

“Three Expressions” of the ELCA



Churchwide

- Led by Churchwide Council.
- Denomination elects a Presiding Bishop. Currently Elizabeth Eaton.
- Council of Bishops composed of Bishops from every synod and provides input on social statements and churchwide decisions.
- Denominational decisions made through Churchwide Assembly every 3 years.



Synods

- 65 synods (30-300 congregations in each synod)
- Each synod has elected Bishop.
- Our synod is "Southwest Texas"
- Decisions made through Synod Council and annual Synod Assembly in May.



Congregation

- 9533 = total congregations in U.S.
- 137 in our synod.
- 3,950,924 total baptized members in ELCA.
- 43,982 members of SW Texas synod.
- Decisions made through church council and congregational meetings.