

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 17 Connections

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Introduction

Transition Dynamics

Reflection

Heritage	Past	Where have we been?
Identity	Present	Where are we at?
Vision	Future	Where is God leading?

Action

Mission	Definition	What is God's purpose for this congregation?
Leadership	Operation	How is God's purpose to be carried out?
Connections	Cooperation	Who are the partners in mission God provides?

- Heritage appreciate how the past of the congregation informs the present
- Identity discover who the congregation is in the current context
- Vision discern what it is this congregation understands God is calling this congregation to be
- Mission define purpose and direction for the congregation in God's mission
- Leadership engage people of the congregation in God's mission
- **Connections explore all the relationships a congregation shares beyond itself**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds - CyberHymnal

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Text: John Fawcett; 1740-1817, alt.

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/b/b/btttb.htm>
[Images for Blest Be the Tie That Binds \(song\)](#)

Church Administration: Programs, Process, Purpose [Robert Bacher, Michael Cooper-White]

Chapter 10. [External Relationships: Loving Thy Institutional Neighbor](#)

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/education/academic/churchadministration/thebook.jsp>

<http://store.fortresspress.com/store/product/2687/Church-Administration>

For discussion questions on this book go to www.augsburgfortress.org/education/academic/churchadministration/

<http://www.amazon.com/Church-Administration-Programs-Process-Purpose/dp/0800637429>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/950529.Church_Administration

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bacher-and-cooper-white-church-administration.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Bacher/e/B001JSACYG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115303.Robert_Bacher

<http://www.ltsu.edu/about-us/faculty-staff-directory/michael-cooper-white>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/rev-michael-l-cooperwhite-dd>

<http://www.ats.edu/michael-cooper-white>

[Images for Robert Bacher, Michael Cooper-White](#)

[Images for Church Administration: Programs, Process, Purpose \[Robert Bacher, Michael Cooper-White\]](#)

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA®

Chapter 8.

RELATIONSHIPS

8.50. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER LUTHERAN ORGANIZATIONS

8.51. This church may establish relationships with Lutheran organizations, institutions, or agencies whose purposes are compatible with its mission and ministry. Policies and procedures to create and implement these relationships shall be adopted by the Church Council.

8.52. This church shall not, in any manner, be responsible for the debts or liabilities of other Lutheran organizations, institutions, or agencies, whether independent of or affiliated with this church.

8.60. RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERCHURCH AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND COUNCILS

8.61. The congregations, synods, social ministry institutions and agencies, and churchwide organization may establish or affiliate with interchurch agencies and councils in relationships that will reflect this church's objectives of sharing with other faith communities in study, dialogue, and common action, in accordance with adopted policies governing such associations.

8.61.01. Policies governing ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and interfaith activities shall be recommended by the presiding bishop of this church to the Churchwide Assembly for its adoption.

8.61.02. Formal membership in interchurch agencies and/or councils shall be by action of the Churchwide Assembly in all relationships involving national or international involvement, by the Synod Assembly in its geographic area, and by congregations in community settings, with each affiliation by any congregation, synod, or churchwide organization to be in accordance with the policies of this church.

8.70. OFFICIAL CHURCH-TO-CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS

8.71. This church may establish official church-to-church relationships and agreements. Establishment of such official relationships and agreements shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting in a Churchwide Assembly.

8.72. Policies and procedures to implement church-to-church relationships of full communion established by action of a Churchwide Assembly may be recommended by the appropriate officer or churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

8.72.10. Ecumenical Availability of Ordained Ministers and Rostered Laypersons

8.72.11. An ordained minister of this church, serving temporarily in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be retained on the roster of ordained

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8.72.12. An ordained minister of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be authorized by the synodical bishop to serve in a congregation or employing entity of this church. Such service shall be rendered under a contract between the congregation or employing entity and the ordained minister in a form proposed by the synodical bishop and approved by the congregation or employing entity. Any such service shall be in accord with churchwide policies developed at the direction of the presiding bishop and secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

8.72.13. Whenever an ordained minister, associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to serve or is serving in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly, or whenever an ordained minister of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been so declared and established is to serve or is serving in this church, a full sharing of relevant information concerning such rostered leader's experience and fitness for ministry is expected between the synodical bishop (or other appropriate office or entity) of this church and the appropriate person, office, or entity in the other church. Relevant information related to fitness for ministry shall include, but is not limited to, any information concerning disciplinary proceedings or allegations that could result, or could have resulted, in disciplinary proceedings.

8.72.14. An ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church, in accord with ELCA churchwide bylaw 8.72.12.

8.72.15. The availability of ordained ministers from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be understood normally in three categories: availability to serve in an occasional situation; availability to meet an extended need, including service in "yoked parish" settings; and availability for a transfer of roster status.

a. Occasional service: An occasional situation is defined as one in which an ordained minister of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists may be asked to preach or administer the sacraments in an ELCA congregation on an occasional basis with the authorization of the synodical bishop.

b. Extended service: An ordained minister of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists may be invited to serve as the pastor of an ELCA congregation for an extended period of time, yet remain an ordained minister of his or her present church body. Such a person would be expected to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in an ELCA congregation in a manner that is consistent with the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to live in a manner consistent with the ministerial policy of this church. Such service shall be rendered only as authorized by the synodical bishop in order to serve the ministry and mission needs of the ELCA in a given situation.

c. Transfer: An ordained minister of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists who seeks to serve indefinitely within the ordained ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may apply for admission to the roster of ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and be approved through the candidacy process for admission to the roster. Such an ordained minister would then become an ELCA pastor upon receipt and acceptance of a regular call and installation in an ELCA congregation or other setting.

d. Roster status in more than one church body is precluded in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As required by ELCA churchwide constitutional provision 7.22. and bylaw 7.31.11., ordained ministers on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America must accept and adhere to this church's Confession of Faith, as well as abide by this church's standards and policies for ordained ministers.

8.72.16. An ordained minister, associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, while serving in an ecumenical setting, remains subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. An ordained minister of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists is understood

by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the church body in which the ordained minister is rostered or holds ministerial membership.

Such an ordained minister, while serving in an ELCA congregation or other ministry, is expected to abide by the standards and policies of this church related to ordained ministers.

- 8.72.17.** When an ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America completes a contract for extended service, the synodical file on that ordained minister shall be sent to and retained by the Office of the Secretary.
- 8.73.** This church acknowledges the relationship established through the Lutheran World Federation as a communion of member Churches which confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God, and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship. The bylaws on ecumenical availability of ordained ministers under relationships of full communion shall apply to such service within this church of ordained ministers from other member churches of the Lutheran World Federation.
- 8.74.** This church, in accord with constitutional provision 2.05., acknowledges as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that accept the teaching of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and understands that altar and pulpit fellowship with congregations and other entities of such churches may be locally practiced. Local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship, in accord with churchwide constitutional provision 2.05., is subject to the approval of the Synod Council, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop. Notice of such approval is to be given to the presiding bishop as the chief ecumenical officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 8.74.01.** The approval is granted initially for one year only and must be reviewed and approved annually by the Synod Council. Any time that the local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship no longer serves the mission and ministry needs of this church, the synodical bishop may withdraw endorsement and the Synod Council may withdraw the approval.
- 8.74.02.** An ordained minister of a church body with which the ELCA is not in full communion who is serving in a ministry involving the local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship with an ELCA congregation is understood to be subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the church body in which the ordained minister is rostered or holds ministerial membership. Such an ordained minister, while serving an ELCA congregation or other ministry, is expected to abide by the standards and policies of this church related to ordained ministers. An ordained minister of this church, while serving in a ministry involving the local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship with a non-ELCA congregation, remains subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 8.75.** Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and units of the churchwide organization are encouraged to engage in Cooperative work, wherever possible, with churches that accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. Units engaging in this work shall advise the presiding bishop of such developments.

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA® (11-2013)

[Constitutions - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/CBCR_2013_November.pdf

[PDF] [Interim MinistriesABC Code of Ethics](#)

- I will maintain strong professional ties during the assignment with: (1) the staff of the IMABC Program, with which I have an employee/employer relationship; (2) the assigned church, with which I negotiate and fulfill specific interim pastoral duties; and (3) the regional Executive/Area Minister, who is a colleague in my interim ministry with the church.
- I will work as a **team member and colleague with the Executive/Area Minister** during the assignment, keeping in touch with that person, providing feedback on the interim ministry progress of the congregation, and consulting in relation to the significant emphases I anticipate in my ministry with the church.
- I will maintain a strong emphasis on ABC mission support and participation by the church in ABC life.

<http://www.interimministries-abc.org/Local/documents/codeofethics.pdf>

[Images for team member and colleague with the Executive/Area Minister](#)

Involvement in the Larger Church

How are you engaged with other congregations in this community?

Do you have voting lay members at synod assemblies?

Have your members attended regional conferences?

Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson. Assistant to the Bishop. Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Director for Evangelical Mission. lshow-anderson@nswi.org

[Images for Involvement in the Larger Church](#)

[DOC] [Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

Chapter 9.

THE PASTOR

***C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

c. Every pastor shall:

- 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and

- 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](#)

<https://download.elca.org> > [ELCA Resource Repository](#) > [Model Constitution](#)

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository Chapter 9. THE PASTOR *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)

THE SMALL CATECHISM

THE CREED

THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the **whole Christian Church on earth** and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

[Images for whole Christian Church on earth](#)

What Does the Bible Say About The Body Of Christ? - OpenBible.info

https://www.openbible.info/topics/the_body_of_christ

[Images for bible and body of Christ](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/bible>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-The-Body-Of-Christ/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/body-of-Christ.html>

<https://www.allaboutgod.com/body-of-christ.htm>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/nature-and-body-christ-session-41>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/we-though-many-are-one-body-in-christ>

[Images for we-though-many-are-one-body-in-christ](#)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/body-of-christ/>

<http://www.bibleanswers.ie/short-bible-studies/58-the-church/153-body-of-christ>

[Images for bible-the-church-body-of-christ](#)

<https://doctrine.org/the-church-the-body-of-christ>

[Images for bible-the-church-body-of-christ](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Body_of_Christ

[Images for Body of Christ](#)

It's time to tell the story!

by Merry Soyck-Doring, Synod Communicator

I get to read a lot of newsletters—a task I like because it's always interesting to see what's going on around the synod. The other day while scanning a publication, I noticed this quote from Corrie Ten Boom, "Security is having the Word of God in your own language. Peace is having the Word of God in your heart." My immediate reaction was to add these words: "Mission is sharing the Word of God with others." A little further down the page in the newsletter the following plea appeared, "Lord, walk beside me with your arm over my shoulder and your hand over my mouth." I murmured to myself, "how very Lutheran (or Midwestern or whatever it is that makes us reluctant to speak out—even to share the Good News of Jesus Christ)!"

