



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL REPORT Forms A and C

Dear friends,

Over the past year, while attending synod assemblies and the Churchwide Assembly, it has been moving to hear stories of how the Holy Spirit is at work in your congregations. You have sought ways to be active in God's mission in your community, welcoming new people to know the way of Jesus.

Each year, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) asks congregations to provide information about its people and activities. Although each congregation is much more than these numbers, as evidenced by the stories you have shared, this information contributes to a greater knowledge of overall trends in the ELCA.

Understanding these trends contributes to informed decision-making by synods and the churchwide organization, providing information about congregations' strengths, needs, and opportunities for growth.

Additionally, the information you submit about membership, attendance and stewardship become part of your congregation's trend report. This report compiles and displays current statistics on your congregation along with historical trends. Not only might this help your congregation with its planning, but it may help those looking for a congregation to learn more about you.

We ask that you complete both forms included here. Form A includes the statistical information about your congregation, similar to what is provided each year. Form C asks for information about strategies and practices you use in reaching out to and welcoming new people to your congregation.

We understand that, as the pandemic continued in 2022, assessing attendance for online worship may have continued to present a challenge. Please use the notes on the General Instructions sheet as a guide and adjust the figures for what makes sense in your context and for your streaming platform.

Please submit your report online at elca.org/congregationreport. The online system will open in mid-January. Once you have completed all the fields on each form, you can print or download finished copies for your records. The data is automatically provided to your synod office when you file online. If you need to complete your forms on paper, please remember to make copies or download copies to use as worksheets. When completed, please mail the original completed forms **to your synod office**. Whether you respond electronically or by paper, please submit the forms by March 1. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, contact us via email at sec@elca.org.

We are grateful for your time and effort in providing this important information, and we give thanks that we share in the work to which God has called all of us.

Grace and peace,

Sue Rothmeyer
Secretary