



JANUARY 2023  
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## FAITHFULNESS

We often select star words at this time of year, as part of our Epiphany celebrations. This word guides and influences us throughout the year to come. One word that has been on my mind and heart recently is faithfulness. There are so many dimensions to this word. We are faithful because others are faithful. Our faithfulness looks and feels different depending on our gifts, ministry, setting, background, personality, and so many other factors.

I wrote in my December 2022 letter: "We've been faithful people, being the church in new ways." This faithfulness has enabled us to create, design, and implement new ways of faith formation across the church. I am continually amazed at the many ministries and programs I hear and read about, in just about every kind of setting. There are as many new ways of doing things as there are gifts and creativity. We learned during the pandemic, and continue to learn, how our church is much more than a building. Our gifts and creativity are being released into the lives and communities of those we serve  
In countless ways.

Every year the Christian Education Network selects a theme as The Big Idea, and our monthly newsletter features resources on an aspect of this theme. Our theme for 2023 is IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL. Our focus for January is Self-Care. Our hope for It is Well with My Soul is to support your faithfulness. We will explore this theme in two ways. There will be resources for those we accompany, those we are called to serve and support. We are also concerned with the health of leaders themselves, so there will be a spiritual practice each month to complement the resources.

We are also doing a campaign, in support of the Network's Endowment Fund. Our goal is to raise \$9,000, which will be matched with another \$9,000. This \$18,000 will be added to our current balance of \$7,000 for a total of \$25,000 which will be used for the training and education of faith formation leaders across the ELCA. We are planning four webinars at different times this year on Bullying, Anxiety, Suicide Prevention, and Grief. These webinars are just the beginning of what we hope will be regular offerings to support mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

The campaign THE GIFT OF LOVE, will be from January 23 to February 13. Our weekly themes are LOVE, OUTREACH, VISION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT. You will be hearing from different supporters of the Network on these themes. A donation of any amount is appreciated and can be made by going to our website: [www.faithfulteaching.org](http://www.faithfulteaching.org). Your faithfulness allows us to continue our mission to support lifelong faith formation in the home and congregation.

With gratitude for all of you,  
Diane McGeoch

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"...that they may be encouraged  
in heart and united in love..."

Colossians 2.2 (NIV)