members of the body of Christ
-  Diversity is honored and respected
-  People are willing to engage in holy experiments & open to change & risk
-  Faith is nurtured
-  Gathering spaces are attractive and inviting

*\* This is the definition of vitality being used throughout the ELCA.*

# There are three different ways in which congregations and leaders can participate in the **CONGREGATIONAL**



*Vitality*

**INITIATIVE.**

Congregations of every size and setting are encouraged to participate.

## Points of engagement include. . .

### Congregational Vitality Covenant:

Congregations that wish to begin an intentional process of growing their vitality enter into a covenant, which involves. . .

- \* Completing the covenant form
- \* Taking the congregational vitality survey
- \* Forming a team of at least 3 people in addition to the pastoral leader
- \* Working with a coach who will be trained by ELCA churchwide and synod staff (meeting every two months)
- \* Participate in all Vitality Track workshops
- \* Developing and implementing ideas, including holy experiments, to become more vital
- \* Cost: \$250/year

### Congregational Vitality Surveys:

Every congregation is invited to take a congregation-wide vitality survey which helps them understand how they are connecting people to God, to one another, and to the world.

- \* Cost to take the survey is \$100 (Remaining cost is covered by a synod grant.)
- \* Survey results are shared with council and leadership to provide a starting place for congregations to begin setting goals and priorities.



Central States Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Congregational Vitality Tracks:

Designed for rostered ministers and lay leaders. Each track will be on a Saturday, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at 3 locations across the synod.

Tracks can be taken as individual workshops and are open to anyone. Cost to attend is \$15 and includes lunch

- \* Discerning/Listening to God, to one another, and to your community.  
**(September 15, 2018)**
- \* Developing Dynamic, Authentic worship.  
**(February 9, 2019)**
- \* Embracing Change and Leadership: Moving from fear of scarcity to gratitude for abundance  
**(June 22, 2019 10 a.m.—3 p.m.)**
- \* Nurturing life-changing relationships with God and one another  
**(TBA)**
- \* Engaging in our faith in the world  
**(TBA)**
- \* Faith Development and Faith Practices  
**(TBA)**