

## **Edina Community Lutheran Church**

Voter Engagement Task Force 2024 - Centering our faith and call as Christians we commit to robust engagement in the 2024 electoral process.

Purpose: To equip ECLC members for active participation through activities of education, encouragement, and engagement in an effort to amplify our witness to nonpartisan democratic values of equity, justice, and the common good.

Convener | Karen Boyum | boyumkaren@gmail.com

## **Edina Community Lutheran Church**

### Process

- *Initiate the formation of a task force during the month of March 2024*
- *Invite task force participation through e-news, FaceBook member group, announcements, bulletin, personal invitation, recommendations*
- *Task force members organize around Leadership, activities, responsibilities, communication*
- *Task force will explore organizations with whom to connect and gain information and strategies.*

## **Edina Community Lutheran Church**

### General timeline of organization and activities

Late winter - two members discussed with Pastor Sartain the need for a voter engagement group for the 2024 election cycle. This idea was gratefully received, and the process began to form such a group.

Taking a proposal to the church council - the following proposal was reviewed by the executive committee and church council for preliminary approval to form a task force.

Spring of 2024 - we issued an open invitation through our e-news weekly newsletter and in our Sunday bulletin for members to join the task force. Once we had 12 members we brought the list to the council for final approval.

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### General timeline of organization and activities cont.

May 2024 - we held an organizational meeting that included:

Guidance about what a religious organization may and may not do with regard to political elections. What does being a Christian have to do with voter engagement?

Led by Pastor Jeff and Deacon Lauren

We have been using this reference: Being a Public Church from the ELCA Advocacy/Civic Engagement resources section of the [ELCA.org/advocacy](https://www.elca.org/advocacy) website.

Organize into sub groups around three areas of focus. Consider these areas.

- Logistics - register, voting plan, research,
- Advocacy - how to reach out, what to say,
- Education - specifically on White Christian Nationalism, Project 2025 and disinformation

Establish a communications protocol for submitting to e-news, posting on Facebook Member group, etc.

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Ongoing - Some of what we are doing include:

We have begun posting information in our e-news and on our member group Facebook page.

We have scheduled a table in our gathering hallway to assist members with logistics.

We have scheduled a presentation with Lutheran Advocacy MN and Ministry Lab to prepare our members for respectful conversations on polarizing issues.

We have a couple of Sunday mornings to bring resources to our members.

*We are grateful to our Adult Faith Formation Committee for collaborating on events and activities; and for our clergy/deacon Leadership for supporting this effort as well as for thoughtfully planning special services around the November election.*