

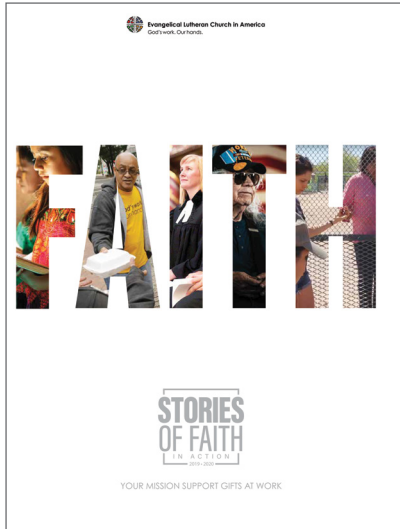


**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## We Are Church Together 2020

### Your invitation to make a statement of intent for Mission Support



Since the ELCA was formed in 1988, it has been one church body with three interdependent expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. We enable and support each other to grow in faith and to put our faith into action. We believe that together we achieve things on a scale that we could never do otherwise.

While the congregation is our home base, we are each connected to the work of the wider church as well. One connection is the portion of our regular offerings shared with our respective synods and our churchwide ministries as Mission Support. These dollars represent an investment in tools, resources and new ideas that help us share our living faith, spread the good news of Jesus Christ and make a difference in the lives of others. Whether starting new congregations or revitalizing older ones, sending missionaries to our companion synods or supporting the work of our seven seminaries and 26 colleges, Mission Support reflects our common commitment to one another. You can find stories about our work together in “Stories of Faith in Action” magazine or at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](http://ELCA.org/SOFIA).

As we grow in faith together, we respond more creatively and effectively to both ministry opportunities and urgent situations around the world. In this way we affirm our Lutheran identity and strengthen our witness to the gospel. Within the body of Christ, we are church together, active in more than 10,000 ministries around the world.

Thank you for your faithful commitment to our work together. Together we are making a difference!

## A message from the ELCA Mission Support team

### Dear partners in ministry,

As a church of three expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization — our relationships with one another are the foundation of our local, national and global ministries. One way your congregation engages in these relationships is through sharing a portion of your unrestricted giving with your synod. This is called Mission Support. When your congregation shares Mission Support dollars, you expand the reach of our ministry together through your synod and the churchwide organization. Your Mission Support sustains ministries that enhance congregational vitality, raise up leaders and provide opportunities for the transformative, healing love of God to reach out into the world.

Your congregation's Mission Support commitment for the coming year helps your synod and the churchwide organization plan more effectively in all that they do. As you make financial preparations for the year ahead, we ask you to prayerfully consider your Mission Support portion of your regular offerings. Please communicate to your synod using the form provided. We are church together, for the sake of the world, doing much more than any of us could do alone.

Thanks be to God!

**Victoria Flood**

Director, ELCA Mission Support

**Nick Kiger**

Associate Director, ELCA Mission Support



*Nick Kiger, associate director, Mission Support and Victoria Flood, director, Mission Support*

# Your congregation's plan for Mission Support 2020

As your congregation prepares a spending plan for 2020, please reflect on the following in making your decisions.

- In what ways do you see your congregation growing in faith and putting your faith into action?
- How are your actions connected to the efforts of the synod and churchwide organization in being church together?
- How do your Mission Support dollars grow as God continues to bless your congregation?
- In what ways have you responded creatively to both the ministry opportunities and urgent situations facing your congregation, community and beyond?
- As a church unified in Jesus Christ, how is your congregation ready to courageously explore with others the complexities, tensions and ambiguities of a changing world?

As you discuss your Mission Support commitment for the coming year, please consider how your offerings provide both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world. Together we can have a greater impact in your community and beyond while exemplifying for others how such an interdependent relation can serve others and share God's abundance.

To learn more about how God is changing lives through the ELCA, visit [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org).

**Instructions:** Use the columns below to indicate your congregation's current level of Mission Support and your 2020 Mission Support plan. When you have completed this information, please return this form to your synod office.

Name of congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation ID number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	Percent Change
<b>Regular offerings received from members</b>	\$	\$	%
<b>Mission Support* budgeted for sharing with the synod and churchwide ministries</b>	\$	\$	%
<b>Percentage of Mission Support (Mission Support divided by weekly offerings)</b>		%	%

\*Mission Support is the portion of regular offerings that your congregation shares for synodical and churchwide ministries for God's mission beyond the local congregation. For specific information about the ELCA churchwide budget, visit [ELCA.org/resources/financial](http://ELCA.org/resources/financial).



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