



*For as in one body we have many members,  
and not all the members have the same  
function, so we, who are many, are one  
body in Christ, and individually we  
are members one of another.*  
*Romans 12:4-5*

OUR FAITH IN ACTION  
**2014**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

As we gather today, bless us O Lord.

**We are a church that belongs to Jesus Christ. We believe we are a part of God's unfolding promise. As we gather, we connect with believers everywhere and are drawn more deeply into God's saving story.**

As we engage in discussion and discernment today, bless us O Lord.

**We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ. We gather to discover, discern and boldly participate in what God is up to in our congregation, our community and the world.**

As we live out our faith through decisions today, bless us O Lord.

**We are a church that proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ and believes that through the gospel we are justified by God's grace through faith. We believe we are transformed through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and thus are always being made new.**

As we are one body with many members, bless us O Lord.

**As there are many parts to the body in Christ, help us to see how we are individually members one of another so that we are freed to serve and love our neighbor with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:4-5

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*

## HYMN

### We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call.  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Keyboard accompaniment is at Evangelical Lutheran Worship #576, Lutheran Book of Worship #339, or With One Voice #755.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV).

Other possible hymns/songs:

We Give Thee but Thine Own  
ELW #686  
LBW #410

We've Come This Far by Faith  
ELW #633  
TFF #197

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune  
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Dear friend in Christ,

Each Sunday as God gathers us for worship, we are connecting with nearly 10,000 other ELCA congregations across the country. We gather to be nourished by word and sacrament, to remember and celebrate God's love for us and to respond with our lives and our offerings. The generosity of our offerings is a reflection of our gratitude for God's blessings, and our offerings then become a blessing to others. Our gifts first enable God's work to be done through our congregations. The portion we call Mission Support moves beyond your congregation's local community to support the ministries of the synod and the churchwide organization in the United States and around the world.

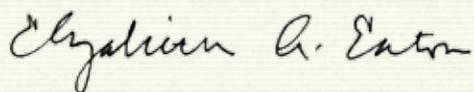
The Mission Support offering your congregation sends to your synod is undesignated, meaning it will always be spent when and where funds are needed most. These dollars enable the ELCA to share the good news of Jesus Christ by starting new ministries, renewing congregations, developing leaders, alleviating poverty, working toward justice and peace and partnering with churches around the world. The following pages provide information about how your congregation's Mission Support dollars are used to support ELCA ministries.

Our church is engaged in a five-year, \$198 million campaign to deepen relationships and expand ministry opportunities that serve our neighbors. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is another way that we can do more. Through the campaign, individuals, congregations and synods can make designated gifts that will expand the ELCA's growth and mission capacity. Learn how your congregation can participate at [www.ELCA.org/campaign](http://www.ELCA.org/campaign).

I am deeply grateful for your generous Mission Support in 2014. As you begin planning for your congregation's ministry and giving for 2015, I ask that you continue and grow in your generosity so that the entire church can benefit from your offerings.

As I travel across this church, each week I see the many ways you are stewarding your gifts to love and serve your neighbors. This has shown me how together we can achieve things on a scale and a scope that we could never do alone. Indeed "we, who are many, are one body in Christ." We are church together!

Faithfully,



Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Photo by Michael Watson

## WHY WE GIVE

Our financial generosity is an expression of our love for God and for our neighbor. A critical component of what we do together is the offering made by you and your congregation that is shared for synod and churchwide ministries. We call this Mission Support, which makes it possible for ELCA members from Alaska to the Caribbean to be responsive as one church to exciting new opportunities for ministry.

## FUNDING OUR MISSION

Mission Support is an important percentage of your weekly offering. Many congregations set a goal of 10 percent or greater for Mission Support through their synod and do additional giving beyond their congregation. In this way congregations are making a difference in their giving both in and through their church. Your congregation shares its Mission Support offering with the other two expressions of this church.

## WHERE YOUR OFFERING GOES

Mission Support is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the ELCA.

### YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING



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

### YOUR CONGREGATION



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

### YOUR SYNOD



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

### YOUR CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION



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.