It's time to tell the story—and that's precisely what this new publication *God's Work. Our Hands* is intended to do! Many people throughout our synod are busy doing God's work with their hands. Let's share those stories! Let's tell everyone how God's ever-present love is manifested through our efforts, large and small. When you bake cookies and ship them off to a college student who is away from home for the first time; when you take time to visit the elderly neighbor who recently lost a spouse; when you rake a lawn with your youth group; or read a Bible story to your grandchild, you are doing God's work and I want to share your story.

Years ago, a friend of mine commented, "There are two kinds of people—those who do the work and those who talk about it." I'm not sure I agree. I'd like to think that those who do the work can also be those who talk about it. Let's set aside our Lutheran/Midwestern modesty and talk about it. Why? Not because it lifts us up, but because it lifts others to hear the stories, to realize that God is indeed among us, working through us, because there are no hands but ours. Part of the "work" involves sharing the story so others may know that God's love surrounds us on a daily basis, even in the mundane chores. What about the quotes from that newsletter? Maybe we should change the message to "Lord, walk beside me with your arm over my shoulder and give me the words to say so others will know you, too!"

Share Your Story

If you have a mission story to tell, please contact Merry Soyck-Doring at msoyck-doring@nswi.org. If you would like help writing the story, assistance is available. Photos are a great addition to the message, but not required. To get started, download "[Telling the Story.](#)" http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/godswork_its_time_to_tell_a_story.pdf

Solid connections with the larger church

Lee Sather and Sarah Larson-Woodruff presented *Healthy Start for Congregations: Enhancing the Partnership of Pastor and People* at the Chippewa Valley Conference Meeting on October 17, 2013 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Boyceville, Wisconsin. They spoke of building relationships as the foundation of all that is to follow. Relationships are the base of the pyramid and then roles, rules, and results. They engaged the rostered leaders in attendance in an exercise around the following questions: "Who are you? What keeps you going in the ministry?" There are many ways of going about the work of building relationships, but building relationships is foundational in a healthy start. The expanded relationships then are connections with the larger church.

Healthy Start for Congregations

- Solid **connections** with the larger church are established. The congregation finds new resources for giving and getting ideas.

www.healthystartup.org

[Images for solid connections with the larger church](#)

Walking together

for the sake of mission in God's world

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are comprised of 199 congregations, over 93,000 members, and over 300 clergy and rostered leaders.

Synod means walking together, which describes our interdependent ministry relationship as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and churchwide initiatives, provide for education events and leadership training, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in all the world. [Learn more about our synod.](#)

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.nswi.org/>

[Images for Walking together for the sake of mission in God's world](#)

We are all the ELCA

Our nearly 10,000 congregations and 65 synods across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are where you'll find us hard at work loving and serving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Congregations are communities of faith that reach out to all people, serve all people and help us negotiate the complexities and questions of life with a daring confidence in God's grace and love.

Synods support, connect and guide the leaders and ministries of congregations, working together to achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise.

Together, we are a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new. We strive for strong, vibrant congregational ministries that are relevant to our ever-changing neighborhoods and world, actively engaged in God's mission.

The blessing of ELCA congregations and synods working together is that we are able to draw upon a wealth of leaders, resources, networks, support, ideas, experiences, diverse perspectives and diverse communities for doing God's work in the world.

Who We Are - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nswi.org/who_we_are/

[Images for We are all the ELCA](#)

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

The ELCA is a church of more than 4 million members who actively participate in God's work in the world. We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

With outstretched hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world. We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here. We live in many different communities, span all ages, cultures and races and bring to this church unique life experiences and perspectives. Seek answers to your questions and discover what God is calling you to in life.

10,000 SERVING IN CHRIST

Our nearly 10,000 congregations and 65 synods across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are where you'll find us hard at work loving and serving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Congregations are communities of faith that reach out to all people, serve all people, and help us negotiate the complexities and questions of life with a daring confidence in God's grace and love.

WORKING TOGETHER

Synods support, connect, and guide the leaders and ministries of congregations, working together to achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise.

DEEPLY ROOTED

Together, we are a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new. We strive for strong, vibrant congregational ministries that are relevant to our ever-changing neighborhoods and world, actively engaged in God's mission.

COLLABORATION

The blessing of ELCA congregations and synods working together is that we are able to draw upon a wealth of leaders, resources, networks, support, ideas, experiences, diverse perspectives and diverse communities for doing God's work in the world.

[Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – about us - ELCA](http://nswi.org/about-us/elca)

<http://nswi.org/about-us/elca>

[Images for EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.](#)

Walking Together for the Sake of Mission in God's World

We the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, over 93,000 members of 199 congregations and specialized ministries, walk together for the sake of mission in God's world.

Walking Together

+ We support leaders

- Guidance for students through candidacy process and Candidacy Committee
- Council Leader Workshop education events for congregational leaders
- Lifting up future leaders through the Bishop's Initiative
- Winter Theological Event for rostered leaders
- Mobility assistance for rostered leaders
- Fund for Leaders financial assistance for seminarians
- First Call Debt Reduction assistance for pastors with educational debt
- Fall Ministry Retreat for renewal and education of rostered leaders
- Lay School of Ministry for members of all congregations
- Associate in Ministry, Deaconess, and Diaconal Minister support
- Theological Education for Emerging Ministry oversight
- Synodically Authorized Ministers training, support, and placement
- Regional mobility conferences for pastors
- Lutheran Youth Organization gatherings and leadership development
- Youth Workers Network
- Intentional interim ministry, training, and support
- Leadership Support Commission of the synod
- Salary Standards Committee of the synod
- Lives reflective of the Wholeness Wheel
- Soul Support for office administrators
- Book discussion blogs
- Synod staff support and counsel

+We pray and worship

- Weekly prayers for leaders, congregations, and specialized ministries
- Worship at Synod Assembly, Fall Ministry Retreat, and Winter Theological Event
- Worship resources through Synod Resource Center
- Wisconsin Council of Churches Prayer for Christian Unity resources
- Introductory workshops of ELCA worship resources
- Cherish Our Children initiative affirming prayer and safety
- Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers

+We deepen discipleship

- Book of Faith initiative
- Council Leader Workshop education event for congregational leaders
- Evangelism and stewardship offerings for congregations and leaders
- Mission consultations for congregations
- Lay School of Ministry for members of all congregations
- Synod Resource Center resources
- Synod staff support and counsel

+We celebrate generosity

- Stewardship guidance for congregations

- Synod Resource Center resources
- Mission interpretation
- Planned giving initiatives
- Mission endowment establishment and growth
- Mission Support Commission of the synod
- Synod staff support and counsel

+We raise up leaders

- Lifting up future leaders through the Bishop's Initiative
- Guidance for students through candidacy process
- Outdoor ministry and campus ministry support to nurture future leaders
- Fund for Leaders financial assistance for seminarians
- Lay School of Ministry for members of all congregations
- Financial support of Lutheran colleges and seminaries
- Lutheran Youth Organization leadership development
- Youth Workers Network
- Leadership Support Commission of the synod
- Associates in Ministry, Deacon, and Diaconal Ministry support
- Synod staff support and counsel

+We equip congregations

- Outreach and stewardship resources and guidance for congregations
- Lay School of Ministry for members of all congregations
- Mission consultations for congregations
- Book of Faith initiative
- Synod Resource Center resources
- Cherish Our Children initiative
- Mission Support Commission of the synod
- Synod staff support and counsel
- Soul Support of office administrators
- Support of conferences, clusters, and coalitions of congregations

+We encourage healthy, whole lives

- ELCA health and wellness initiative
- Events surrounded by retreat, worship, collegiality, and education
- Wellness wheel model for ministry
- Support for sabbatical leaves for rostered leaders
- Cherish Our Children initiative
- Pastor's mountain hike at Christikon

For the Sake of Mission

+We work to revitalize congregations

- Mission consultations for congregations
- Book of Faith initiative
- Provide resources for congregational ministry and mission
- Lay School of Ministry deepens faith and theology
- Mission opportunities with ecumenical partners
- Cherish Our Children initiative
- Intentional interim ministry, training, and support
- Mission Support Commission of the synod
- Leadership Support Commission of the synod
- Synod staff support and counsel

+We support specialized ministries

- Campus ministry
- Outdoor ministry
- Chaplaincy – military, hospital, prison, elder care, etc.
- Soul Support of office administrators
- Cherish Our Children initiative
- Intentional interim ministry, training, and support
- Lutheran Youth Organization
- Youth Workers Network
- Women of the ELCA
- Lutheran Men in Mission
- Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers

- Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Wisconsin Lutheran Office of Public Policy
- Disaster relief efforts
- Initiatives in peace and justice

+We engage in global concerns

- Synod companion relationship with Brazil and Malawi
- Hunger Action Committee of the synod
- ELCA World Hunger and
- Malawi feeding station and sustainability project support
- Engaging issues of peace, mercy, and justice
- Lutheran World Relief projects and support
- Global Mission events

+We reach out with the Good News

- Mission consultations for congregations
- Book of Faith initiative
- Malawi parish-to-parish relationships
- Programs and resources for witness and service
- Global Mission events
- Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers
- Mission Support Commission of the synod
- Leadership Support Commission of the synod

+We begin new ministries

- Transformative strategies for revitalizing congregations
- New mission starts and satellites
- Yoking, merging, or clustering congregation for the sake of mission
- Mission consultations for congregations
- Responding to synod-wide mission opportunities
- Ecumenical partnerships for the sake of mission
- New mission start sponsorships
- Mission Support Commission of the synod
- Synod staff support and counsel

+We stand with the marginalized

- Hunger Action Committee work of the synod
- Global Mission Committee work of the synod
- Malawi hunger assistance
- Participation in Lutheran Disaster Relief
- Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan
- Parish Nurse Ministry
- Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers
- Wisconsin Lutheran Office of Public Policy
- Mission Support Commission of the synod
- Lutheran World Relief projects and support

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/mission_of_the_northwest_synod_of_wisconsin.pdf
[Images for Walking Together for the Sake of Mission in God's World](#)

Together We Make a Difference

Learning about our church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL PROCESS

“Our pastor is leaving – so what do we do?” This is how most congregations enter the call process. The synod takes the first step when the bishop appoints, with the concurrence of the Congregation Council, an interim pastor to provide pastoral ministry to the congregation and assist in some parts of the call process. A member of the synod staff will meet with the Congregation Council and Call Committee to help everyone understand the whole process:

- + Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in matching a pastor with a parish.
- + Experience a transition from the ministry of the previous pastor – saying good-bye to the last pastor.
- + Develop a Ministry Site Profile encompassing the history of the congregation, current ministries, and the direction God is calling the ministry of the congregation in the future.
- + Determine a compensation range for a prospective pastor.
- + Interview candidate to serve as pastor.
- + Recommend a candidate to the parish for a ballot vote that requires a 2/3 majority to extend the call.
- + If the candidate accepts the call, rejoice and warmly receive the candidate.

The discernment of whether God is calling a pastor to a parish is done jointly between the bishop, the parish, and the pastor.

