PRESIDENT’S LETTER
DECEMBER 2021

“I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.” Ephesians 3:19

These are the theme verses for the ELCA Youth Gathering: Boundless God Beyond Measure. We have now started a new church year with the season of Advent, and the new year of 2022 will soon begin. This year will see many congregations preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 24-28.

The Christian Education Network will focus on the theme of Boundless throughout 2022 by curating resources that support this theme and its expression throughout the church.

The daily themes of the ELCA Youth Gathering provide many ways for faith formation leaders to be in conversation with one another, create teachable moments, and build relationships across the generations. And the ELCA Youth Gathering is much more than four days in Minneapolis! There is a lot of preparation before the event and a lot of reflection after participants have returned home. Boundless God Beyond Measure can be explored by those not attending, to be in partnership with those in Minneapolis and learn alongside them.

The Christian Education Network will focus on Boundless Love in January, Boundless Creation in February, followed by Boundless Forgiveness in March, then Boundless Invitation in April and Boundless Promise in May. We will extend these themes throughout the rest of the year by connecting them to seasons of the church year and specific ministry areas. We will explore Boundless as it relates to children’s ministry, adult education, small group ministry, confirmation, leadership development, faith and home partnerships and more areas as we live into the theme in our ministry settings. In addition, our resource collection will include book reviews and congregational interviews.

The year of the ELCA Youth Gathering gives us all an opportunity to continually grow together whether we are going to Minneapolis or not. The church will be on the move a lot this year, with thousands of youth and adults going to and returning from Minneapolis and sharing their stories. Our ongoing goal as the Christian Education Network of the ELCA is to be a part of this movement and connect and expand these stories. This movement will create learning opportunities we cannot predict or imagine as we begin 2022.

On the move with you in faith and grace,

Deacon Diane McGeoch, President
Christian Education Network of the ELCA