

# the elca NETWORK

children, youth & family ministry

## Membership Guide

### Welcome to the ELCA Youth Ministry Network!

As a member of this community, you are joining a network of passionate and dedicated individuals who are committed to nurturing the faith of young people and equipping them to share a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

This membership guide is designed to help you navigate and make the most of your membership in the Network. Here, you will find information about the various benefits of membership, how to connect with other members, and resources to support your ministry with young people.

Whether you are a volunteer, youth minister, deacon, pastor or bishop, your membership in the Network connects you to a wealth of resources and opportunities to grow in your ministry. From access to events and training opportunities to support from a community of like-minded individuals, we are excited to journey with you as you serve the youth in your congregation and community.

### Thank you for being a part of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network!

## Basic Membership

A "Basic Membership" is free, and available to anyone who chooses to join. Benefits of membership include access to:

### 3rdTuesday Conversation



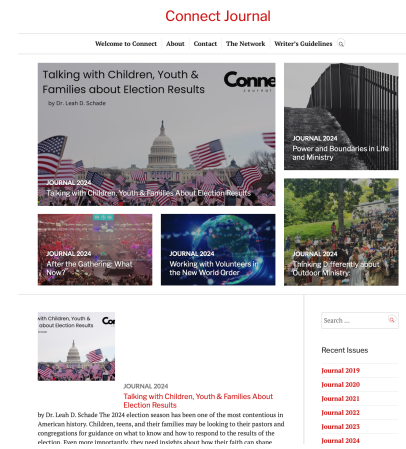
3rdTuesday Conversation is a monthly podcast, produced by the Network. By subscribing to 3TC, you have the opportunity to take a break from the daily routine of ministry, grow in your vocation, learn from colleagues and experts in the field and participate in conversation with peers who can reflect on ministry, based on the content discussed. To subscribe, go to [elcaymnet.org/3tc](http://elcaymnet.org/3tc), or subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.

## Salary Survey

The Network conducts an annual salary survey of the community that is released every fall. This provides a snapshot of financial and benefits compensation. This data is available based on years of experience, geographic region, size of congregation, education level, gender and more. It is a great tool when working on budgeting. Access the survey results at [elcaymnet.org/survey](http://elcaymnet.org/survey).

## Connect Journal

The Network's journal is published digitally 3-4 times a year, focusing on different areas of ministry interest. The goal of the journal is to provoke thought and conversation and to further develop congregational ministry. The journal can be accessed at [connectjournal.org](http://connectjournal.org).



## Formation Co-op

Formation Co-op is an initiative that is being funded by the Lilly Foundation and was launched in March of 2023. The Formation Co-op, in partnership with the Lilly Foundation and the ELCA, will create and nurture adaptive youth ministry models that allow congregations to discern and implement what innovation looks like in their own context while uniting them around a shared understanding of future ministry. As resources are developed, they will be made available on the Network's web site at [formationcoop.org](http://formationcoop.org).



## Email Newsletter

Every two weeks, the Network releases a digital newsletter with information about upcoming events, new resources and ways to connect. To subscribe to the Network's E-News, go to [elcaymnet.org/maillinglist](http://elcaymnet.org/maillinglist) and subscribe.

## Social Media



The Network has a strong and vibrant presence on social media channels. Our community asks each other questions, provides support, shares wisdom and experience, and stays informed:

- Our Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/elcaymnet](https://facebook.com/groups/elcaymnet)) is a place of support and conversation.
- New resources and events are announced on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/elcaymnet](https://facebook.com/elcaymnet)), as well as...
- ...on our Twitter channel. ([twitter.com/elcaymnet](https://twitter.com/elcaymnet)) and on...
- ...Instagram ([Instagram.com/elcaymnet](https://Instagram.com/elcaymnet)).
- Be notified of new video resources by subscribing to the Network's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/elcaymnetwork](https://youtube.com/elcaymnetwork)).

## Placement Pages

Congregations that are searching for a new staff member (part or full-time) list their openings in the Placement section of the Network web site. If you think that God might be calling you into a new setting, we encourage you to look first at the Network placement site. The information can be searched by geographic region. To access this important data, please go to [elcaymnet.org/placement](http://elcaymnet.org/placement).

## Plus Level Membership

Plus level memberships are any of our paid Network's membership levels. Plus members have access to all of the same membership benefits of the basic members, Plus the following:

### MartinsList.org



MartinsList is a file sharing system for children, youth and family ministry. Have you written a resource that may be helpful for someone else? A retreat outline? A Bible study? A curriculum? A game? Share it! Members of the Network support each other. And are you in need of a resource like this? Before you pay for one, check MartinsList! You might find just what you're looking for.

And, when you find a resource you may want to remember, you can "nail it," which means you can keep it on your personal list of resources you want to keep track of. To access this great resource, go to [MartinsList.org](http://MartinsList.org) and log in using your Network web site username and password.

### Oasis

Oasis is a webinar series that brings the best in teaching and learning into your office, home or wherever you might watch a webinar. An Oasis is "a place between." It is a place of rest. It is a place of growth. It is a place of life in the middle of a desert. Oasis is also the Network's online gathering. It is a place between where we are now, and where God is leading us. It is a place of refreshment, renewal, learning and connection. Network Plus members are welcome to share the webinar with their congregational leadership and volunteers. More information can be found at [elcaymnet.org/oasis](http://elcaymnet.org/oasis).