- + Read Ephesians 4:4-16. Where does the pastor fit in with the whole ministry of all the people of God? How does that happen? What kind of pastor would fit this way in your congregation? How much responsibility for the ministry in the parish do the members take?
- + Read 1Timothy 3:1-7. How do these personal characteristics of a pastor in the first century apply to pastors today? What other characteristics would you add if you were calling a pastor to your parish?
- + Read 2Timothy 4:1-5. Does this apply only to a pastor or does this describe everyone in the parish? Would a pastor be excited to serve a parish that acted this way? Would a parish be excited to receive a pastor who had these priorities?

Scripture – Romans 10:8-15; 1Timothy 4:6-16

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Paul writes to the Romans about the dynamics of faith. Faith comes by hearing! Hearing comes by Christians speaking words of truth and faith!

- + Who are the ones sent to speak? Only pastors?
- + Pastors are called to public ministry and leadership. How does that affect their speaking words of truth and faith so that others may hear and believe?
- + Paul writes to encourage Timothy about his public ministry and leadership.

What are some of the key joys and responsibilities of a pastor?

A congregation in the call process is called to focus on its ministries and the pastoral leadership needed for those ministries to thrive. What are your key ministries? How would you set your priorities among your ministries? How would a pastor encourage and enable those ministries? Pray for the call process that God will provide a faithful pastor for your congregation!

From the Bishop

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we believe that it is our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides the call process. We trust that the Spirit works with and through pastoral candidates, congregations, and synods – and when these three agree, we are bold to say that we have discerned the will of God.

Know that pastoral transitions are a regular and natural concurrence in the life of a congregation. During the interim period, congregations have a pastor dedicated to the specialized ministry of leading communities of faith through a process of prayer, reflections, and self-discovery to discern what God is calling them to be and do.

The synod staff is also specifically trained in this work and will partner with Call Committees and Congregation Councils to find appropriate pastoral leadership. Healthy pastors and healthy congregations looking forward in mission is our goal. We hold congregations in prayer during this time of transition in weekly staff devotions, and we covet your daily prayers that God will guide the process and strengthen our partnership in the gospel for the sake of the world.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Duane C. Pederson

Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Assists Congregations in the Call Process

The call process among its parishes is one of the highest priorities of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. The bishop and the synod staff seek to make the best possible match possible between pastor and parish, focusing on the kind of pastoral leadership that will encourage a parish towards the ministry God wants it to pursue. The synod assists about 20 parishes every year as they go through the call process. The synod office also works with about 30 pastors every year throughout the ELCA as they seek calls in our synod.

Prayer for Call Process

Come Holy Spirit and inspire parishes so that they will not look for pastors who will let them remain unchallenged but will have the courage to call a pastor who will lead them to growing faithfulness, greater discipleship, and more intentional witness to the grace and glory of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Printed resources on the call process from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA

Many paths to rostered leadership

By Assistant to the Bishop Todd Iverson

Once upon a time, in our predecessor church bodies, there was just one way to become a leader in the church. One went to college (most likely a college affiliated with the denomination) and then to seminary. Finally, the individual was ordained into word and sacrament ministry. Oh, times have changed!

In June, the Candidacy Committee of our synod met with four gifted people who are beginning the work to become leaders in our church--each in a unique way. .

The first candidate is studying youth and family ministry at Augsburg College and wants to be commissioned as an associate in ministry in the church. Associates in ministry choose a specific ministry emphasis, receive training in that field, and work with the Candidacy Committee to discern how their gifts may be a calling to a vocation in the church.

The second candidate is a traditional student, getting ready to graduate from college (also Augsburg). In her early 20s, she is feeling a call to ordained ministry and is looking forward to starting classes at seminary in the fall. The Candidacy Committee will explore both the internal and external call to ministry with her as she moves toward ordination.

The third person is a second-career candidate for ordained ministry who saw an opportunity in a special program called Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM). In the TEEM program, people are trained for culture-specific ministries or for work in rural congregations. The program raises up leaders from local communities to serve underserved congregations in our church.

The fourth candidate is also a second-career person who feels called to bridge the divide between church and world by becoming a diaconal minister, one consecrated to word and service rather than word and sacrament ministry. Diaconal ministers seek to lead all the

baptized to live out their baptismal identity in their daily lives. Often, they choose a specific ministry emphasis, and they examine their own spiritual journey in order to draw out the spiritual gifts of the people they serve and address the spiritual needs of the communities in which they serve.

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/summer_8.5x11web.pdf
[Images for paths to rostered leadership](#)

Page 4



We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here.

We believe God calls each of us by name. Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. Whenever we feel compelled to "draw the line" in our lives, we must acknowledge as Lutherans that Jesus always stands on both sides of that line.

News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of February 3, 2013

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1112380980591.html>

[Images for We are a church that belongs to Christ.](#)

Pastor Bolstad to Convene Interim Ministry Gathering on January 8

Pastor Bolstad will convene the Interim Ministry Gathering at the synod office at Luther Park Bible Camp near Chetek on Tuesday, January 8. The format of the gathering is a disciplined small group method for the purpose of enhancing transitional ministry skills in interim settings. These gatherings are important for interim pastors to build collegiality and to increase awareness. He has served as the convener since 1993.

Dedication of Malawi painting on January 17

A painting depicting the Women of Prayer in Malawi called "Walking in the Light" will be dedicated on Sunday, January 17. It shows the women in their purple uniforms walking together. Malawi is our companion synod. This visual recalls our companion relationship.

Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18

This congregation will be joining Christians throughout the world in a Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18 as a part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. Pray for the unity of the church!

Luther Park Bible Camp Special Emphasis on February 23

Come to worship on February 23 for a taste of Bible Camp when Barb Solsaa from Luther Park Bible Camp will give the message. Luther Park Bible Camp is excited to announce the new position of Director of Church Relations, a part-time position dedicated to bringing the ministries of both Luther Park and the Luther Park Constituency closer together. Barbara Solsaa has been hired in this capacity and though she has most recently been known for her role with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, she also comes to Luther Park with a rich history in Outdoor Ministries including 14 years working at a variety of Lutheran Bible Camps including Lutherdale (Elkhorn, WI), Ewalu (Strawberry Point, IA) and Luther Park Bible Camp (Chetek, WI). She also did youth ministry for three years as a missionary in Bukoba, Tanzania. She will no doubt be a wonderful addition to the staff at Luther Park as well as a wonderful connection to the ministries of the constituency. You can contact Barbara at barbara@lutherpark.org.

Women of the ELCA Bold Women's Day on February 26

Bold Women's Day – observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February – celebrates all Lutheran women of who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out your baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

✔ [Celebrating bold Women's Day - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

www.elca.org/.../Women%20of%20the%20ELCA/Bold%20Womens...

From: "Elizabeth Bartsch" <lbartsch@nwswi.org>

To: pastorbolstad@tds.net

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 9:33:51 AM

Subject: Remembering your Congregation in Prayer

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our Hands

January 27, 2015

Dear Saints of the Synod,

An important part of our life together as a synod staff is holding the congregations and leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin in prayer.

This week, my staff and I will remember (*name*) Lutheran in (*town*) by name in our individual prayers and during our weekly staff devotions. We will pray for your worshiping community and your pastor, staff, and lay leaders. We will pray for your ministry so that your witness and service might be inspired by the Spirit and deeply grounded in the Lord of the cross and resurrection.

If your congregation has specific prayer requests, please share them with us at info@nswi.org. We would like to highlight your congregation in next week's E-clipse. If your congregation has something to share please email it to msoyck-doring@nswi.org. We hope that you will remember your synod staff and the ministries of the wider church in your prayers, too, and that you would let the congregation know that we are praying for them next week.

How we treasure your partnership in the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ! May the grace of God guide and direct your community of faith and send you as disciples into the world on behalf of all who need the Light of Christ to shine upon them.

Blessings,

Bishop Hoyme and the Synod Staff
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

From: "Elizabeth Bartsch" <lbartsch@nswi.org>

To: pastorbolstad@tds.net

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 9:34:53 AM

Subject: Prayers for You

January 27, 2015

Dear **LOWELL**,

This letter is simple and straightforward: Your synod staff will remember you in prayer this week.

It is our joy to hold every roster leader and their spouse in prayer over the course of a calendar year. We will remember specifically *you* in our individual prayers and during our staff devotions.

If you have a specific prayer requests that you wish to share with the synod staff, let us know at info@nswi.org. Regardless of what you share, joys or concerns, we will pray for you and give thanks to God for your ministry and your leadership.

As a rostered person or spouse in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, know how much your synod staff honors and treasures you. We give thanks for your love of the Lord and his church and trust that he will continue to guide and direct you.

Finally, we also ask you to remember your synod staff in your own prayer life, too.

In the joy of Jesus,

The Synod Staff
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

Prayers

We invite you to join the synod staff in prayer:

Gracious God, guide those who lead and participate in the Book of Faith Initiative, including our synod's Book of Faith advocate Greg Kaufmann. Through this effort, we strive to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world. (from [ELCA Prayer Ventures](#))

We also pray for the following leaders and the congregations they serve:

Rev. Kari Burke-Romarheim, Bethlehem and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches, Bay City

Rev. Lucinda Schottlkorb, Big Drywood Lutheran, Cadott

Rev. Hal Schroetter, Big Elk Creek Lutheran, Elk Mound

Rev. Ann Fenlason, Bone Lake Lutheran, Luck

Rev. Sara Pearson, Calvary Lutheran, Minong

Rev. Lowell Bolstad, (*name*) Lutheran (*name*)

Rev. Terri Blomberg, Calvary and Zion Lutheran Churches, Winter

This Week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of January 25, 2015

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119904646999.html>

GET CONNECTED with ELCA ministries locally, nationally and globally with *The Lutheran's* November issue. See how worship languages are expanding from coast to coast ... meet the new chief of Portico Benefit Services ... travel to Nebraska where Lutherans offer post-adoption care ... learn how congregations are helping seniors connect and serve ... think about shining a light on Epiphany ... and get advice on helping children welcome a new sibling to the family.

<http://www.thelutheran.org/template/page.cfm?id=46>

Walking Together 2012: a congregational resource event

March 17 at the Chippewa Falls Middle School

Sponsored by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

† *Walking Together* is an event for the congregation at large: all disciples whether young or "seasoned." Clergy, as well as lay leaders; councils, as well as committee members; staff, as well as volunteers – all are invited to attend.

† Designed to share best practices and resources, this is a valuable learning opportunity to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries.

