



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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## ELCA Bishops and Lutheran Public Policy Office Respond to Supreme Court Leak on Abortion

We are deeply disturbed by the leaked news about the U.S. Supreme Court's intention to overturn the historic Roe versus Wade ruling. Results from an actual decision resembling this intention would be overwhelming, and in some cases life-threatening.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America embraces members with varying opinions about reproductive rights. Our ELCA Social Statement on abortion is based on years of study, prayer, and dialogue with our members. As ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton stated, "This church teaches that abortion and reproductive health care, including contraception, must be legal and accessible. But it also teaches that, as a society and as a church, we must continuously strive to mitigate the factors that make it difficult to bear, raise and nurture children: lack of affordable health care, affordable childcare, paid sick time and paid parental leave; high student debt; and compensation that is inequitable based especially on gender or race." See full statement at <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8141>

Part of the ELCA's social statement reflects our current concern for how pregnant women experiencing poverty and trauma would be most profoundly impacted if federal abortion laws were reversed. We are also very troubled by how other basic rights protected by the 14th amendment could unravel if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe versus Wade.

As we pray and advocate for just laws to remain in place, we also call for civil discourse. Trauma is exacerbated when someone pregnant is harassed or experiences violence for considering or having had an abortion. We denounce this sort of behavior as well as violence against groups that oppose all abortions. The Madison-based Wisconsin Family Action, for example, recently experienced an arson attack, which we firmly rebuke. We have disagreements, but we cannot allow them to explode into acts of violence against one another.

Our church holds the tension of valuing human life at all stages of growth and honoring the dignity and rights of those making decisions about their own pregnancies. Embracing that paradox with God's grace, as ELCA church leaders in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we oppose overturning Roe versus Wade. *Find more about the ELCA Social Statement on Abortion at [elca.org](http://elca.org) (search social statements).*

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