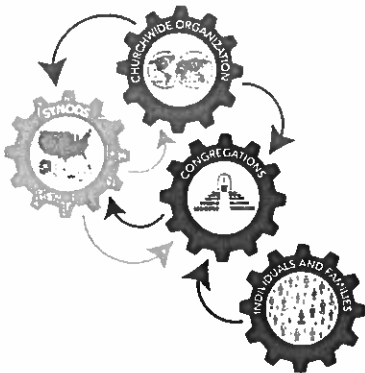




# WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately **\$1.75 billion** in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their **congregations**, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local **synod** and the national **churchwide organization**.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

## Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

### Grow the ELCA in the United States



Plant and support 357 new congregations.

- **Enable congregations to renew their ministries** and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- **Work together** with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- **Develop and share resources** for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

### Grow the Lutheran church around the world



Send 230 missionaries in more than 48 countries, and more than 84 Young Adults in Global Mission in 11 country programs.

- **As a member of The Lutheran World Federation**, we're in communion with 145 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- **Accompany new Lutheran churches**, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

### Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries



Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.

- Preserve and maintain archives and historic records of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- Provide office space, equipment and human resources for staff and operations.
- Process 150,000 gifts to ELCA ministries.
- Equip congregations and synods with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

### Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA



Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.

- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.

Invest in **technology** and **communications**

8%



**Design and maintain communications tools** to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.

- **Connect members with one another** through new technology and systems.

Provide **governance** and **leadership**

5%



**65** Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

- **Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church** to serve on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

Grow and sustain financial resources

5%



**Develop and promote** efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Address social issues and **work for justice**

4%

**1 in 50** Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of 1 in 50 Americans.

- **Engage** in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- **Equip** members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

*Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.*



and ministry in the 21st century. to improve mission

Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith relationships**

2%




Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.

- **Seek unity in faith and life** with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.

# Your offering at work


When you give to your congregation, a percentage of that money is shared with your synod and with the ELCA churchwide organization. The portion of your offering that is shared with the wider church is called Mission Support. As members of the ELCA, we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor, open to the Holy Spirit's invitation to be active in the world. Through sharing your time, talents and financial resources, you are actively participating in God's work throughout the U.S. and around the world.

**1**




Your weekly offering at your congregation supports the mission and ministry of the whole ELCA – doing God's work throughout the world.

**2**




Your congregation shares a portion of your offering – called Mission Support – with your synod and the ELCA churchwide organization.

**3**



Your synod supports congregations and rostered leaders as they work in their communities and throughout the world.

**4**



Your churchwide organization responds to local and worldwide ministry opportunities. Together we do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.

"Mission Support is one of the primary ways that we are church together. I know that when my money flows from my congregation to the synod and ELCA churchwide organization, it will be used where it is needed most – bringing vital resources to those in need, equipping leaders with solid biblical and theological education and so much more. Mission Support allows my offering to travel around the world to the places where the need is greatest."

– Grace Duddy  
Center for Stewardship  
Luther Seminary

## Your support of God's mission and ministry through the ELCA churchwide organization



### COORDINATION AND SUPPORT OF MINISTRIES

- Facilitating communication and support to ministries across the church
- Managing relationships and activities between synods and churchwide organization
- Supporting ministries at the local, national and global level



### SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS AND EVANGELICAL OUTREACH

- Starting new congregations and worshiping communities
- Renewing the ministries of existing congregations each year
- Nurturing faith communities to grow and proclaim the good news of God's grace



### BRINGING FORTH AND SUPPORTING LEADERS

- Expanding youth and young adult ministries
- Preparing, recruiting and supporting church leaders, educational and teaching networks
- Supporting retired church leaders and enabling ministry in the church and throughout the world



### GLOBAL AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Assisting global companion churches in building their capacity for mission and ministry in over 90 countries
- Developing and cultivating inter-Lutheran, full communion relationships and relating to other communities of faith
- Partnering with churches around the world, including being a member of the Lutheran World Federation



### STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION FUNDING

- Thanking, informing, teaching, inspiring and inviting people to be good stewards
- Interpreting the mission and ministry of the ELCA and its budget
- Developing financial resources to fund God's work



### STEPPING FORWARD AS A CHURCH SERVING OTHERS

- Caring for God's creation and humanity through study and deliberation on current issues
- Developing and supporting leaders who engage economic and social issues
- Serving in response to God's love through social ministry organizations



### GOVERNANCE

- Making decisions together through governance procedures including the ELCA Church Council, ELCA Churchwide Assembly and Conference of Bishops