† With over 60 workshops to choose from, this day will be packed with practical ideas you can implement in your congregation.
[http://www.nswi.org/news_and_events/
Images for Walking Together: a congregational resource event](http://www.nswi.org/news_and_events/Images_for_Walking_Together_a_congregational_resource_event)

Synod Walking Together Attracts Hundreds

Walking Together: A Congregational Resource Event drew a large crowd to the Chippewa Falls Middle School on Saturday, March 26. Nearly 700 people gathered to attend workshops and exchange ideas about shifting to a more missional emphasis in congregations. "In one year's time, we have exceeded our expectations in regard to attendance," said the Rev. Amy Odgren, assistant to the bishop and director for evangelical mission. "Based on the interest in this program, it is clear that our congregations want to be centers for evangelical mission." http://www.nswi.org/news_and_events/news.phtml?id=0FD100B3



Walking Together: A Congregational Resource Event will be held Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the Chippewa Falls Middle School. This event draws more people than any other educational event sponsored by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Now in its fourth year, it promises to be better than ever.

Here's a sample of what will be offered: Music by singer/songwriter Jonathan Rundman, as well as the musical group, Breaking Chains, a Christian band from western Wisconsin called to serve God through music ministry.

Workshops from pastors and congregational leaders throughout the synod. Want to learn more about implementing missional strategies in your congregation? Workshops include: "We've Got a Mission Plan. Now What?" by Rev. Kathy Pennington and ministers of East Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amery. Or maybe you're looking for ways to involve youth. You could get advice from members of the LYO Board who will present "What's So Important about Worship, Fellowship, and Faith?" Looking for a spiritual boost? Cheryl Sikorski, Christ Lutheran in Somerset, offers "Nurturing Your Life in Prayer, 2013 Edition." Over 40 workshops will be offered this year, so bring a group from your congregation. All ages are encouraged to attend.

Buck – a – chick during Lent

Through the ELCA Good Gifts, just \$1 can provide a family living in poverty with a little chick. Soon, it will begin producing eggs. Its eggs make protein-rich meals and can be sold at the marketplace for income helping a family escape hunger and poverty for good.

Beginning after Ash Wednesday, a Mission Committee member will be in the gathering area before and after worship services for a buck – a – chick sale. For one dollar, you can purchase and decorate a paper chick for yourself or in honor of a friend or family member. The colorful chicks will be hung in a prominent spot in the church.

Walking and Working Together

Four Amery-area congregations joined together for the first time this year to host a creative and fun-filled Easter Celebration Saturday, April 19. It turned out to be a wonderful day for the 60 children and 65 adults from Trinity (Garfield), Little Falls, Deronda, and East Immanuel congregations who look forward to working together on future events.

Thanks to Pastor Kathy Pennington for sharing this story.

News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of May 4, 2014

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1117299454892.html>

[Images for Walking and Working Together](#)

Women's Mission Pilgrimage to Malawi

The Synod Women's organization is sponsoring a trip to our companions in Malawi, August 15 - August 30, 2011. They will spend a week traveling to various sites to see ministry in action and then attend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi Women's Assembly. Approximate cost of the trip is \$3,500 inclusive. The group will be limited to 12 people, on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference given to women who have not traveled to Malawi before (until May 15). Visit the FaceToFace site for more information.

Luther Park Bible Camp emphasis on April 18

Our partnership with Luther Park Bible Camp will be the special emphasis on April 18. Giving the message will be the Pastor Craig Corbin, the Interim Executive Director of Luther Park. Discover how Bible Camp is more than just kids at summer camp. Bible Camp offers something for all ages throughout the year!

Missionaries from South Africa to speak on May 4 at 7pm

Our missionaries in South Africa, will speak on May 4 at 7pm. The Mission Committee extends a hearty invitation to one and all to hear them share about their South Africa based Young Adults in Global Mission. This program provides one-year service and learning opportunities in South Africa for ELCA young adults between the ages of 21-30. As the young adults offer themselves in service, they

also learn more about themselves, their relationship with God, and their place in God's world. Young adults are transformed by their experiences, equipping them to take on responsibilities within the ELCA and to provide a global perspective on issues facing the church and society. Come and give them a warm welcome!

Synod Resource Center celebrates 10 years of ministry

We celebrate 10 years of ministry through the Synod Resource Center. Last year, there were 270,843 online visits, 361 personal visits, and 508 phone calls to the Synod Resource Center; 88 congregations checked out hard copies of resources. This is a valuable tool for your congregation. We depend completely upon special gifts to maintain the Synod Resource Center. I hope you have included the Synod Resource Center in your annual mission plan, because of the sustainability of the center will depend upon such gifts. Learn more about the Synod Resource Center at <http://www.nswi.org/resources>.

Bishop's Written Report. 2011 Synod Assembly. Bishop Duane Pederson.



2014 Synod Assembly

Walking & Working Together
Saturday-Sunday, June 7-8, 2014
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Perhaps you have attended Walking Together, a one-day missional program jam-packed with practical ideas for your congregation. We hope you'll attend again this year and bring lots of folks from your congregation, too!

Maybe you have been selected by your congregation to attend the annual synod assembly, typically a two-day event during which we conduct the "business" of the synod.

This year we have combined these two events into one idea-filled, roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-to-work weekend!

Walking Together will begin around 8:30 a.m. Saturday and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Working Together (synod assembly) will begin Saturday evening and will conclude Sunday afternoon.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Emphasis on July 17-18

Our partnership with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will be the special emphasis on July 17-19. Giving the message on Sunday, July 18, will be Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Todd Iverson. The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod is comprised of 199 congregations, over 106,300 members, and nearly 300 clergy and rostered leaders. Synod means "walking together," which describes the interdependent ministry relationships as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and churchwide initiatives, provide for education events and leadership training, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in the world. Please read the inspiring message by Bishop Duane Pederson on page 2.

Pastor Bolstad to attend Rethinking Stewardship at Luther Seminary on July 24-26

Pastor Bolstad will attend "Rethinking Stewardship: Connecting Faith and Finances" at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN on July 24-26 as a part of allotted continuing education. Featured speakers will address the following questions: "Why do American Christians have such a difficult time connecting their faith and financial lives? How do congregations invite people to consider how their relationship with money both reflects and affects their relationship with Jesus?"

Great Expectations: What are Pastors, Churches Looking For?

This cover story in the July 2011 issue of *The Lutheran* explores the call process. "The call process is really a time of discernment for the congregation and its call committee, the rostered person and the synod staff to see whom God would send to serve God's people... Congregations take great care in preparing their "ministry site profile" - trying to paint a picture of their life and ministry. Rostered leaders take equal care in preparing their profiles. Bishops and synod staffs meet with congregations to ensure they understand their contexts and ministry needs. Bishops and staffs know the candidates. And the whole process is surrounded with prayer, asking the Spirit for guidance." There are a limited number of copies in the gathering area, or you may go online to Great Expectations: What Are Pastors, Churches Looking For? – The Lutheran Magazine to read about "when congregations and pastors find each other."

Lutheran Social Services Shared Ministry on August 21

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is one of the most highly regarded social service agencies of any denomination. Come and hear about the shared ministry with LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The LSS Church and Community Relations representative will give the message on August 21. She is energetic and passionate in talking about this shared ministry of Lutheran Social Services.

Companion Synod News

By Companion Synod Coordinator Diane Kaufmann

In 1999, the ELCA produced a strategic planning document entitled, *Global Mission in the Twenty-first Century*. The overall purpose of the plan is more effective witness to Jesus Christ. The document suggests that this can best be pursued by churches effectively walking together in companionship, as we are doing with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM).

One of the goals outlined in the strategic plan involves supporting education programs in our companion church. *Growing Together* is a joint effort of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the ELCM to do just that - to work together to increase the theological capacity of pastors, evangelists and deanery women's coordinators in Malawi.

To achieve this, Pastor David Anderson, Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, and Pastor Amy Odgren, synod staff, traveled to Malawi in July and taught at this year's Pastors' Academy.

Here are some of their observations about their experience:

"Why is the Academy important? Not all pastors have received formal theological education. Many of them became pastors after serving as evangelists for a period of time and attending twelve months of theological training offered by the ELCM. So for them, continuing education is necessary to build their theological knowledge base. The ELCM is a growing church and is experiencing a severe pastor shortage. One pastor may serve 10 or more preaching points. A church experiencing that kind of pastor shortage can't keep up with growth. Training short course pastors is one way to quickly get more pastors into the system."

"It's fun to be at the Academy. We see pastors renewing friendships and relationships. We see them challenging one another in friendly debates during the educational sessions. We are all learning from each other!"

The pastors of the ELCM are deeply appreciative of the teaching pastors. Here are some of their comments:

"Thank you for helping us to see things more deeply. You've worked hard and done your work to bring us such good teaching. We know it has cost you time and effort. Each day we are increasing our knowledge and learning more."

This year the nine deanery women's coordinators, a new position in the church, have been included in the academy. Three of them have had sufficient training to remain in the Pastors' Academy. The other six women were grouped together with the lay evangelists to learn at a more basic level. They are all eager to learn, and I anticipate that in future academies they will be ready for higher-level coursework. In fact, I look at them and wonder, will one of them become the first female pastor of the ELCM?

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin



Mosquito nets for sale during September

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi are part of a pilot program for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. During the month of September, you may purchase a bed net for \$10. The money will be sent to Malawi where the bed nets will be purchased and distributed. Members of the Mission Committee will be in the gathering each Sunday to take your orders. We hope you will participate!

ELCA Malaria Campaign

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have contributed \$10 million to support the ELCA Malaria Campaign in their effort to raise \$15 million by the end of 2015. Through the campaign, ELCA members have joined with companion Lutheran churches and partners in 13 African countries to prevent and treat malaria, educate communities about the disease and more. You have probably heard about the ELCA Malaria Campaign; perhaps you have even helped raise funds to donate to this worthwhile cause. But how much do you know about the work being done?

Did you know?

The ELCA Malaria Campaign funds programs of companion churches and Lutheran partners in education, prevention and treatment of malaria by:

- providing life-saving health care, including medicine to treat malaria
- training pastors, church volunteers and health care providers to diagnose and treat malaria
- teaching people how to protect themselves from the mosquitoes that spread malaria, recognize symptoms and seek treatment
- distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets and providing training on proper use
- providing preventative medication to protect pregnant women and their babies
- encouraging governments to provide adequate health care and engage in malaria prevention activities

- supporting community projects to control the environments where mosquitoes breed
- promoting sustainable livelihoods through participation in village savings and loans groups so that community members can afford mosquito nets, transport and health care
- gathering people together to discuss the importance of malaria prevention and control

Help spread the word!



ELCA Malaria Campaign - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.elca.org/malaria>

[Images for ELCA Malaria Campaign](#)

An evening with the bishop on September 13

You're invited to join the bishop for an evening of food and fellowship on September 13, 6:30-8:30pm, at Ezekiel Lutheran in River Falls. A light meal will be followed by a discussion of ways to strengthen the mission of congregations and synod.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,
and Your Congregation

As Lutherans, we have a strong tradition of joining hands to do God's work in ways that none of us individually, as a congregation, as a single synod, or as a denomination can do alone.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Every day, the impact of this joint ministry that we do together, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, and your congregation is felt in our communities, across the church and around the globe. Through this body, united in Christ, we do God's work – for the sake of the world.

