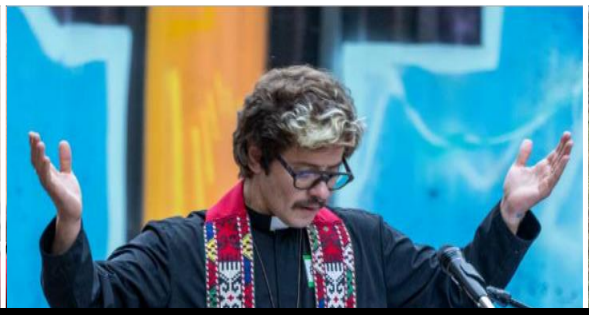
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America







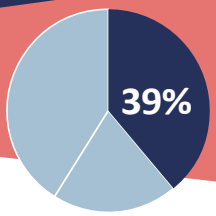
MISSION SUPPORT
A DEEP DIVE

Virginia Synod FY2023 Thank You

We believe that the ELCA's members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization are called to be church together. Every year around $1.6 billion is shared as regular offerings to ELCA congregations and worshiping communities. Over 5% of that generosity is shared with our 65 synods, a portion of which is then shared with the churchwide organization. We call this Mission Support. In FY2023, the Virginia Synod shared $639,103 directly in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. Whether utilized locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, Mission Support enables us to have a greater impact in communities — working together to share God's abundant grace with others.

Your Mission Support funds a variety of churchwide ministries.

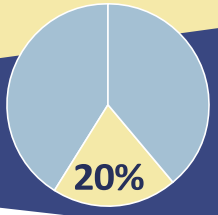
39% builds Christian communities in the United States by:



Thank you for $249,250 from the Virginia Synod for these ministries!

- Planting and supporting hundreds of worshiping communities.
- Revitalizing congregational ministries and reaching out to their surrounding communities.
- Promoting leadership opportunities, discernment and education through leadership initiatives.
- Supporting the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 ELCA colleges and universities.
- Hosting events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.
- Supporting regional work through directors for evangelical mission as well as candidacy and leadership managers.
- Preparing and implementing a system for recruiting and assigning rostered ministers.

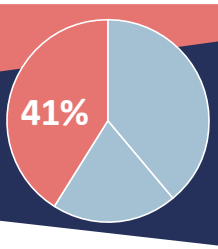
Another **20%** grows the global Lutheran church and addresses issues around the world by:



Thank you for $127,821 from the Virginia Synod for these ministries!

- Accompanying new Lutheran churches, expanding ministries, and training leaders and evangelists.
- Sending missionaries to accompany communities around the world.
- Addressing social issues and working for justice.
- Cultivating and maintaining relationships with 149 other churches through the Lutheran World Federation to strengthen the church and its global work.
- Fostering relationships between ELCA synods and 65 companion churches, for a total of 127 official relationships.
- Working with leaders and members of our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latiné communities.

Finally, **41%** strengthens and sustains the ministry and mission of the whole church by:



Thank you for $262,032 from the Virginia Synod for these ministries!

- Offering ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- Coordinating and supporting churchwide ministries.
- Developing social messages of the ELCA as topical documents — called for by ELCA churchwide assemblies and adopted by the ELCA Church Council — to focus attention and action on timely, pressing matters of social concern to the church and society.
- Providing governance, including maintenance of rostered leadership records and support for the ELCA Church Council and triennial ELCA churchwide assemblies.
- Sustaining ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- Partnering with congregations and ministries across the church as they explore new, innovative ways of being church in a constantly changing world.
- Investing in technology and communications.
- Growing and sustaining financial resources.
- Engaging in research and strategic planning.
- Creating and sharing resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.

Thank you for your ongoing support and faithful partnership! For stories of your impact, visit **LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA**. To find additional Mission Support resources, visit **ELCA.org/SOFIA**.