

# What is a Parish Nurse?

**A Parish Nurse is an Integrator of Faith and Health**, reminding people to care for the body, mind and spirit.

**A Parish Nurse is a Health Educator.** The nurse educates in all formats, one-on-one to group seminars. In her teaching, she encourages the understanding to the connection of faith and wellbeing.

**A Parish Nurse is a Personal Health Counselor.** The nurse discusses health problems with parishioners, giving clarity and support. The nurse makes home, hospital and nursing home visits as needed.

**A Parish Nurse is a Referral Agent.** The nurse assists with the network of the health care system, making referrals when necessary. The nurse works with community agencies, establishing resources and networks that assist with the well-being of the congregation.

**A Parish Nurse is a Health Advocate.** The nurse assists with healthcare assessments and decisions when requested or needed. At times it may require going with a member to a MD appointment.

**A Parish Nurse is a Developer of Small Groups.** The nurse may develop small group ministry or support groups depending on the needs of the congregation. Groups could include grief support, weight loss, or parenting.

**A Parish Nurse is the Trainer of Volunteers.** Christ called all to be his disciples of His ministry. The nurse utilizes volunteers to assist in the ministry of health and wholeness.

ELPNA  
P.O. Box 8117  
St. Paul, MN 55118



## Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association

Affiliated with the ELCA

*Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*



# What is an Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse?

# Why Join?



## An Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse:

- Is a Registered Nurse, currently licensed to practice professional nursing and updated through state CEU responsibilities.
- Has completed an endorsed Parish Nurse program.
- Works in keeping with the Scope and Standard of Practice through the American Nurses Association.
- Endorses and promotes the theological definition of the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse.
- Is a paid/unpaid/retired staff member with an ELCA or Lutheran congregation.



## Why Join the ELPNA:

- To promote parish nursing within the ELCA and encourage the development of parish nurse programs in all ELCA congregations.
- To enhance the spiritual development of ELCA Parish Nurses.
- To support parish nurses in their ministries and encourage appropriate wage and benefit standards.
- To provide networking opportunities and forums for sharing programs, projects, and resources.
- To promote wellness among congregations and church leaders.
- To assure Parish Nurses have a place at Synod Councils and are integrated into the practices and future development of the Church.



# How to Join

## Membership:

Membership is open to Registered Nurses who have completed a Parish Nurse Preparation class and are paid/unpaid/retired staff with an ELCA or Lutheran congregation. Annual dues are paid each January.

## To Learn More:

Visit [www.elpna.org](http://www.elpna.org) or contact [elpna.national@gmail.com](mailto:elpna.national@gmail.com).

## To Join:

Visit [www.elpna.org](http://www.elpna.org) and click on "Join Us." Download the Membership Form, complete it and send it, with your dues, to:

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*For more info*  
**Visit: [www.elpna.org](http://www.elpna.org)**