

## ANNUAL CONGREGATION REPORT Form A

January 2024

Dear friends,

We are grateful to those of you who have faithfully submitted your Annual Congregation Report year after year. Over those years the Congregation Report form has changed very little. Many of you have had ideas for how the report could be improved, and we're happy to tell you that we have listened and have been making some changes.

- There is now only one form to complete, Form A, which asks for congregation statistics and financial data. The kinds of questions that were on Form C will instead be gathered by simple online surveys across the year.
- The worksheet has been redesigned. We heard from you that it was too small and cramped, so we've made it more readable.
- **Instructions have been improved.** We now provide better explanations for completing the forms and defining what terms mean.
- New informational videos are available online. If you go to the <u>ELCA.org/reportinstructions</u>, you'll find short videos to explain the purpose of the report, passwords and logging in, how to enter membership information, and how to enter financial information.

We are also working to improve the technology for the Annual Congregation Report to make submitting your data each year as easy as possible.

**Please submit your report online at** <u>ELCA.org/congregationreport</u>. The online system will open in mid-January. Once you have completed all the fields, you can print or download a finished copy of the report for your records. The data is automatically provided to your synod office when you file online.

If you must complete your form on paper, please remember to first make or download a copy to use as a worksheet. Please mail the original, completed form **to your synod office**.

Whether you respond electronically or by paper, please submit the form by March 1.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, contact us via email at sec@elca.org.

The Annual Congregation Report is one of the tools we use to measure the vitality and resources of this church so that we can better understand how we are equipped to share the Good News of Jesus with our neighbors. It helps give us a clearer picture of who we are as a church so we can plan for our future. Thank you for your part in helping us all be church together!

Blessings on the coming year!

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Deacon Sue Rothmeyer Secretary of the ELCA