



ELCA Schools and Learning Centers

**2106 W. Meadow Lane
Carbondale, IL 62901**

elcaschools.org

18th January 2020

Dear ELCA Leaders and Constituents,

As the new Executive Director of ELCA Schools and Learning Centers I am eager to learn and grow within the ELCA. It has been my church home for my entire life but the inner workings have just recently become more prominent in my role.

When I took this position, one of the requirements within the first year was to obtain a professional coach. Several principals and our ELCA liaison suggested this to help ensure a smooth transition. I was pleasantly surprised by this expectation as I had done quite a bit of research on coaching and had been suggesting ELEA's future might consist of a team of coaches that would be able to work with congregations with schools to increase vitality and positive relationships. One of my board members, Linda Staats, suggested that I look inside our organization to the ELCA Coaching Ministry. I have now had 4 coaching sessions and feel they have been the catalyst for much of my early progress. I will continue through this summer as required and beyond.

For ELEA, and my professional desire to increase the opportunity for church and school leaders to receive the support and guidance they need I have partnered with Jill Beverlin and her team of coaches. Jill and I developed an experimental process modeled off of another that she had completed. This process was to bring seasoned coaches and school/church leaders together to work towards two goals. One, to have the ELCA coaches gain more insight and understanding about the relationships of ELCA schools and centers as ministries of their congregations. And, two, to allow our school and church leader participants to gather a further understanding of the role and responsibilities of coaches. It is my hope that this leads to even more possibilities.

This process is about halfway completed and the feedback, collected every 4-6 weeks has been overwhelmingly positive. The ELEA board is eager to have more leaders able to provide support and guidance to our over 1350 schools and centers of ELCA congregations. I am thrilled to share this process and to imagine where it will take us on the quest of supporting all schools and centers of the ELCA.

Sincerely,

Cory Newman, ELEA Executive Director

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