What we do together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Through our offerings as members of the ELCA, we participate in God's mission in the world through our shared ministries:

- + Envision, plan, and support the planting of new congregations
- + Assist established congregations seeking transformation and renewal
- + Send missionaries to engage in global mission (260 missionaries in 50 countries)
- + Gather the youth of this church together to share, grow and serve their neighbors (37,000 youth and adults gathered in New Orleans in July 2009)
- + Provide financial support to global companion churches in evangelism and outreach, development of church leaders, sustainable community and agricultural development, primary health care, and basic education.
- + Educate and prepare pastors through support for 8 ELCA seminaries
- + Support and sustain 28 ELCA colleges
- + 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 in our communities or across the globe
- + Welcome and provide resettlement support to individuals who have fled persecution in other countries through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
- + Serve one in every 50 people across the United States and the Caribbean, every year, through Lutheran social ministry organizations. Lutheran Services in America is the largest social service organization in the world, serving more people than any other organization, including Red Cross and the Salvation Army.
- + Reach out to young adults through Lutheran schools, outdoor ministries, and campus ministries at colleges and universities
- + Engage as a global, Christian community, including global relief and development through the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, and National Council of Churches in Christ

Member congregations of the ELCA have unique access to many opportunities, resources and support

- + Synod bishop and staff that provide care for pastors and rostered lay leaders, resources and guidance during pastoral transitions and the calling of new pastors, resources in planning, congregational development, and congregational conflict
- + The ability to call a pastor from the roster of well-educated and prepared ELCA pastors who commit to meeting defined expectations
- + Access to grants for congregational development, hunger-related ministries, and ethnic specific ministries
- + National identity as a member congregation of the largest Lutheran church body in the United States and the Caribbean
- + Investment opportunities and financial services, including building loans, through the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and the Endowment Fund of the ELCA

- + Guidance in planned giving, congregational endowment planning and management, and major gift programs through the ELCA Foundation
- + Stewardship guidance, resources and support
- + Access to research data, including demographic data for any given area
- + Compensation guidelines for ELCA clergy
- + Participation in the ELCA pension and benefit program that meets the unique retirement and medical needs of pastors and rostered lay leaders, and allows for smooth transitions from one congregational call to the next
- + Educational resources that are developed from a theological perspective based on the Lutheran confessions

What we do together as the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

- + the focus of mission and ministry in our synod, particularly campus ministries at UW-EC, UW-Stout, UW-River Falls; Fall Ministry Retreat and Winter Theological Event for rostered leaders; mission consultations and cluster events; the Synod Resource Center; synod-wide efforts to address hunger and malaria; and Congregation Council leadership events.
- + the ability for staff to visit congregations and leaders throughout the synod.
- + building relationships within the synod that help fund salaries for the bishop and staff, staff who oversee and coordinate interim ministry, congregational call processes, clergy mobility, conflict, mission development, congregational realignments, education events for rostered leadership, retired pastor's support, stewardship and evangelism support, synodical youth events and gatherings, mission communication, data and financial management, leadership development, the Bishop's Initiative, and more.
- + funding seminaries, church colleges, regional mobility conferences for pastors, emergency assistance for rostered leaders, and many other opportunities to support congregations, specialized ministries, and rostered and lay leadership.
- + congregational assistance for mission planning, visioning, and ecumenical alliances.
- + support for our global companions in Malawi and Brazil.
- + support of Soul Support for executive assistants and secretaries, Candidacy Committee work on behalf of seminarians, Youth Worker's Network, First Call Debt Reduction, Fund for Leaders to assist with seminarian tuition, etc.

Our Mission Together Continues When we work together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, and your congregation, we are doing God's work in ways that no individual, no congregation, nor synod can do alone.
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Thank you from Luther Point Bible Camp

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for participating in Luther Point Bible Camp's capital campaign. Your generation donation of \$5,000 to Opening More Doors Together capital campaign is accepted with sincere appreciation. Your support will help make it possible for campers to have a new safer, storm shelter and a Youth Retreat Center during the fall, winter, and spring. I continue to believe in this campaign and the opportunities it will bring for more year-round programming and a safer place for campers to come in the summer.

I want to thank you for being part of the ministry both through your prayers and financial support. Luther Point is blessed because of your support. Thank you for helping to make it possible for lives to be enriched by experiencing the love of Christ in this holy place.

Partners in Ministry,

Pastor Craig Corbin, Director

Being Transformed

By Melanie Gibbons

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. — 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NRSV)

It snowed again in Baltimore this week. Even so, there have been recent days in the 50s, and more are predicted in the near future. Spring is almost here, and for many, the season of light and life has been a long time coming. Were ready to shed our winter clothes. We're ready for the ice to melt, to put away our snow shovels and for no more school delays! We're ready for the transformation of spring.

We've been reflecting on transformation here at LWR as we wrap up the 2013 Quilt Campaign. The challenge of 500,000 Quilts gave us a lot of energy last year! Quilters around the country doubled their quilting efforts, meeting more frequently, and invited friends to join the project and the fun. Camps in Nebraska and Texas jumped right in, making hundreds of Quilts over the course of several weeks of summer camp.

So, how did we do? Our warehouse staff and volunteers have been working hard to count and bale the thousands upon thousands of Quilts that came in through fall Ingatherings last October and November, with still more to count. As of the end of February, we've counted 401,931 Quilts, and we know more will come in this spring. More than the numbers, we know the powerful impact all this quilting is having on the world.

In Thailand, families sleeping in temporary shelters far from home are sheltered from the wind and rain and protected from drafts that blow through the slats of bamboo that make up their floors and walls.

In Tanzania, people living in state-run elder care facilities are able to keep warm at night, and children recovering from surgery are comforted by soft fabric and bright colors.

In the Philippines, people who lost everything in Typhoon Haiyan last November have something warm to sleep under while they work to repair and rebuild their damaged homes.

And the impact isn't just on the other side of the ocean, either. Over and over, we've heard how the Quilt Campaign transformed your congregations, quilting groups, communities and families. Through this project, we've been reminded that when God calls us

to something, it not only transforms the world but transforms us, too. What a gift — to be able to give ourselves away and yet somehow not be diminished, but rather to grow.

In celebration of these transformations at home and around the world, many congregations will join LWR in celebrating the success of the Quilt Campaign this Sunday, March 2, Transfiguration Sunday. What a perfect day to celebrate the transformative ministry of quilting, and the way God is working in our lives through these simple gifts of fabric and thread. We invite you to join us, celebrating this week or any other week! You can find resources for your celebration Sunday at lwr.org/quiltcampaign. So, to you who have quilted, donated fabric or money for thread or batting, or transported Quilts all over the country — thank you. Thank you for taking the risk of giving so very much of yourselves away for the sake of the world, to embody the love of Christ that runs through your hearts. And thank you for sharing how God has turned those gifts into transformation and change and growth. We thank God for each and every one of you!

Melanie Gibbons is LWR's Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager.

[http://lwr.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?Images for LWR Quilt Campaign](http://lwr.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?Images+for+LWR+Quilt+Campaign)

Worship on October 16 to emphasize companion synod relationship

The Companion Synod emphasis on October 16 will focus on our relationship with our companion synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi, Africa. Companion Synod Coordinator Diane Kaufman will present the message and offer an adult forum. The companion synod relationship exists for the purpose of strengthening one another for life and mission within the body of Christ. It offers us the privilege of mutually participating in the life of another church through prayer, study, communication, and exchange of pastors, leaders, visitors, and resources. It opens our eyes to the global challenge that Christ offers us today!

Study Time

The Lutheran's November issue has perfect resources for individual and group study. Ponder "The sermon" with columnist Peter W. Marty, who says it's often just an earful of talk about God when folks want an encounter with God. Go deeper into the "End-times," two ELCA teaching theologians say Scripture is a witness to ways Christians can ignore fear-mongering. And journey with an author who writes about "Having cancer, talking cancer" (to help your discussion of this article, visit www.thelutheran.org for a study guide — click on "study guides" on the left-hand side).

<http://www.thelutheran.org/template/page.cfm?id=46>

[Images for Study Time - The Lutheran](https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

An afternoon with the bishop on November 4

You're invited to join the bishop for an afternoon November 4, 4pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. The gatherings are intended for all congregational members, not just rostered person or lay leadership. The theme will be *All Things New*, which will also be the theme of the 2013 synod assembly.

According to Bishop Pederson, "I want to have a conversation with attendees about what they envision next for the synod, what strengths we should build upon, and how our partnership as congregations of the synod can be leveraged for effective witness and service. I believe it is an important discussion because it strikes at the heart of our identity and purpose as a church."



We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world - together.

We don't have to do it alone, and we don't have to do everything. Each of us has a unique story, and we are part of a larger story that makes up the ELCA. We work through our congregations, synods and partners, and the churchwide organization. Together, we achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise.

News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA Week of December 8, 2013

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/News-from-NW-Synod-of-WI.html?soid=1101126434512&aid=kwsSV67Pdic>

[Images for God is calling us into the world together](#)

2012 Mission Plan in Story

Your Northwest Synod of Wisconsin extends the mission of 199 congregations with the good news of Jesus Christ through the trust, hopes, vision, prayers, and generosity of 96,635 baptized members.

The energy and resources of your synod are focused in four key areas:

1. Mission Partners
2. Congregational Support
3. Leadership Development

4. Churchwide Support

Each of these first three areas include a proportionate share of synod staff salaries, travel, and office expenses. The fourth area is financial aspect of the covenant connection between synods and the churchwide expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Each of these areas has a story rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ: to redeem the world.

The mission plan of the synod is funded in two ways -

91% of the mission plan is undesignated mission support from congregations.

2012 mission plan = \$1,410,000.

9% of the mission plan is grants from churchwide and interest income.

2012 mission plan = \$140,800.

1. Mission Partners

Mission partners are groups of fellow disciples ministering in very specific areas of focus in God's kingdom. Through our synod's mission plan, we joyfully give direct support to these eight mission partners:

- The ELCA seminaries of Region 5
Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa
Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois
- ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministry centers on three University of Wisconsin campuses: U of W – Eau Claire, U of W – Stout in Menomonie, and U of W – River Falls
- An ELCA college – Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN
- Wisconsin Council of Churches
- ELCA Region 5 operational support
- First Call Theological Education among the six synods of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan
- The Lutheran Office for Public Policy of Wisconsin
- The Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers in Duluth, MN

Each of these ministries has a wealth of stories of their own, and our connection with them enriches God's world. We commit 17% of all undesignated gifts to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to these eight mission partners through direct support (\$195,185) and synod staff time and resources given to them (\$47,853).

2012 Investment in Mission Partners: \$242,853

2. Leadership Development

Leadership matters, so your synod staff works hard to provide quality leadership coaching, tools, and educational experiences for rostered and lay leaders in over 199 congregations.

