



We are a church that believes God is calling the church into both the world and our own communities which have people of many cultures, races and languages. God calls us to address the challenges of becoming more culturally diverse congregations living and serving together in a culturally diverse world.

By gathering together and talking with people of all cultures and backgrounds, congregations can deepen their ministries or develop exciting new ministries grounded in God's love and forgiveness. When we draw closer to each other in conversation and life, we can learn to embrace each other — cultures, questions, complexities and all. The church becomes more culturally diverse and freed to work at restoring, reconciling and healing communities.

There are two important resources available from the ELCA that can help congregations and communities engage in discussions and interaction with people across different cultures, backgrounds and perspectives. "[Talking Together as Christians Cross-culturally: A Field Guide](#)" (revised edition) and "[Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues](#)."

We at ELC are already making efforts to engage in dialogue and partnerships within the La Crosse community. As a partner with Hope Restores as well as active engagement over several years in "Shoulder to Shoulder", Community Conversations, and the Interfaith Leaders Coalition of La Crosse, we are striving to live and serve in a multi-cultural community.