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**

- 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.

**Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries**

- 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**

- 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.
**Engage in research and strategic planning**

- **2%**
  - **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.

**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.

**Engage in research and strategic planning**

- **2%**
  - **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**

- **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.**