



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## **AN INVITATION FOR YOUR 2017 CONGREGATIONAL STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR MISSION SUPPORT**

Your ministry partners in the ELCA invite you to make a statement of intent to synod and churchwide ministries for 2017. As you consider your commitment, please note this invitation models the spiritual practices of regular reflection and faithful response to God's abundant grace. We encourage each expression of the church (households, congregations and synods) to engage in these practices regularly. In this way we move beyond ourselves to do God's work together. You can find stories of our work together in Stories of Faith in Action.

### **WHY IS YOUR CONGREGATION INVITED TO GROW IN MISSION SUPPORT?**



Stories of Faith in Action  
YOUR OFFERING AT WORK



Your congregation is your home base, a missional outpost to do God's work. As every disciple yearns to grow in Christ, so too do congregations yearn to do more in the world. It is part of our calling – the Great Commission. Mission support is one way you can do both – sharing God's love and generosity by blessing others and extending the impact of your congregation around the country and the world. In this way you experience the power of being networked with more than 10,000 ministries and partners.

Sharing a portion of your regular offerings as Mission Support helps congregations, synods, churchwide ministries and global partners grow relationships and resources they can count on for doing God's work. These dollars answer the "how" of being church together. Your gifts ensure we can be a convener, bridge builder and advocate while responding nimbly and imaginatively to both promising opportunities and urgent situations. In this way you strengthen our witness to the gospel and affirm our shared confessional Lutheran identity.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE ELCA MISSION SUPPORT TEAM**

#### **Dear Partners in Ministry,**

Budgeting – just the sound of this word makes some people cringe. Yet, we know in our personal lives as well as in the lives of our congregations, budgeting enables us to responsibly steward our financial resources. The same is true for our ELCA synods and churchwide organization. Both rely on unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, from congregations like yours to support ministries locally and globally.

ELCA synods and the churchwide organization can better make, fulfill and expand ministry commitments when they hear from your congregation about its giving intent for the next year. We ask you to prayerfully consider your congregation's financial support for ministries of the wider church and then share this intended support with your synod using the form provided. We are 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, ELCA Mission Support



*Nick Kiger (left), associate director, Mission Support and Victoria Flood, director, Mission Support*

# Your congregation's plan for **MISSION SUPPORT** 2017

As your congregation prepares a spending plan for 2017, 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](http://LivingLutheran.org).

**Instructions:** Use the columns below to indicate your congregation's current level of Mission Support and your 2017 Mission Support plan. When you have completed the information below, please return it to your synod office.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

	2016 Actual	2017 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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