Roughly 38% of your synod staff's time is spent focusing on leadership development. With volunteers from across the synod, and quality speakers from across the country, they plan, organize, lead, teach, and sponsor the following events:

- Synod Assembly
- Walking Together Resource Fair
- Fall Ministry Retreat
- Winter Theological Event
- Soul Support (for church office professionals)

Your synod staff coordinates:

- Candidacy for rostered leadership in the ELCA – pastors, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses
- First Call Theological Education/colleague groups
- Constitutional interpretation
- Lutheran Youth Organization
- Youth Networker's Network

Your synod staff participates in:

- Coaching for rostered and lay leadership
- Conference gatherings
- Synod Council
- Consultations

2012 Investment in Leadership Development \$169,778

3. Congregational Support

Every congregation in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is stronger together than alone.

All these partners in the Gospel build up your local congregation by giving generously to the synod's mission plan. Your synod staff is committed to fostering healthy congregations engaged in vibrant mission in their communities. In fact, the majority of your synod staff's time is spent in support of the mission of the congregations on the front lines of ministry!

Through the call process, guest preaching and teaching, installations, Biblical stewardship campaigns, Book of Faith Initiative, conferences, workshops, consultations, redevelopment of congregations, conflict resolution, anniversaries, congregation council retreats, synod assembly, secretarial support, and resources, your synod staff works hard to be the support staff to all the baptized of this synod. We are "walking together for the sake of mission in God's world."

2012 Investment in Congregational Support: \$227,176

4. Churchwide Support

The first fruits of what your synod receives is given to support the work of the wider church. The constitution of the ELCA describes the covenant relationship among congregations, synods, and the churchwide expressions of the church. That covenant prescribes that 55% of all undesignated gifts to synods be shared with the wider church.

Together, the fruits of our partnership in the good news of Jesus Christ currently fund these ministries and more:

- 60 new congregations approved, 50 percent in multicultural communities
- 163 existing congregations intentionally focused on renewal
- \$2.5 million in grants awarded to support ELCA ministries in congregations
- 240 missionaries in 50 countries, including 50 young adult volunteers
- Advocacy work with the United Nations and the federal government
- 26 ELCA colleges and universities
- 8 ELCA seminaries
- Over 180 campus ministries, with cooperating congregations in campus ministries at an additional 400 campuses nationwide
- Partnerships with The Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches in Christ

Many more stories of our shared ministry may be found in the magazine *Stories of Faith in Action*.

2012 Investment in Churchwide Support \$775,500

Poster supplied by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA

Vibrant Faith Commitment Sunday on November 13

This congregation is moving ahead as a *vibrant faith* church and is looking forward to a new chapter in its journey of faith. With this in mind, Vibrant Faith Commitment Sunday will provide an opportunity to offer an estimate of giving for the upcoming year. A mailing will be coming out to provide the card. Our special speaker for the day will be Assistant to the Bishop Amy Odgren who is the Director for Evangelical Mission in our Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and shared staff with the ELCA. She will share with us how walking together makes for a more vibrant faith church. She will also speak at an adult forum between services. Your generous support of the life and ministry of this congregation is much appreciated!

Pastor Bolstad to attend *Everyday faith – sharing the message and the vision* at Luther Seminary on November 15-17

Pastor Bolstad will be attending an educational event at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN on November 15-17 that relates to the congregation mission of being a vibrant church in which we seek to grow in our faith and to share that faith with others.

The course is described as follows: "If there is one cry from today's congregational members that rises above all others, it's the desire for their faith to be relevant. How does what we do in worship on Sunday connect with the rest of our lives Monday through Saturday? How does our Christian faith affect and inform our various roles as employee, citizen, parent, friend, and more? How does the gospel help us make sense of our daily lives in the world? Joint faculty at Luther Seminary who are working with their peers at four other seminaries across the country to empower all Christians to live their faith every day."

Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service on November 20

Women of the Lutheran church have been gathering for thank offering services since the early 1990s. It is a tradition grounded in a celebration of community in which faithful women joyfully give thanks and praise for what God has given. Join in offering thanks on November 20 for the Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service. Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits will be displayed. A special invitation is extended to all women of the congregation!



**Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.**

December 4, 2012

Dear Co-Workers in the Gospel,

I write to you about money. It is a ministry resource and it is a way that we express our part in something larger than ourselves or our congregations. Please do two things for me:

1. Be sure that you are paid up to date with what you planned to give to Undesignated Mission Support for 2012.
2. Reflect with your Congregation Council how you can move to and beyond being a tithing congregation, that is giving at least 10% of your offerings to Undesignated Mission Support.

Some of you may know that I am leaving the synod office to become pastor of a congregation in southern Wisconsin. As I prepare to return to the parish, I have been thinking about how honored I have been to walk with you in many and various ways through these past five years. I have also been thinking about how vitally important synod ministry is. In moving towards a mission mindset, in the call process, in ecumenical relationships, in disaster relief, in campus ministry, in raising up leaders, in encouragement, in learning, in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, without a doubt we are stronger together.

However, the continued shrinking mission plan (budget) of this synod hampers our work. Over the past ten years, the synod mission plan has shrunk by 13.6% in real dollars. Factor in inflation and the ministry power of our synod has diminished by 32.5%. Out of 199 congregations, fewer than 10% give 10% or more to Undesignated Mission Support. Much of that can be blamed on the economy, and some of it can be blamed on the downsizing of our congregations. But the search for excuses only distracts us from focusing on the only real way forward: basic biblical principles of financial stewardship.

Does your congregation designate a certain percentage of offerings to go to the body of Christ in a no-strings-attached (undesignated) kind of way? Or do you simply carry over what you did before and add a little "if you can"? Does your congregation give from your first fruits? Or do you save that "synod bill" until the end "if we have enough left over"? Does your congregation celebrate giving as an act of worship and your partnership with the whole church as a blessing? Or is the offering a time of shame and guilt and Undesignated Mission Support are your "dues"?

The congregation I am going to lead went through significant conflict several years ago and reduced their undesignated mission support to 5%. Christ has brought healing, but I plan to work with the Congregation Council to rediscover the joy of generosity and to develop a strategy for getting back to 10% no-strings-attached, pure trust in God, joyful giving to the wider church.

Will you join me in this important work?

[Here you will find the Statement of Intent for 2013.](#) Please fill this out after you have prayerfully considered what your congregation's commitment to Undesignated Mission Support will be in the coming year. I look forward to our continued partnership in the gospel.

In Christ,
Pastor Todd Iverson

Good Gifts for the Christmas season

Need to find a gift? This Christmas season join in the "Good Gifts" project sponsored by our Mission Committee. ELCA Good Gifts catalogs, full of many useful gifts for here and around the world, will be available in the gathering area beginning November 27 through December 18. Committee members will be available with catalogs, cards, and sticker, or to answer any questions you may have.



Call Committee Decides on a Candidate

The Call Committee at its December 14 meeting unanimously decided on a candidate to present to the Congregation Council at its January 4 budget meeting. Continue to pray for God's direction in this call process!

From the Pastor

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for all of you making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

As the Day of Thanksgiving draws closer, I stop to reflect on the privilege that is mine to serve as your interim pastor and partner in the gospel. I am thankful that the risen Lord present in the Holy Spirit is accomplishing a good work in our midst. During November, we give thanks as a community of faith.

+ On All Saints Sunday, November 6, we give thanks for the faithful departed. Specifically, we will re-member those who have died during this past year and for whom funeral or memorial services have been conducted by your pastor.

+ On Vibrant Faith Commitment Sunday, November 13, we offer our thanksgiving by bringing an estimate of giving card to worship to place in the offering plate. A cover letter and card will be mailed separately to each household. Our special speaker will be Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Amy Odgren. We give thanks that we can walk together as a congregation, synod, and churchwide to do together the work we could not do alone.

+ On Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service, November 20, we join in a thank offering service. A special thanks to the women of the congregation for their service to this church during the past year.

+ On Thanksgiving Eve, November 23, we gather to sing some of the beloved thanksgiving hymns and hear a message of thanksgiving.

+ On the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, we join in a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Advent speaks of the coming of our Lord: at the end of time, in our midst, and as a babe born in a manger.

Again, I give thanks for the privilege of serving as your interim pastor and look forward to our continued partnership in the gospel.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

We Walk Together

A Good Idea

Pastor Martin Halom, from St. John's in Bloomer, sent in a good idea to share with others this week. At the beginning of each Sunday service, he gives a multiple choice quiz about the ELCA to raise awareness of its ministry and basic information. He has provided several questions, and we invite you to try them out in your own setting. [View questions.](#)

[News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact](#)

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1112722780417.html>

[Images for raise awareness about the ELCA](#)

Resources

a rising tide lifts all boats - Wiktionary

Proverb

[a rising tide lifts all boats](#)

1. A truly good outcome benefits all.

http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/a_rising_tide_lifts_all_boats

[Images for a rising tide lifts all boats](#)

ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN

- When you go out in the world, watch out for traffic, [hold hands and stick together](#).

<http://www.peace.ca/kindergarten.htm>

[Images for All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten](#)

[Images for hold hands and stick together](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_I_Really_Need_to_Know_I_Learned_in_Kindergarten

Frameworks: Patterns for Living and Believing Today [Douglas Alan Walrath]

A “framework” consists of perspectives through which an individual approaches living and believing. Each person's framework is molded fundamentally by certain key social and cultural phenomena. Persons who grow up together through experiences unique to their time and hold common interpretations of these experiences form a cohort. Members of the same cohort often share a common framework. *Frameworks* describes the different perspectives of the three cohorts and suggests how pastors and other church leaders can meet the faith development of those within each cohort.

<http://www.amazon.com/Frameworks-Patterns-Living-Believing-Today/dp/0829807438>

<http://www.paperbackswap.com/Frameworks-Patterns-Living-Douglas-Alan-Walrath/book/0829807438/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Douglas-Alan-Walrath/e/B001KIDRMO>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1338133.Douglas_Alán_Walrath

[Images for Douglas Alan Walrath, author](#)

[Images for Patterns for Living and Believing Today](#)

Freeloaders don't get it - The Lutheran Magazine

[We all benefit from the ELCA: all need to do our fair share for the good of the body](#)

“Freddy the Freeloader” — one of Red Skelton's more memorable characters — always tried to get something for nothing, pretending all the while he was perfectly innocent of any such endeavor and feigning surprise when he was caught in the act. That old image of Freddy comes to mind whenever I hear about congregations that don't contribute their fair share to the mission support of the ELCA. You know the ones I mean. We have some in our synod, and you have some in yours. These are the congregations and their pastors that, for whatever reason or excuse, don't send on a fair percent of their income to support the work of the wider church.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=2515

[Images for Freeloaders don't get it - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Has church branding progressed too far? - Adam J. Copeland

It's easy enough to define the Christian church today by drawing lines in the sand, but a more faithful way forward calls on us to cross these ridiculous boundaries so that Christians, left and right, progressive and other, work together in Christian unity. Certainly, we must make clear claims. Certainly, we will disagree. But that's the point: clearly, with boldness, by citing specific mission and ministry, we can [discern what we're called to do together](#).

