

PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
JANUARY 2022

NEW CREATIONS

The New Year of 2022 is upon us. We may feel excitement and anticipation, or we may feel dread and anxiety. And we may feel these emotions all at once, mixed up together, a little of this, a little of that, a lot of this or that. I was using a blender recently for a new smoothie recipe, and I was amazed at how quickly the ingredients got mixed up into something new. This new year can bring new opportunities and new beginnings, a new creation. These new creations take time and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Those of us involved in faith formation ministries are always creating something new. A teachable moment, an a-ha for a child, youth, or adult, a new relationship brought about by a faith formation ministry. These new creations are continually mixed in with existing relationships, programs that have been offered for a while, ministries with which everyone is comfortable. Our calling is to manage the new and the old and the yet to be.

One of the gifts of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA is the opportunity we have to dream together. We can strengthen our existing programs in conversation with one another. We can bring something new into being through collaboration. This network is currently collaborating with Lifelong Faith Associates for a series of webinars "Designing Faith Formation for the Future". The second of these three webinars will be Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm Eastern "Building Community and Relationships" with Jane Angha. The third one, "Formation for Christian Living," is on March 10 and led by John Roberto.

The old and the new, and the yet to be. We do not know what the year 2022 will bring. Our world is changing rapidly. The landscape of faith formation is changing. Congregational life and ministry is changing. There will be challenges ahead as we navigate these changes. How do we faithfully live into the new and the old, and the yet to be? How do we share the gospel message in a meaningful way in the midst of rapid change? We may not have all of the answers, but we have our Lord to guide us, and we have each other.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for your constant presence as we enter this new year. Thank you for the relationships which build up the body of Christ; and strengthen us as we live into our callings as faith formation leaders. We trust you are creating something new in and through us. AMEN.

Deacon Diane McGeoch, President  
Christian Education Network of the ELCA