



Globally... Together, We Support God's Mission

- Send missionaries to engage in global mission (260 missionaries in 50 countries)
- Respond to hunger in the world and work toward sustainable, long-term solutions (\$20 million given annually through ELCA World Hunger appeal)
- Provide relief when disaster strikes across the globe through Lutheran Disaster Response
- Engage as a global, Christian community, including global relief and development through the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches in Christ
- Provide grants help companion church bodies support evangelism, Christian education, theological training and other ministries

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When congregations and
synods part...we all lose.

You and I.

Synodically.

Nationally.

Globally.

Sometimes ELCA members, including those of us in the Central-Southern Illinois, have differing opinions on matters that are important to the life of the church and to the communities where we live. On occasion, the disagreements become disruptive to ministry.

Still, as a whole church and as individual members, we are at our best when we remember that it is God's own mission into which we have been called. And we trust that wherever the church is in error, God's own Spirit will direct and reform it. And where the church is right, this same Spirit will strengthen it. In any event, we trust that God, who calls us into mission, will provide for our every need.



Together,
we give
them a future...



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Together...

Origins Coming Together

1988 Merger of Three Lutheran Bodies

- American Lutheran Church
- Lutheran Church in America
- American Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grounded in the Word

Constitution 2.02 Bible

"This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life."

We confess, "Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe."

We believe in the Word of God, and receive God's Word in Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate; in proclamation of God's message to use as both Law and Gospel; and in the canonical Scriptures, the inspired and written Word of God, which provides the authoritative source and norm for proclamation, faith and life.

5.01.c Denomination

"The congregations, synods, and Churchwide organizations of this church are interdependent partners sharing responsibility in **God's Mission.**"



**You and I...
Together,
We Support
God's Mission**

Called to be missionaries of the Gospel, disciples of Christ, we share our financial resources as well as our efforts and time. Our prayers and our offerings become mission support that strengthens the very ministries for which the ELCA is already widely known.

Together, you and I...

- Fight hunger, especially hunger among children
- Accompany global partners
- Work for peace, locally, and globally
- Support social services agencies like Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
- Participate in Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and youth events
- Support the Synodically Authorized Ministry Program
- Support two companion synods in Madagascar
- Raise up leaders for vocations in Christ's church; and...always and regularly, we
- Gather around the means of God's grace for worship



**Synodically...
Together,
We Support
God's Mission**

As a member of your congregation, you are a part of the Central-Southern Illinois Synod. You are joined with 55,139 baptized Christians in 151 congregations throughout the central-southern parts of Illinois.

Together, synodically, we...

- Help prepare pastors and other rostered leaders
- Help congregations find and call leaders
- Assist congregations struggling through times of conflict or transition
- Celebrate with congregations as they mark significant milestones in ministry...

... and we help one another.

For example, we

- Encourage and join together in the study of Scripture
- Provide opportunities for youth and young adults to explore the heart of their faith formation
- Form partnerships throughout the world, especially with Lutherans in our companion synods in Madagascar
- Tell others about the healing and forgiving love of Jesus
- Cooperate to alleviate hunger and to address the needs of Illinoisans living in poverty
- Support agencies and institutions that serve the needs of others in and around the synod



**Nationally...
Together,
We Support
God's Mission**

As members of congregations, we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which includes 4.5 million followers of Jesus Christ in 10,500 congregations in the United States and the Caribbean.

In the broad-based partnership with one another, we are doing God's work in ways that any one congregation or even a whole synod cannot do alone.

Together, nationally, we...

- Support more than 200 congregations in development
- Support more than 150 congregations in their intentional focus on renewal
- Support 8 seminaries and 27 colleges and universities, almost 200 campus ministries, more than 1,500 early childhood education centers, 267 Lutheran elementary school, and 147 outdoor ministries
- Cooperate in outreach with ecumenical partners
- Join in disaster response that serves neighbors close to home and reaches around the globe
- Gather the youth to share, grow, and serve their neighbors (37,000 youth and adults gathered in New Orleans in July 2009)
- Feed millions of people thanks to the ELCA Hunger Appeal
- Welcome and provide resettlement support to individuals who have fled persecution from other countries through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
- Provide each congregation its tax exempt status as a member congregation of the ELCA
- Receive educational resources through Augsburg Fortress Publishing