



## South Dakota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

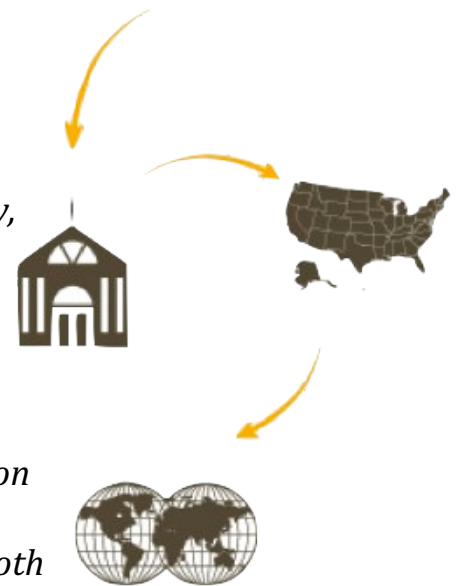
## Mission Support FAQ's for 2016

### 1) How much does the South Dakota Synod receive in mission support?

*In 2015 congregations remitted \$1,745,454 in Regular Mission Support, and \$49,671 in SD Synod Only Mission Support for a total of \$1,795,125.*

### 2) What does the mission support pay for?

- *CHURCOWIDE WORK: 45% of the Mission Support was forwarded to the ELCA Churchwide Organization for a total of \$785,454.<sup>1</sup>*
- *SOUTH DAKOTA AND REGIONAL MINISTRIES: 28% of all Mission Support (both regular and SD only) was used to support the following South Dakota and Regional Ministries: Luther Seminary, Church Colleges, LSS, Lutherans Outdoors, Association of Christian Churches, Good Samaritan Society, Lutheran Planned Giving, Campus Ministry, and Heartland Ephphatha. Also, 45% of the "SD Synod Only Mission Support" was retained and used for special mission projects and needs right here in South Dakota.*
- *SYNODICAL MINISTRY: 27% Mission Support (both regular and SD only) was used for the ongoing work of your Synod's Ministry such as: The Pine Ridge Retreat Center, Woyatan, New Congregation Starts, working with congregations in transition or conflict, preparing future church leaders in candidacy, planning and planting new churches and new ministries, assisting congregations with renewal and stewardship ministries, administrative support, etc.*



<sup>1</sup> For information on how the dollars are used for God's mission through our ELCA Churchwide organization, see the annual publication of "Stories of Faith in Action" or examine the ELCA budget on the ELCA website at <http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Financial>

### 3) What is the range of giving in mission support?

*In the South Dakota Synod congregations give an average of around 7% of their undesignated regular offering for mission support. Some give as high as 33%.*

### 4) Who decides how Mission Support is spent?

*Each year members of your congregation gather with people from every congregation around the synod at the Annual Synod Assembly. These, “voting members” decide a variety of issues including the annual Synod Mission Plan (budget). This plan dictates how the money will be allocated to our various synod and churchwide ministries.*

### 5) So what is the state of our work together in South Dakota?

*This synod is changing the world both here in South Dakota and beyond. Your generous mission support makes that possible! Here are JUST A FEW examples...*

- *We’ve exceeded the goal of building 25 church roofs in Cameroon, providing a safe place to gather and worship for communities across our companion synod.*
- *Through the “Green Project” at Cedro Gelan in our companion synod of the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope in Nicaragua farmers of the church are learning sustainable methods of agriculture that will help their families thrive.*
- *6 new or recently organized congregations are reaching out to new neighbors in fast growing communities, native communities and communities of new immigrants from the south and from Africa.*
- *Through our work in Partners Against Hunger, We know of 98 congregations of the ELCA in SD that are involved in direct services to people with needs they cannot meet on their own -- programs such as food pantries, transportation ministries, housing assistance and mentoring.*

