

## WHY ARE WE CALLED TO BE ELIZABETH MINISTERS?

*Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zachariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women, you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."* Luke 1:39-45



Jen  
Mucha



Amanda  
Elmore

## OUR STORIES

**Jennifer Hornell Mucha** has been a member of OLL parish since 1974, and attended OLL's K-8 school. Married at OLL in 1994, she and her husband Chris were blessed by the birth of their first daughter, Kirra, in 1995. On December 12, 1997, Jennifer suffered her first miscarriage, followed by two more in 1998. After undergoing infertility testing, she was once again pregnant, and blessed by the birth of their son, Joseph, in 1999. A fourth miscarriage occurred in March 2000, but just one month later, Jennifer was again pregnant with their last child. This was a high-risk pregnancy, with weekly blood tests and monthly ultrasounds to make sure the child was developing properly. Throughout, she kept her faith strong, and knew that everything would be alright. In January 2001, Marissa came into the world as a healthy baby. These births and losses changed Jennifer's outlook on life, and eventually pulled her closer to God and her faith, as she struggled to understand the why's of all that had happened. Starting the Ministry is part of the answer to the why. As a minister, she can give to other women the support that so often does not come because others, who have not experienced this type of loss, are not fully able to understand or empathize.

**Amanda Travis Elmore** was raised in south Florida and attended Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale. After college and graduate school in South Carolina, she and her husband, Bryan, relocated to Melbourne in 2002. During Amanda's first pregnancy in 2006, the couple learned that their son would be born with Trisomy 18, a condition known for low survival and developmental delays. Devastated by the prognosis, Amanda & Bryan looked to the Church for comfort and guidance. Blessed that Travis survived birth, the new family embarked upon life with a medically fragile child that involved hundreds of doctors' appointments, four surgeries, 25 hospitalizations and lots of love. In 2008, Travis' healthy younger sister, Kendall, was born and in 2010, another healthy sister, Emery. Exactly one month after Emery's birth, Travis returned to heaven, a perfect angel. Throughout Travis' life, unofficial Elizabeth ministers were literally sent to the family's doorstep as Travis was often too ill to leave the house, including Travis' speech therapist, **Jen Mucha**. Amanda & Bryan credit their children's births and Travis' passing with nothing less than saving their souls, as their faith increased exponentially due to these experiences. The support received from OLL was a lifeline, critical to the family's survival and coping.

## Elizabeth Ministry of Melbourne

AN EXTENSION OF M.O.M.S.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish

*Elizabeth Ministry supports families  
during the joys, challenges and sorrows  
of the childbearing years.*



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"Like" our Facebook page:

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## OVERVIEW

### WHO is an Elizabeth Minister?

Anyone with a warm heart and a willingness to share your personal experience to reach out to another woman. Sharing increases the happiness during times of celebration, and makes it easier to deal with life's hard times so we don't feel so alone.

### HOW does it work?

Volunteers become a Visiting Elizabeth Minister in the areas they have experienced. For example, a woman who has twins would visit and mentor a woman who is pregnant with twins. This support may come in the form of visits, phone calls, cards, prayer, meals, resources and other assistance. A Non-Visiting Elizabeth Minister would be someone who made crafts, organized supplies, or prayed for women in need.

### WHY is it needed?

In the past, the presence, intimacy and support that is needed during childbearing years was found in the structures of family, neighborhood, church and community. Today, these structures are undergoing rapid change; churches are larger, families live further apart from one another, and that intimacy is missing.

### TIME it takes?

When you accept the call to be a visiting minister for someone, you and the woman in need set things up based on your schedules. A commitment is usually a once a month visit or contact with a woman over a 6 month period. In addition, supportive and flexible ministry is available such as meal preparation or care package assembly for those unable to become a Visiting Minister.

## EVENTS

The Elizabeth Ministry is set up for flexibility and short term commitments, where family comes first! There are no ongoing, required meetings. If you are interested in group activities, in addition to ministry placement, information on Orientation & Support meetings, Girls' Nights Out, Beach Cookouts, Holiday and Gift Bag Parties and more can be found at...

<http://www.oll-church.com/Elizabeth%20Ministry.htm>

Or "Like" Elizabeth Ministry of Melbourne on Facebook...

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Elizabeth-Ministry-of-Melbourne/211728362201942>



## OUTREACH

- Pregnancy and pregnancy complications
- Infant/Child Crisis
- Special Needs
- Infertility
- Miscarriage
- Infant/Child Death
- Adoption
- Grandparenting
- Prayer/Family Support
- Celebration of all life

*Mary and Elizabeth became great friends as they shared.*

*Join us as we share, pray and realize the sacredness of all life!*