

ELPNA (Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association)

Parish nursing started in 1983 with Lutheran Chaplain Granger Westberg in the Chicago area. ELPNA is a nonprofit professional nurse membership organization. It is comprised of Registered Nurses affiliated with an ELCA or other Lutheran church or who are Lutheran and providing ministry in a congregation of another religious denomination. The ELPNA was founded in 2004 with 65 nurses in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. In 2008, the ELPNA expanded to the national level incorporating all nine regions of the ELCA.

The mission of ELPNA is to provide leadership in fostering the spiritual growth and development of parish nurses, promote the expansion of this ministry into more congregations, and strengthen the parish nurse within the synods. The vision of ELPNA is to promote a culture of health, healing, and wholeness in ELCA and other Lutheran congregations, agencies, and communities.

Parish nursing is a specialty nursing practice, with its own scope and nursing standards. As an organization we offer educational events, with ANCC accreditation, peer greet conversations and support from each ELCA region via zoom. There are many resources listed on our website. www.elpna.org. Also we have been able to provide 2 yearly scholarships/grants to churches and the parish nurse for implementation of a new program or an additional program for an existing ministry.

Do you have a parish nurse/faith community nurse at your church? If so, are they members of ELPNA? We have been trying to obtain a census of churches with parish nurses. If so, would you let us know. Thank you.

Marie Wiegert, MAN, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA

Vice president ELPNA