



SEPTEMBER 2024  
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING

I was 13 years old in 1969 when the first moon landing happened. I remember vividly gathering around the TV to hear the words “The Eagle has landed” when the lunar module reached the moon’s surface. I remember also the words of Neil Armstrong “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” when he walked on the moon.

The Apollo program and moon landing happened because President John F. Kennedy laid out a vision in 1960 that we would put a man on the moon before the end of the decade. It was a bold statement, and there were many failures along the way as NASA worked to achieve this goal.

Many teams of people with different specialties helped the moon landing become a reality.

The Christian Education Network is made up of many teams of people doing faith formation ministries in many ways. We lay out bold statements all the time in ministry, as we equip others to use their gifts to achieve goals. We are coming to an ending now as we complete our merger with the Association of Partners in Christian Education. September 30 will be the official date of the end of CEN.

With this ending, there is a new beginning as we partner with APCE to continue our mission of supporting faith formation leaders. APCE has provided a lot of affirmation and support as we’ve been through this process together. Renda Brinson and Tori Smit of APCE are also writing in this newsletter to provide words of welcome.

I wrote in the August newsletter about my feelings of gratitude to everyone who has been a part of the Christian Education Network. I wish I could thank each one of you in person. I know we will stay connected through APCE and other ways. There are other feelings, too, as there are when something ends and something new begins. I feel grief and loss, but also excitement and curiosity about what is to come.

Thank you all for being a part of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA. My life and ministry have been made richer because of our community. Instead of “The Eagle has landed,” the Network has landed in an exciting place that will launch us into our future.

Please join us in celebrating the Christian Education Network on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm Eastern on Zoom. If you haven’t received the zoom link, please email our Membership Coordinator, Janet Renick, at [cencoordinator@faithfulteaching.org](mailto:cencoordinator@faithfulteaching.org)

Let’s remember and celebrate together on this journey,

Deacon Diane McGeoch

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“...that they may be encouraged  
in heart and united in love...”  
Colossians 2.2 (NIV)