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2015/01/05/has-church-branding-progressed-too-far/>

[Images for discern what we're called to do together](#)

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/tag/mission-statement/>

Seeing the larger church: Confirmands 'say cheese' with a synod bishop at annual gathering - The Lutheran Magazine

ConFEST started six years ago as a way to introduce confirmands to the larger church. “For a lot of these kids, this is the only experience with the wider church they ever get,” Larson said, noting that some young people, particularly those in small, rural communities, rarely have opportunities to mingle with people from other synod congregations. Attending ConFEST shows students they aren't alone, either as Lutherans or Christians, she said, adding: “For some this will be the only experience that paints a picture of how we are [one in Christ](#).”

The class photos with Larson are taken after a high-energy worship service that includes music by a praise band from the host church as well as a short, inspirational message from the bishop. While plenty of jostling and giggling accompany the setting up for the photo, a baptismal font in the foreground helps remind students of their baptism into the body of Christ. The photos are later sent to the congregations, so prints can be made for each student.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=6274

[Images for introduce confirmands to the larger church](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

1) Association

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

The AFLC is a fellowship of independent congregations, who have chosen to be interdependent for the purpose of accomplishing service in the Kingdom of God that cannot best be done alone.

<https://www.aflc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/afclchomemissions/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Free_Lutheran_Congregations

[Images for Association of Free Lutheran Congregations](#)

5 Beliefs That Set Congregational Church Apart from Other Christians

In the United States, the Congregational Church includes the United Church of Christ, the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, and the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. Each of these groups is an **association** of independent, autonomous individual churches.

<http://www.newsmax.com/FastFeatures/congregational-church-christians-beliefs/2015/04/02/id/636039/>

[Images for association of independent, autonomous individual churches](#)

History - National Association of Evangelicals

The year 2012 marked 70 years of spiritual ministry by the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), a coordinating agency facilitating Christian unity, public witness, and cooperative ministry among evangelical denominations, congregations, educational institutions and service agencies in the United States. NAE traces its beginnings to April of 1942, when a modest group of 147 people met in St. Louis with the hopes of reshaping the direction of evangelical Christianity in America.

<http://nae.net/about-nae/history/>

[Images for National Association of Evangelicals](#)

Nondenominational Congregations Today, a report from FACT

Nearly 50 percent (49.6) of the nondenominational congregations said they belonged to a Network, Fellowship or **Association**.

These networks ranged anywhere from 20 members to over a thousand. The median network size was 300 churches.

http://hrr.hartsem.edu/cong/nondenom_FACT.html

[Images for Nondenominational Congregations Today](#)

To the Leadership of Independent Affiliates of the UUA

That said, we wonder how our longstanding structure of Independent Affiliates has served the UUA, as an **association** of congregations. To us, it appears that we have developed a growing number of separate groups, each of which may be doing excellent work, but with little or no connection (that we can discern) to other Independent Affiliates or the congregations that make up the UUA. In light of this situation, the Board began to wonder what it means to be an Independent Affiliate of an association of independent (and interdependent) congregations.

<http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/board/packets/26969.shtml>

[Images for associations of congregations](#)

2) Churchwide

ELCA Good Gifts - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

The resources below – from catalogs to coin banks, bulletin inserts to planning guides – make it easy (and fun!) for your family, your congregation and your community say “goodbye” to traditional gift-giving and “hello” to meaningful gifts that really make a difference in the world.

Ready to shop now? Visit the [ELCA Good Gifts](#) store and print or order cards to tell loved ones about gifts given in their honor.

The 24-page ELCA Good Gifts catalog offers many different ways to honor friends and loved ones with gifts that make a difference. Order cards and stickers to announce your gifts to others.



<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/ELCA-Good-Gifts>

[Images for ELCA Good Gifts](#)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Home

New to the ELCA?

Welcome to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The ELCA is a church of more than 4 million members who actively participate in God's work in the world. We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world. We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here. We live in many different communities, span all ages, cultures and races and bring to this church unique life experiences and perspectives. Seek answers to your questions and discover what God is calling you to in life.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

<http://www.elca.org/>

[Images for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

ELCA Malaria Campaign - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The ELCA Malaria Campaign has a variety of resources to help you tell the story of the work being done in 13 countries throughout Africa. All of the resources are available for free either by downloading or by ordering from our e-store. From posters to crafts, bulletin inserts to videos and much more, you will find everything you need to spread the word and raise awareness on behalf of the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Find country profiles and newsletters to learn about how the ELCA Malaria Campaign is making an impact with our companions in Africa.



<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/ELCA-Malaria-Campaign>

[Images for ELCA Malaria Campaign](#)

ELCA World Hunger - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Working with and through our congregations in the U.S., Lutheran churches around the world, and other partners, [ELCA World Hunger](#) is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. [Learn More.](#)

Ready to get started? From education to fundraising, from bulletin inserts to short videos — you will find resources for all ages and group sizes.



<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger>

[Images for ELCA World Hunger](#)

Lutheran Disaster Response - Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Find resources for you and your congregation to get involved, spread the word and help raise money for people affected by disasters.

One of the most popular ways to spread the news to your congregation after a disaster strikes.



DISASTER RESPONSE

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>
[Images for ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response](#)

Shout-out for Team ELCA | The Lutheran

STORY BY

ELIZABETH A. EATON

A call to all for greater, deeper and unapologetic participation in this church

But the baptized aren't just a collection of individuals in the church for what they can get out of it. We have been claimed by Christ. Paul reminds us, "You are not your own" (1 Corinthians 6:19). The Marine Corps has billboards that proclaim: "Serving something greater than themselves." How is it that they are better at articulating what it means to be church together than we are? This isn't a plug for institutional survival or mindless loyalty. It's a call to each of us and all of us to greater, deeper and unapologetic participation in the part of the church known as the ELCA. We can have a little pride in who we are without irony. I believe I've established my theological heft, so I am allowed a little hokeyness. Here it is: We are Team ELCA.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12029

<http://www.njsynod.org/single-post/2014/06/18/Shoutout-for-Team-ELCA-by-Presiding-Bishop-Elizabeth-Eaton>

[Images for Shout-out for Team ELCA | The Lutheran](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Stories of Faith in Action - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The publication *Stories of Faith in Action* and the resources that go along with it are designed to share how important your weekly offering in your congregation is in sustaining and growing God's mission. The portion of your offerings that support the ELCA's synodical and churchwide ministries is called Mission Support. The publication and resources found here help explain and answer questions about Mission Support and tell the story of those gifts in action.



<http://elca.org/en/Resources/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action>

[Images for ELCA Stories of Faith in Action](#)

3) Communities

A Joint Vision for Youth Ministry | Magazine | Westmont

How can churches attract more teenagers? Three Methodist congregations in San Jose, Calif., succeeded by banding together and creating the Joint Youth Ministry (JYM). Each offers its own Sunday school and church service, but they unite on programs for teens.

<http://blogs.westmont.edu/magazine/2011/07/21/a-joint-vision-for-youth-ministry/>

[Images for Joint Vision for Youth Ministry](#)

Five Kinnelon churches to hold joint Thanksgiving worship service

Five congregations in Kinnelon will celebrate Thanksgiving together in a joint worship service at the Reformed Church in Kinnelon, Sunday, Nov. 24 at 7pm. The congregations of St. David's Episcopal Church, Our Lady of the Magnificat Catholic Church, the Community Church of Smoke Rise, Christ Church, and the Reformed Church in Kinnelon will all participate.

<http://www.northjersey.com/community/events/232785421-Five-Kinnelon-churches-to-hold-joint-Thanksgiving-worship-service.html>

[Images for joint Thanksgiving worship service](#)

JONAH

Jonah – Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope – a grassroots organization, comprised primarily of diverse faith communities, seeks to bring people in the Chippewa Valley into relationship and empower one another to build a healthier and fairer **community** for us all.

<http://jonahjustice.org/>

https://volumeone.org/listings//31/631_JONAH

<http://northernspiritradio.org/episode/jonah-joining-our-neighbors-advancing-hope>

[Images for Jonah – Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope](#)

North Penn Ministerium hosts joint Good Friday service - The Reporter

For nearly 35 years, the North Penn Ministerium has been presenting a Good Friday service for the **community**, according to the Rev. Sue Bertolette of St. Johns United Church of Christ. The service, like many other churches run, used to last three hours, but has been shortened to better fit its intended audience.

<http://www.thereporteronline.com/article/RO/20130329/NEWS01/130329395>

[Images for Good Friday service for the community](#)

The Future is Now... in Richland Center

Together the pastors of the 22-member congregations have started four homeless shelters, a cooperative youth program, a quarterly **Community** Leaders Forum, a Youth/Family/Advisor Program sponsored jointly with the Richland School District, and five community worship events each year.

[Latest Ecu-News Newsletter - Wisconsin Council of Churches](#)

http://www.wichurches.org/sitecontent/pdf_files/ecu_news/EcuNews.pdf

[Images for congregations started cooperative youth program](#)

4) Companion

Companion Ministries of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is one of the fastest growing churches in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The ELCM was established November 21, 1982. The establishment was done by indigenous lay people who became Lutherans as they worked in the neighboring countries of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania where Lutheranism had already existed and rooted. In 1999, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA covenanted together in a **companion synod relationship**.

Companion Congregations/Parishes

This program is part of the larger companion synod relationship. All congregations and parishes in our two churches walk together and are encouraged to participate in this joyful ministry.

[View more information on becoming a matched congregation.](#)

[View matched congregations in our synod.](#)

http://www.nwswi.org/our_faith_in_action/companion_ministries.phtml

[Images for Companion Ministries of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

Pastors Travel to Malawi

Once again, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi will collaborate with pastors from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin who will teach at the Pastors' Academy in Lilongwe. About 30 pastors are expected to attend the week long program that runs from July 21-25.

According to Skow-Anderson, this year's theme will be "Angels, Dreams, Revelation and Vision: How Does God Speak to Us Today?" Although this will be her first trip to Malawi, she has been to Africa before and looks forward to learning from the Malawi people how they have experienced God in their lives.

Although Sutherland traveled to Malawi as a teaching pastor last summer, this year his role is that of **companion synod** coordinator. He looks forward to reconnecting with the saints in Malawi.

When asked about his expectations for the trip, Morck replied, "The one thing I'm looking forward to is to see life from the perspective of the people, or at least try to. Mostly it will be to be with the people that live there and, in the ways we are able, to see life through their eyes. So, it will be everyday matters of social interaction, to the struggles that they face, to the issues of faith and life and how they manage to be church in a place very much different than our own. I am very grateful, honored and humbled to be part of the Pastors' Academy this year. I am thankful for this synod and the way it has embraced this partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi. I go representing my colleagues and the congregations of this synod and of the ELCA. I go as a pastor to be with pastors and to learn together. I am thankful for the congregation I serve, Central Lutheran of Mondovi, for their partnership in making this happen."

