



ELCA Schools and Learning Centers

—
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To our ELCA Schools and Learning Center Leaders,

"If I make the wrong decision, I might kill someone."

A seasoned early childhood director made this statement just this week. It brings me to tears every time I read it. No one in our ministry should carry this incredible burden alone when local and national health guidelines are changing daily. Unfortunately, you, our school and early learning center leaders must deal with this ongoing uncertainty. The ELEA wants you to know you are NOT alone!

Our COVID Team is available by email or phone, in addition to our Board of Directors, Ambassadors, Connectors, and the ELEA national office. All are ready to assist you in carrying out the mission of your program and ministry during the pandemic and this time of social unrest. **(Contact list attached)**

While the ELEA cannot help you make daily decisions that impact the operations in your school or center, we strongly suggest that all ELCA Schools and Learning Centers do the following:

- Follow and adhere to local and state guidelines issued by health professionals and/or conveyed by government officials.
- Maintain open and honest dialogue between school and congregational leaders regarding your shared mission.
- Ask for congregational, community, and family financial and other support when needed.
- Seek local connections to better understand changing guidelines, required protocols and their implementation.
- Take advantage of the resources and connections offered by the ELEA for your support.

Another early childhood director described her situation, *"We have been working non-stop to build a castle out of quicksand, and frankly, it is just not working."*

ELEA is here to walk alongside you. We are here to *advocate, provide resources, connect* you to one another and daily lift you up in prayer.

Sincerely,

Cory Newman