



"The question is not how can we help people with disabilities, but a more important question is, how can people with disabilities give their spiritual gifts to us and call us to love?" — Henri Nouwen

During the next few weeks we are highlighting some of the ministries of the ELCA for individuals with disabilities. This week our emphasis is on Intellectual and developmental disability ministries.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

As we continue our series on ELCA disability ministries, this week we look at ministries for the deaf. The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA), affiliated with the ELCA, tracks deaf ministries and provides links between ministries. The mission of ELDA is:

"The [Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association](#) (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their members which supports a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. ELDA advocates Deaf spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and hosts a biennial conference."

To learn more about how this ministry impacts people, [read the story of one deaf person and the welcoming ELCA church she found.](#)