



WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



In 2015, members of 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean gave **\$1.75 billion** in regular offerings 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**.

Of the \$1.75 billion total, the churchwide organization received **\$47.1 million**, or **2.7 percent** of the total regular offerings to ELCA congregations in 2015. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's current operating budget of \$69 million, which includes additional income from investments, bequests and trusts, grants, and certain designated offerings.* This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world.

*Designated offerings included in the operating budget are your gifts to ELCA Vision for Mission and ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. ELCA World Hunger, the ELCA Malaria Campaign and Lutheran Disaster Response operate their own annual budgets exclusively from ELCA members' designated offerings each year.

In 2015, your churchwide offering made it possible to:

Grow the ELCA in the United States



372
Plant and support
372 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.

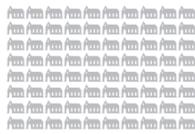


Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world



As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 144 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.



Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.



228

Send 228 missionaries to more than 40 countries, including more than 73 Young Adults in Global Mission in nine 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



8

26

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



9,500

Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,500 rostered leaders.

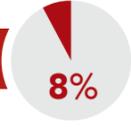


Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.



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.

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.

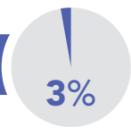


1 in 50

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, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign provide an additional \$30 million annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering in more than 65 countries around the world.

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.

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.