

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

2017-2018

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Mission Support?

Mission Support is the portion of your congregation's regular financial offering that is shared with your synod and the churchwide organization. These gifts are used where the need is the greatest, and they also make it possible for the ELCA's 65 synods and the churchwide organization to maintain ongoing commitments to ministry partners.

What guides the churchwide organization in its decisions regarding Mission Support?

Voting members from across the ELCA meet as a churchwide assembly every three years to guide and direct the work of the churchwide organization. The ELCA Church Council is the interim legislative authority between assemblies. The churchwide organization's strategic priorities are aligned with the ELCA Future Directions 2025 that will emphasize congregational vitality and leadership development across our church. This includes accompanying the nearly 9,300 ELCA congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission and building the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.

How does my congregation benefit from Mission Support?

Congregational vitality is enhanced through active participation in our church's mission to share God's love with the world. Stories of Faith in Action is filled with examples of how lives have been changed because of the generosity of ELCA members and congregations through Mission Support. This money funds the work of the synods, and some of the portion of Mission Support that is shared with the churchwide organization comes back to your congregation and synod in the form of services, programs, resources or grants. Typically, more than 90 percent of a congregation's offering remains in the congregation to help pay for ministries, outreach, utilities and the building—supporting your congregation's vital presence in your community.

What is the distinction between Mission Support and *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*?

Mission Support is one way we act as a church together; we count on one another for the mutual work that Mission Support makes possible. Many ELCA members and congregations are called to give in other ways as well, and this is what *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* offers (ELCA.org/campaign). The campaign, approved by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, is a way for us to do more, together, through designated gifts to the ministry priorities we are most passionate about, above and beyond regular offerings through our congregation. Campaign gifts are tracked and spent separately from the Mission Support budget. *The Campaign for the ELCA* is an investment in the future of the ELCA and an extension of our mission and ministry together.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.