

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Your offering and Mission Support

### Q: What is Mission Support?

**A:** Mission Support is your congregation's financial weekly offering that is shared with your synod and the churchwide organization. It is an undesignated gift to ELCA ministries that go beyond your congregation. 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 keep ongoing commitments to ministry partners.

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

**A:** Churchwide Assemblies – this church's highest legislative authority – guides and directs the work of the churchwide organization. The ELCA Church Council functions as the interim legislative authority between assemblies. The churchwide organization's two strategic priorities are to accompany the nearly 10,000 congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission and to build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

### Q: How does my congregation benefit from Mission Support?

**A:** Every congregation benefits as an active partner in the ELCA's mission to share God's love with the world. Mission Support funds the work of synods, and some of the portion of Mission Support that is shared with the churchwide organization returns 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 local ministries, outreach, salaries, utilities and the building, ensuring your congregation's vital presence in your community. We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Together – we can do more than any congregation or synod could do alone.

