



First Lutheran Women News – October, 2017

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[First Lutheran Women](#)

[Women of the ELCA](#)

[Bold Cafe](#)

[Community Resources](#)

Faith Message – *Are the Women of the ELCA Culturally Relevant?*

The women of the ELCA are more culturally relevant and needed now, more than ever. We are more than just a social gathering to get young mothers out of the house or a place where only mature women with richly colored hair make quilts.

The women of the ELCA are activist, dreamers, cheerleaders, sisters and blue collar workers who exist to build each other up, in a world where society measures you by your bust size, age, color, and orientation. We women need to be here, to stand together and fight the evils of the world with love and compassion. We have to save ourselves from believing that we aren't good enough or don't measure up.

Jacob went forth to start a new life. He was scared and knew he had made some big mistakes, but God reminded him he had a purpose; he loved him and would be there for him.

As women of faith we are called to do so many things, that our heads are often spinning. The truth is we aren't called to do *everything*. Jesus isn't counting quilts or school kits. He doesn't care how clean your bathroom floor is or if your skirt is too tight. He makes some of us mothers, some of us teachers, some of us explorers, but all of us perfect in his eyes. He accepts us even when we make mistakes and uses us when we are broken.

As women we can serve, mobilize and multitask with a hint of style. We all have different gifts and talents and none of us is less worthy than another. The devil tries to get inside us and tell us that as we stare into the mirror, cry in the shower or bury our heads in a novel to avoid reality. This organization is based on the idea that we are created in the image of God. In a world that wants to tear us down and devalue us; I would say that is very relevant.

Genesis says God made us to be a helper. That doesn't mean we have to do it all or try to control things like Rebekah did, but it also doesn't mean we watch others and don't add something to the pot.

As women in 2017, we run companies, lead congregations, build technology and create beautiful spaces. There are plenty of verses about women being silent in the church and submissive to their husbands and leaders. I do not believe the Lord wanted us to be seen and not heard. However, we each need to learn what God's role is for us and that he is the one whom we need to adhere to most.

We need to step out of our comfort zone and "Go Forth" We need to trust and live through adversity and work together. The women of the ELCA has all the tools to help us do that. Please consider using their resources and reading their wonderful publications. We are culturally relevant, but we need your support and effort to continue to be.

No matter how well we age or what brand name we put on, we all question "Am I good enough?" "What is my worth?" Who are we trying to measure up to? Who does it matter to? Not God.

Submitted by,

Sara Larson-Women of the ELCA Churchwide Executive Board Member

NEWS & EVENTS:

October 16th - 1:00pm – Quilting

October 25th – FLW Board Serves TLC Supper