

## Roles of a Parish Nurse/ Faith Community Nurse

*A Parish Nurse is an Integrator of Faith and Health, reminding people to care for the body, mind, and spirit. The parish nurse fills many roles within a faith community. These roles may include:*

**Health Educator**, providing programs in all formats from one-on-one to group seminars, encouraging the understanding of the connection between faith and well-being and the needs of the community at large. Educational programs may include all aspects of physical, mental, and spiritual health.

**Coordinator of care**, enlisting, training, and assisting volunteers within the faith community to support members with their health and wellness needs.

**Resource person**, assisting members in identifying and securing appropriate and available resources that address health and spiritual needs across the health care continuum.

**Health advocate and counselor**, aiding members in the understanding of health concerns and helping members access appropriate health care within the community. In this role, the parish nurse may assist members with life transforming issues.

**Member of the pastoral team**, collaborating with the spiritual leaders to provide faith education and worship offerings, comfort and support to members in need, and visitation to members in their homes or in various health care settings.

## Benefits of Membership

1. Participate in educational events offering professional and spiritual growth sponsored by the organization with continuing education units
2. Access to the ELPNA Member Directory
3. Reduced fees for educational program registration
4. Access to Members Only portion of the website
5. A member discount on a subscription to Journal of Christian Nursing (JCN)
6. A discount for joining Nurses Christian Fellowship that includes the JCN subscription
7. Allows you to respond to your responsibility to belong to a professional nursing organization as a parish/faith community nurse

### For more information

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

The ELPNA is a 501c3 organization under the auspices of the ELCA.

For purposes of this brochure, the terms Parish Nurse and Faith Community Nurse are used interchangeably. The term Parish Nurse is rooted in the Lutheran tradition.

# Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association

*Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*



# Who is Eligible for Membership?

# Why Join?

# How to Join ...

## An ELPNA Parish Nurse/ Faith Community Nurse:

- is a Registered Nurse, currently licensed to practice professional nursing (preferred baccalaureate preparation).
- has completed a faith community nurse course to prepare them for this ministry. A course is not required for Associate members.
- practices utilizing the *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* as developed by the Health Ministries Association (HMA) and the American Nurses Association (ANA).
- ministers in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the beliefs of the Lutheran Church in which they serve.
- serves a Lutheran congregation as a Faith Community Nurse or is a member of a Lutheran congregation.
- may be a retired Faith Community Nurse who served a Lutheran parish and/or currently belongs to a Lutheran congregation.
- may be a **Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Coordinator** or **serve an organization that is Lutheran** and supervises Lutheran Faith Community Nurses.



## Why Join the ELPNA?

- To promote and encourage development of parish nursing ministries within Lutheran congregations
- To enhance and support the spiritual development of Lutheran Parish Nurses
- To support parish nurses in their ministries and encourage appropriate compensation and benefits
- To provide networking opportunities and forums for sharing programs, projects, and resources
- To promote wellness among congregational members and church leaders
- To pursue representation on Synod Councils for Parish Nurses to integrate Parish Nurse practices into the operations and future of the Church

### ELPNA Practice is governed by

- \* The state nurse practice act directing the parish nurse's activities
- \* *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*
- \* *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*
- \* *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*

1. Visit [www.elpna.org](http://www.elpna.org) and click on "Join Us"
2. Scroll down the page to find the membership options
3. Select a membership option:
  - \$40.00 for one year
  - \$60 for two years,
  - \$300.00 for a lifetime membership
  - A new Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse who has recently completed a preparation course will receive one year free membership
  - New members joining July 1 and following will pay prorated dues of \$20 for the remainder of the calendar year with renewal for the full amount in the following year
4. Complete all questions on your membership profile

### Please note

- Members joining or renewing in November or December are enrolled for the subsequent year
- Dues may be paid online or If you prefer to join or renew to pay dues by personal check, please send your request to [elpna.national@gmail.com](mailto:elpna.national@gmail.com) for the address of our current treasurer. After the check is received, you will be entered into the membership profile and receive the confirmation letter and our sincere thanks.

