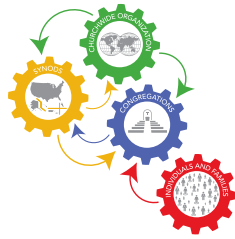




WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



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



357
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



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.



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

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries



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



Provide office space, equipment and human resources for staff and operations.



Preserve and maintain archives and historic records of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.

Equip congregations and synods with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.



Process 150,000 gifts to ELCA ministries.

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA



26
Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.



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



Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.



Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.

Invest in technology and communications



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



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.

65
Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

Grow and sustain financial resources



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



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.



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

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

Engage in research and strategic planning



Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.



Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relationships



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.