

What is a Parish Nurse or 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:

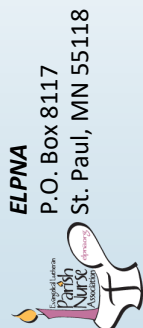
Health Educator, providing programs in all formats from one-on-one to group seminars, encouraging the understanding of the connection between faith and well-being and the needs of the community at large. Educational programs may include all aspects of physical, mental, and spiritual health.

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.



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?

An Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse:

- Is a Registered Nurse, currently licensed to practice professional nursing (currently preferred baccalaureate preparation)
- Has completed a faith community nurse course to prepare them for this ministry
- 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
- 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 or currently belongs to a Lutheran congregation
- May be a nurse coordinator who supervises Lutheran Faith Community Nurses.



Why Join?

Why Join the ELPNA?

- To promote and encourage development of parish nursing programs within ELCA and other 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 congregations and church leaders.
- To pursue a place on Synod Councils for Parish Nurses to integrate Parish Nurse practices into the operations and future development of the Church.

ELPNA Practice is governed by

- * The state nurse practice act
- * *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*
- * *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*
- * *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*

How to Join ...

Membership

Membership is open to Registered Nurses who have completed Parish Nurse preparation and are paid, unpaid, or retired staff with an ELCA or other Lutheran congregation, or nurse coordinators of Lutheran Faith Community Nurses. Annual dues are paid each January. The ELPNA is a 501c3 organization under the auspices of ELCA.

To Learn More

Visit www.elpna.org or contact elpna.national@gmail.com

To Join

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

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

For more information

Visit www.elpna.org

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.

