

CRAFTIVISM



AS ADVOCACY

Craftivism is a form of activism that employs traditional crafts as mediums for social and political change. This approach combines the personal and communal aspects of crafting with the broader goals of activism to create a dialogue around social issues through creative expression.

When asking "What does faithful love look like in anxious and divided times?," Women of the ELCA opened a conversation about prayer, just love — and craftivism. During a webinar, some of the ways craftivism serves faithful love were shared based upon the work of Sarah Corbett.¹

Crafting as prayer (cross-stitching a prayer text).
Crafting as calming (knitting to calm your anger).
Crafting as nonviolence (quilting for peace).
Crafting as community building (doing this with others).
Crafting as awareness raising (creating signs and banners).
Crafting as conversation starting (talking to others about your project).
Crafting as loving action (donating hats, blankets and more).²

Activity Sample: Quilting God's Dream for Our Nation

This resource explores craftivism with an activity example. During the 2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial, the "Quilting God's Dream for Our Nation" activity, hosted by ELCA Witness in Society, invited participants to envision less anxious and divided times through creative expression.

Craftivism in an Election Season

Around Election Day, people of faith can be important community messengers, their nonpartisan motives and action pulling us together toward the common good. Lutherans recognize government as a gift through which God works to preserve life and promote justice for the neighbor. The ELCA's social teaching affirms that civic participation, including voting and election engagement, is one way in which Christians live out their baptismal vocation in service to the world.

Elections provide a structured way for people to shape policies, choose leaders accountable for the well-being of all, and ensure that every voice is heard, especially those of people on the margins. Opportunity for faithful civic engagement becomes especially visible around Election Day as the nation grapples with decisions that will impact events for years to come.

"Quilting God's Dream for Our Nation" is activism envisioning such dreams in anxious and divided times. Shared with others, the stitches, colors and glue become an expression of faithful love and witness in your community.

NOTES

1. Sarah P. Corbett, *How to Be a Craftivist: The Art of Gentle Protest* (Unbound, 2019). Corbett is the founder of the global [Craftivist Collective](#).
2. Women of the ELCA, "Prayer, Just Love and Craftivism: A Webinar by Women of the ELCA," video, Feb. 17, 2026, ([slide minute 27](#)).
3. For additional ideas and craftivism history, visit [Thread & Maple](#), on which this list is based.

Starting a Craftivism Project

Consider the following when starting a craftivist project:³

1. **Identify your message.** The “Quilting God’s Dream for Our Nation” project pulls people away from the agitation of the election season and toward a vision of the communal goodness impacted by Election Day decisions, to see the world not through a partisan lens but through a lens of Christian discipleship.
2. **Plan your project.** This project is a quilting project (but you may have another idea!). Paper squares were used at the Women of the ELCA Triennial gathering, but you may want to work with fabric and thread.
3. **Gather supplies.** Some projects can be accomplished with what’s at hand, whereas others may require fundraisers or crowdsourcing.
4. **Attract co-laborers.** Gather others to bring the project to fruition. This may be in-house, but you can also start to weave in others from the community through social media, networks, crafting parties and so on.
5. **Craft!**
6. **Display.** Get creative here, too!

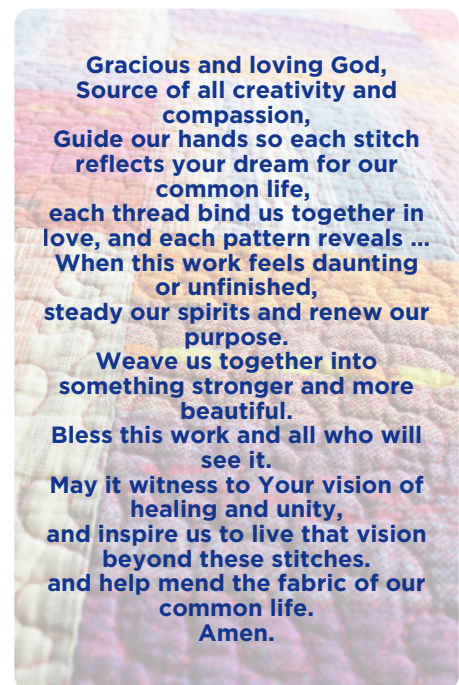
During “Quilting God’s Dream for Our Nation” at the Triennial, hands were busy creating paper quilt blocks featuring words and images that expressed a vision. Blocks were joined together on a wall, depicting a shared vision for the common good. Social media photos were used to inspire others.

Amplifying Election Activism Impact

In addition to involving others in the crafting process, the resulting artwork can communicate a dream for our nation, shaped by faithful reflection. You can amplify this effect by:

- Hosting crafting events for others.
- Blessing the quilts during worship or prayer.
- Introducing lawmakers to the vision by sharing quilts or quilt squares and urging legislative action for the common good.
- Delivering quilt squares (paper or fabric) to thank election officials for their service.
- Displaying (or creating) artwork at a polling location or other public point of visibility. Though this activity is nonpartisan and supports no particular candidate, know and abide by your state’s [Electioneering Prohibitions](#).
- Share photos or videos of your crafts and the crafting process through your church’s newsletter or social media accounts.

Craftivism can accompany other election engagement initiatives. Check out the [ELCA Election Engagement Toolkit](#) and/or display an [ELCA Prepared to Vote Checklist](#) among other ideas.



Trusted Community Leadership

Election season is a significant opportunity for us to serve as trusted community leaders in our neighborhoods.

Craftivism can support a welcoming, celebratory, nonpartisan presence around elections so that every voter feels safe, confident and supported.