



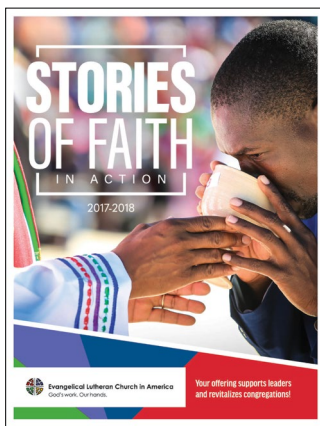
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## **AN INVITATION FOR YOUR 2018 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 2018. 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." By sharing a portion of your regular offerings as Mission Support, we help congregations, synods, churchwide ministries and global partners be living, busy and active expressions of God's work in the world today. As we grow into this living faith, we can respond more creatively and effectively to both promising opportunities and urgent situations present in the world today through commitments we make together. In this way, we affirm our Lutheran identity and strengthen our witness to the gospel.

When people gather each week across the church, we have the opportunity to hear, proclaim and serve in God's name. Just as we regularly pray for God's blessings, we have an opportunity to be a blessing to others by sharing a portion of what we have received. Mission Support is one way your congregation can partner with other congregations and the larger church. These dollars are one answer to "how" we are a stronger church together.

Through this partnership, we multiply and extend our impact from your community to the ends of the earth. 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,**

Unrestricted giving from congregations, called Mission Support, is a tangible way your congregation participates in God's mission in your area, across the nation and around the world. Your congregation's Mission Support 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 our hurting world.

ELCA synods and the churchwide organization can better make, fulfill and expand ministry commitments when they hear from your congregation about its Mission Support intent for the next year. We ask you to prayerfully consider your congregation's Mission Support share for the ministries of the wider church. Please communicate this 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



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

# Your congregation's plan for **MISSION SUPPORT** 2018

As your congregation prepares a spending plan for 2018, 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 2018 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 \_\_\_\_\_

	2017 Actual	2018 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).