### Extravaganza Registration Discount



Extravaganza is the Network's annual conference, that focuses on spiritual renewal, continuing education and networking. Every year, 700-1000 adults who work in congregational faith formation come together in person or online for this amazing

experience. Network Plus members receive a significant discount for registration to the event. More information on the Extravaganza can be found at [ext25.org](http://ext25.org).

## Extravaganza Main Stage Videos

Every year, the Network creates a library of general session, workshop and other videos that were produced for the Extravaganza. (In 2023, 58 videos were produced.) Network Plus members have access to this entire library. Many use it to watch workshops that they couldn't see in person. Or they may pull their volunteer team together to watch a video that may be helpful. Or perhaps they just want to re-watch a session they especially appreciated. Videos are available at [elcaymnet.org/EVideos](http://elcaymnet.org/EVideos).



## Congregations Hosting Traveling Youth Groups

Every year, hundreds of youth groups hit the road, on their way to servant trips, adventure experiences, outdoor ministries or other deep and meaningful experiences. One of the things that makes these experiences affordable, is when congregations share space with traveling groups for overnight stays on the way from "here" to "there." The Network has a listing of congregations that are willing to share their space. To access this list, please go to [elcaymnet.org/CongregationsHosting](http://elcaymnet.org/CongregationsHosting).

## Archived Resources and Curriculum

The Network has produced several different programs for training and support adults who work with young people. The materials that came from those projects has been archived and is available for Network Plus members to use as needed:

- **Practice Discipleship** was a project that trained adult leaders in helping young people to integrate seven different faith practices into their daily lives. These materials are available at [elcaymnet.org/PDProject](http://elcaymnet.org/PDProject).
- **The Discipling Cohorts Initiative** brought adults who work with young people together into cohorts. The goal was that each cohort would work together to develop a plan for personal vocational development. This material is available at [DisciplingCohorts.org](http://DisciplingCohorts.org).
- **25 for 1**. The Network presented training for adults who work with youth at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018. These four different 25-minute training sessions were recorded and are available for Network Plus members to use at [elcaymnet.org/25for1](http://elcaymnet.org/25for1).

## Partners

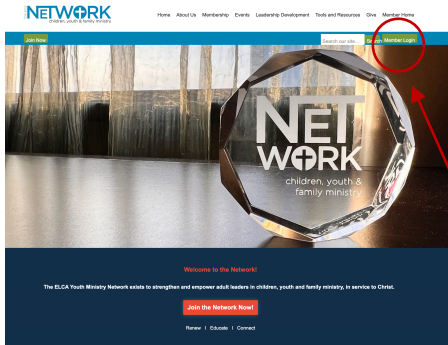
The Network is not simply a group of individuals. We also have organizational partners, who share their gifts, expertise and resources with our members. They support us in our congregational work, and they support the Network. And we are grateful for all of them. There are 3 categories of partnership: Silver, Gold and Outdoor Ministry. Many of these



partners are also exhibitors at the Extravaganza. You can see a current list of Network partners by going to [elcaymnet.org/partners](http://elcaymnet.org/partners).

## Logistical Details

### Membership Data



We encourage our Network members to keep their membership data up to date, so that the Network can best serve you. Email addresses, phone numbers and even the congregations we serve, changes from time to time. You can keep tabs on your membership information, renewal dates and other info by going to our web site ([elcaymnet.org](http://elcaymnet.org)), logging in and then clicking on the little person in the top right corner of the page. There, you can access and update your information. Thank you!

## Jump In!

The Network formed because people who were doing this critical work realized that we needed each other to provide support to each other. While the Network has a lot of different resources available, **our most important resources are each other**. The Network is a volunteer-led community. When you invest in the ministry we share together, you make our community stronger and grow in your own leadership! We encourage you to post on Facebook, volunteer at the Extravaganza, upload resources to MartinList...jump in and participate. We are the Network, and we are better together!

## Contact Us

If you have questions, or if there are ways that we as a community, can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Web site:** [elcaymnet.org](http://elcaymnet.org)

<b>Executive Director:</b>	Todd Buegler	<a href="mailto:todd@elcaymnet.org">todd@elcaymnet.org</a> ;
<b>Formation Co-op:</b>	Catherine Anderson	<a href="mailto:catherine@elcaymnet.org">catherine@elcaymnet.org</a>
<b>Registrar:</b>	Laurie Hoium	<a href="mailto:registrar@elcaymnet.org">registrar@elcaymnet.org</a>
<b>Finance Director:</b>	Alyssa Engedal	<a href="mailto:alyssa@elcaymnet.org">alyssa@elcaymnet.org</a>

<b>Office:</b>	150 Oakwood Lane;	Owatonna, Mn. 55060
<b>Office Phone:</b>	612.460.5345	

**Network Board of Directors:**

- Shawntelle Augustine
- Rev. Heather Hansen (chairperson)
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- Dan Jacob
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