



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



From the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ

Greetings in the name of Christ!

When we began our work in 2012, we were charged to foster church dialogue around issues of sexism. We had no idea those issues would be dominating the headlines when we scheduled the publication of the "[Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice](#)" for 2018! We invite you to join this timely conversation about the draft because we need the voices of everyone from across our church.

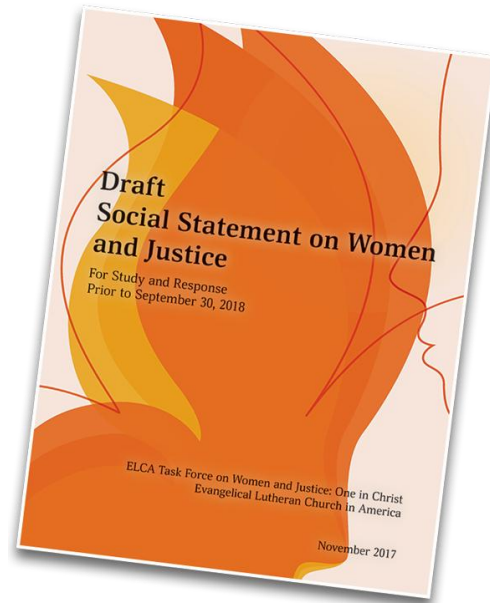
How can you join the conversation?

You can read the draft and [respond](#). Just as talking together has helped our task force to think about these issues, we encourage you to get together with a group. You also may choose to attend a hearing in your synod. [Click here](#) to learn more about all of these options. The comment period is open through Sept. 30, 2018.

What will you find in the draft?

Among many important theological themes, the draft stands upon the Lutheran emphasis that we are justified by grace through faith. It explores how this marvelous gift urges, even empowers, us to challenge the structures of patriarchy and sexism because they prevent all people from living the abundant lives God intends.

Some of the issues the draft explores include:



- how Lutherans understand Scripture;
- restricted access to health care and economic resources;
- objectifying portrayals of women and girls in the media and popular culture; and
- gender-based violence.

It has been an immensely humbling and gratifying experience to be part of the Task Force on Women and Justice. We invite you to the table as the Spirit moves you. We invite you to be a part of advancing this social statement process and to contribute to what will be a living guide for our church.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld
Intentional Interim Pastor, Wisconsin
Professor Brad Wendel
Cornell University School of Law

Co-Chairs, ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ

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“Evidence of [the Spirit’s presence] for me was that the task force is the most diverse group of individuals that I’ve ever worked with coming together to become family in the healthiest sense of the word.”

– Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld



"My experience on the task force has reaffirmed my belief that the Holy Spirit speaks through communities engaged

