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

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Dear friends,

It was 20 years ago, almost to the day, that a group of individuals were called together to talk about faith formation in the ELCA. That meeting was postponed as the events of 9-11 unfolded. But, we persisted, gathered and dreamed. From those conversations, there was excitement about the possibilities. There was passion and engagement. From those gatherings and partnerships, the Christian Education Network of the ELCA (then called the Lutheran Association of Christian Education) was born.

In those days, we sent paper newsletters to members. Today, we have an online presence that simply was not even imagined. In those days we encouraged local chapters to meet to support one another. Today we have a Facebook group where support is instantaneous from more than 1300 people who are passionate about sharing our faith.

For the last 18 months, we have journeyed a new path together. One that we never expected, but one that challenged us and reminded us that we need one another. As the Delta variant spreads, we continue to search for new ways, safe ways, to love our people as we serve God's call on our lives and in our communities.

As for the Network, we are welcoming new board members and looking forward to the next Big Idea for 2022. We continue to search out new and innovative ministries to highlight, books to review and resources to support your ministry. We continue conversations with our partner networks: The Association of Christian Educators (Presbyterian), FORMA (Episcopal) and our own ELCA partners.

Wherever you are, whatever your experience, or the size or context of your congregation, you are part of an amazing network. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Blessings on your journey, even when it isn't what you planned.

The Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy