



North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Re-Gathering Task Force

Considerations for Re-Gathering—March 2022

The Re-Gathering Task Force recognizes that the pandemic is an ever-changing event and acknowledges the exhaustion of keeping up-to-date with current guidelines. As quickly as Omicron grew in January, it has just as quickly subsided in the past month. The ELCA Conference of Bishops and our own synod council met in person for the first time in two years—including sharing meals together. We are indeed in a cautiously-hopeful place with this pandemic.

Federal, state, and local governments across the nation have substantially loosened their COVID protocols. At this time in the North Carolina Synod, we are suggesting the same. We continue to point congregations to the [COVID Data Tracker—County View](#) so that they might follow CDC updates and adapt local guidelines accordingly. Your own congregation council and/or re-gathering committee should feel empowered to make prudent decisions based on local numbers.

Additionally, while so many are ready to return to normal, there may be those in your congregation who are immune compromised, have young children, or have other reasons to be cautious. Continue to support those who are following stricter guidelines, and work for acceptance and inclusion for every member and guest.

We are grateful for the leadership you provide to your congregation around the challenging issue of re-gathering.