



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

AN INVITATION FOR YOUR 2019 CONGREGATIONAL STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR MISSION SUPPORT

As partners in ministry, the ELCA invites you to make a Statement of Intent to synod and churchwide ministries for 2019. Through the spiritual practices of invitation, reflection and response, we faithfully consider how to share God's abundant grace. We encourage households, congregations and synods to engage in these practices regularly. In this way, we act as church together for the sake of the world. You can find stories of our work together in Stories of Faith in Action.

WHY IS YOUR CONGREGATION INVITED TO GROW IN MISSION SUPPORT?



Martin Luther said, "Our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing." When your congregation shares a portion of your regular offerings as Mission Support, you help congregations, synods, churchwide ministries and global partners; you are a living, busy and active expressions of God's work in the world today. The portion of Mission Support dollars from your congregation is used in your synod to support a variety of ministries, including staff to walk alongside congregations during times of transition, equipping rostered ministers and lay leaders and connecting congregations to learn and grow together.

The portion passed on to the churchwide organization helps plant over 400 new congregations, sends over 200 missionaries to more than 48 countries, equips congregations and synods with resources to manage opportunities and risks, supports our seven seminaries and 26 colleges and universities, offers events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults and more. You can find stories about our work

together in the Stories of Faith in Action magazine or at ELCA.org/SOFIA.

As we grow into this living, busy and active faith together, we respond more creatively and effectively to both promising 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 more than 10,000 ministries and partners doing God's work.

Thank you for your faithful commitment to our work together!

A MESSAGE FROM THE ELCA MISSION SUPPORT TEAM

Dear Partners in Ministry,

One of the ways your congregation participates in God's mission in your area, across the nation and around the world is through undesignated giving that is passed on to your synod. This portion of your regular offering is call Mission Support. This contribution by your congregation is vital to the ELCA ministries stewarded by your synod and your churchwide organization. These ministries enhance congregational vitality, raise up and support leaders and provide opportunities for the transformative love of God to reach a hurting world.

Your congregation's Mission Support commitment for the coming year helps your synod and the churchwide organization plan more effectively in all that we 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 the church together, doing so much more than any one of us could do alone.

Thanks be to God!

Victoria Flood

Director, ELCA Mission Support



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

Nick Kiger

Associate Director, ELCA Mission Support

Your congregation's plan for **MISSION SUPPORT** 2019

As your congregation prepares a spending plan for 2019, please reflect on the following in making your decisions.

- How is your congregation using the good news of Jesus Christ to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world?
- How is our identity as a church in the Lutheran tradition a driver for your congregation's plan in the coming year?
- In what ways do the resources you allocate for ministry reflect our trust that God's Spirit is active and transforms the lives of others?
- Where are you participating in ministries together with other expressions of the church to achieve a scale and scope that could not be done otherwise?
- How is your congregation a catalyst, convener and bridge builder for justice and peace?

As you discuss your Mission Support commitment for the coming year, please consider what portion of your congregation's weekly offerings will be shared with the synod and churchwide ministries beyond your congregation. We believe growing this portion each year models and encourages a growth in giving for each household.

Learn more about how God is changing lives through the ELCA by visiting LivingLutheran.org.

Instructions: Use the columns below to indicate your congregation's current level of Mission Support and your 2019 Mission Support plan. When you have completed the information below, please return it to your synod office.

Name of congregation _____

Congregation ID number _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP code _____

Submitted by _____ Date _____

Phone _____ Email _____

| | 2018 Actual | 2019 Projected | Percent Change |
|---|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Regular offerings received from members | \$ | \$ | % |
| Mission Support* budgeted for sharing with the synod and churchwide ministries | \$ | \$ | % |
| Percentage of Mission Support (Mission Support divided by weekly offerings) | % | % | |

*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.