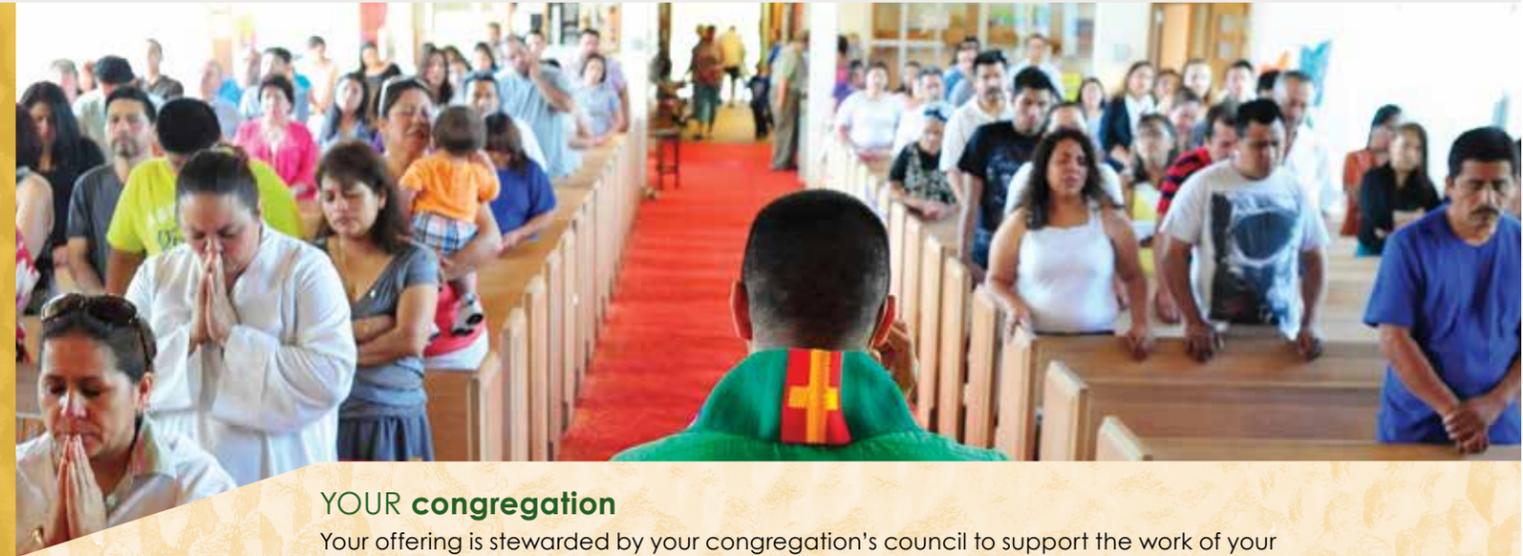


WHAT IS MISSION SUPPORT?

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. By sharing your time, talents and financial resources, you are participating in God's work throughout the United States and around the world.

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**.



YOUR congregation

Your offering is stewarded by your congregation's council to support the work of your congregation. When your congregation votes to adopt its annual budget, your congregation designates a portion of your offering to be shared with your synod and the ELCA churchwide organization. These funds are called Mission Support.

YOUR synod

Your congregation's Mission Support dollars are then stewarded by your synod leaders to support the work of the synod. Your synod uses Mission Support to nurture ELCA congregations and rostered leaders, support local partners and accompany the synod's global companion churches in their ministry. Synods also share a percentage of the Mission Support funds they receive to be sent to the churchwide organization.

YOUR churchwide organization

Your churchwide organization uses Mission Support dollars to support congregations, respond to local and worldwide ministry opportunities, engage in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, and lead churchwide initiatives on behalf of the whole ELCA. A few of those ministries are highlighted in this publication, but there are many others that together create a strong witness to the gospel.

CONGREGATIONS

\$1.7 billion was invested in congregational ministries

94.3%

SYNODS

\$51.3 million was invested in synodical ministries

3%

CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

\$48.4 million was invested in churchwide ministries

2.7%

In 2014, ELCA members gave **\$1.8 billion in regular offerings*** to support God's mission and ministry through the three expressions of the ELCA.

*Regular offerings do not include special offerings (e.g., congregational capital improvements or gifts to ministries like Lutheran Disaster Response).



MISSION SUPPORT = YOUR OFFERING AT WORK

Why we give

Our financial generosity is one expression of our love for God and our neighbors. Mission Support enables us to do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.

We are church together for the sake of the world.

All that we have and are comes from God. Many ELCA members fill out forms pledging their commitment to give a percentage of their income to their congregation each year. Similarly, ELCA congregations and synods pledge a percentage of their income for Mission Support.