Before the academy begins, the group will have an opportunity to visit different parishes in Malawi. They will also enjoy a safari at Vu Camp.

In 2015, we will host a synod-wide trip for those who are interested in traveling to Malawi. Details will be available later this year. Please remember our brothers and sisters in Malawi, as well as our teaching pastors in your prayers.



News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of July 6, 2014

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1117892713380.html>

[Images for Lutheran Pastors Travel to Malawi](#)

5) Conference

**Dairyland Conference
Pastor’s Meetings 2017-2018**

Thursday, September 21

Rev. Dr. Laurie Skow-Anderson, Dir. for Evangelical Mission, NW WI Synod
“How Do We Lead God’s People: NOW?”

Evangelical Lutheran
Black River Falls
Rev. Eric Bakken
(715) 284-4213

Thursday, October 19

Deacon Laura Ramlow, Campus Minister @ UW River Falls
“Campus Ministry & Inter-Generational Ministry”

Upper Pigeon Creek
Rural Hixton
Rev. David Christianson
(715) 984-2234

Thursday, November 16

Rev. Donna Rutten, Retired Lt. Colonel, Synod Centurion
“What is the Synod Centurion: A Ministry for/with Veterans/Families”

Chimney Rock
Rural Strum
Rev. Lisa Watson-Hill
(715) 985-3487

Thursday, December 21

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones, Pastor @ Grace Lutheran, Eau Claire
Member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers
“The Art of Biblical Storytelling”

Little Norway
Rural Black River Falls
Rev. Denise Anderson
(715) 284-5965

Thursday, January 18

Rev. Dr. Bob Leshner, retired ELCA Pastor (12 years in Chicago Street Ministry)
“Racism & Society: A Christian Response”

Osseo Evangelical
Osseo
Rev. Terry Lorenz
(715) 597-3213

Thursday, February 15

Bishop Rick Hoyme
“Anything I Want to Talk About!”

Lyster Lutheran
Rural Nelson
Rev. Mike Vetsch
(715) 673-4991

Thursday, March 15

Rev. Kurt Jacobson, Sr. Pastor @ Trinity Lutheran, Eau Claire
“Penguins in the Pew: A Closer Look @ Us”
Mustard Seed Consulting

Central Lutheran
Mondovi
Rev. Rolf Mork
(715) 926-3811

Thursday, April 19 @ 7:00pm

(Dairyland Conference Meeting)
Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann, Asst. Professor Lutheran Confessions
Wartburg Seminary: “American Lutheranism”

Chimney Rock
Rural Strum
Rev. Lisa Watson-Hill
(715) 985-3487

Thursday, May 17

Peace Lutheran

6) Connections

A message from the bishop - Preparing the way

By Bishop Rick Hoyme

We stand ready to point friend and stranger to the way of following Jesus. We make that way, so others can travel it as we have before them. We build bridges between people, between denominations, between nations.

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is known nationwide and worldwide as a church that bridges the divisions between Christians and non-Christians alike. We put up signs that **connect** people by showing them the way to unity and community.

Other denominations and faiths do these things as well, but I am confident that no one does it better than the ELCA!

[View current issue. - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

<http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/5h-0914-web.pdf>

<http://nswi.org/about-us/our-staff>

[Images for connect people by showing them the way to unity and community](#)

[Images for Bishop Rick Hoyme](#)

[Are We All in This Together - Margaret Wheatley](#)

One of the most commonly heard phrases today is, "We're all in this together." From high-level leaders to local school board members to teen-agers offering service, this is the mantra of our time. This mantra makes visible what, until lately, has been invisible: community, the web of our **interconnections**, the safety net of caring that we extend to one another when life is hard.

Fortunately, more people now are discovering that humans only persevere through difficulties when we're truly together.

<http://www.margaretwheatley.com/articles/All-In-This-Together.pdf>

[Images for web of our interconnections](#)

<http://www.margaretwheatley.com/articles/Reweaving-the-Web.pdf>

<https://www.amazon.com/Margaret-J.-Wheatley/e/B000APA88O>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/157975.Margaret_J_Wheatley

[Images for Margaret Wheatley, author](#)

[Connected - Bible Study Book: My Life in the Church by Thom Rainer \(Author\)](#)

Connected: My Life in the Church Leader Kit by Dr. Thom S. Rainer provides a biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ through a study of the Book of Ephesians. This study moves us to see that God has placed us in our local churches to serve others, care for them, pray together, learn together, and grow together—all for the glory of God. This group Bible study is a great companion or follow-up to Dr. Rainer's *I Am A Church Member*. Group Member Book includes a small group experience for six sessions, applicable Scripture, key word study, and a life application section called "Live It Out."

Purchase one for each member. Use with Bible Studies for Life: Connected: My Life in the Church Leader Kit. This release is part of Bible Studies for Life™ small group series, equipping you to understand how faith impacts your family, your career, and your struggles. And all the while challenges you to live out your faith, right where you are.

Session titles:

1. Connected in Christ—Ephesians 2:17-22
2. Connected in Unity—Ephesians 4:1-6
3. Connected in Growth—Ephesians 4:11-16
4. Connected Through Words—Ephesians 4:25-32
5. Connected in Service—Ephesians 5:15-21
6. Connected through Prayer—Ephesians 6:18-22

<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/connected-bible-study-book-P005672342?intcmp=MTX-Rainer-PAPage-Button-Connected-20140108>

<https://s7d9.scene7.com/is/content/LifeWayChristianResources/Connected-Samplepdf.pdf>

<https://www.christianbook.com/bible-studies-life-connected-the-church/thom-rainer/9781430034261/pd/034261>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Connected.html?id=wTjtngEACAAJ>

<http://storage.cloversites.com/maysvillebaptistchurchinc/documents/ya1ldr.pdf>

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/bhpub/edoc/005075045.2014->

FAL_SMPL.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=1FAF154W9TVZ6M3REZG2&Expires=1715201722&Signature=ErDbVorFFhecyVLTJEjwFn2UAcc%3D

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5da49NH_syE Connected by Thom Rainer (Trailer) - YouTube

<http://thomrainer.com/connected/>

<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-how-to/176672-thom-rainer-you-want-a-long-tenure-as-pastor-thom-rainer-has-10-traits-you-can-t-ignore.html> #3, 8

[Connected: My Life in the Church - ThomRainer.com - Pinterest](#)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomrainer>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer

<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B001IGLMVG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer

Connecting with the Denomination

Just as the congregation or other church unit faces a crisis in transition that needs rethinking of the linkages with the larger church, so the interim leader serving in a connected denominational setting needs to make strong connections with the denominational structures and the staff and committees of the regional and national offices. Thinking systemically, the denomination is part of the context (or a super-system) for the particular church or judicatory. The denominational offices are often able to provide information regarding history and patterns of the church organization which are helpful in analysis.

Furthermore, the committees or staff of the denominational bodies frequently hold the expectations or goals for a particular unit. In many denominations, the interim leader is appointed or recommended by the denominational officers, and serves as a representative of the judicatory.

Connecting with the denomination includes early and regular contact with the head of the next higher judicatory (executive, bishop, president), as well as progress reports to the appropriate board or committee at agreed upon intervals in the interim time. As difficulties arise, consultation with the judicatory's structures and personnel can also be helpful to maintain the detachment required for professional functioning.

Finally, connecting with the denomination is necessary to clarify the judicatory's expectation regarding the interim leader's relationship with the search process for new leadership.

[PDF] [The Time Between: Interim Ministry Weeks One and Two](#)

Page 7

http://www.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/School_of_Christian_Vocation_and_Mission/Continuing_Education/week-1-2011.pdf

[Images for Connecting with the Denomination](#)

Connecting with the Denomination

Just as the congregation faces a crisis in transition that needs rethinking with the larger church, so the interim pastor needs to make strong connections with the mission area staff and appropriate divisions of the church (for example the Division for Outreach for congregations receiving support from this Division). For the interim pastor the mission area staff is often able to provide information regarding history and patterns of the congregation that are helpful in analysis.

Getting to know the resources available within the mission area and the ELCA for conflict resolution, leadership development, program ministries and congregational development will benefit not only the interim pastor but also help the congregation to develop and re-enforce a sense of partnership in ministry with the mission area and ELCA. Monthly progress reports to the bishop of the synod keep the mission area staff informed as to the status of the congregation and even their readiness for call. As difficulties arise, consultation with the mission area staff can be helpful in maintaining the detachment required to function effectively as interim pastor.

[PDF] [Interim Ministry Handbook - Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area](#)

<https://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Interim-Ministry-Handbook-Interim-Pastor.pdf> Section III Interim Ministry Tasks

[Images for connections with the mission area staff](#)

Connecting with the larger context

What are some ways you can or have **connected with your denomination**? How has it been helpful?

How have you dealt with negative experiences or relationships of the congregation and the denomination?

Are there other areas where it is important to make connections (ecumenical, interfaith or community groups and town/city institutions) What are they? What have you done?

2018 Annual Conference | IMN

Effective Transitional Ministry: Connecting Theory and Practice – Part One. Workshop Leader: Norman Bendroth. Handout.

<https://imnedu.org/2018-annual-conference/conference-registration/workshops-thursday-june-21-2018-830-to-1000-am/>

[Images for connected with your denomination](#)

Connections up and down the church: Are we connected at all levels of the ELCA? If not, why not – and what can we do? [The Lutheran

The words are heard Sunday mornings throughout the land. "Hurry up! We'll be late for church." "Do I have to go to church today?"

"There's a potluck at church tonight." "When will our church get its new pastor?"

In each of those sentences "church" means First Lutheran, Hope Lutheran or Our Savior Lutheran on the corner of First and Main, Elm and Jackson or out on County Road C five miles from town.

But when people get to that "church," they hear another use of the word. They hear their "church" is sending aid to starving people in Sudan, advocating for peace and justice, and having controversial discussions about sexuality.

Some of those things may also happen at First Lutheran, Hope Lutheran or Our Savior Lutheran. But those activities are certainly occurring in the synods to which those congregations belong and throughout the **ELCA's** churchwide organization.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7221

[Images for connections up and down the church ELCA](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Future Directions - ELCA

Goal 5: A well-governed, **connected** and sustainable church.

<https://elca.org/future>

[Images for well-governed, connected and sustainable church](#)

Growing Stewards - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Stay connected!

Want to receive regular e-mail updates from the ELCA about new stewardship resources, ideas and best practices? You can register today for stewardNet, a newsletter for stewardship leaders, by logging in to ELCA NetCommunity and checking "stewardship" on your list of interests.

Are you a registered in ELCA NetCommunity? Log in and edit your interests so that "stewardship" is selected.

LOG INTO ELCA NETCOMMUNITY

Do you need to register for ELCA NetCommunity? Create an account and check the box "stewardship" on your list of interests.

REGISTER FOR ELCA NETCOMMUNITY?

<http://www.elca.org/growingstewards>

[Images for Stay connected!](#)

IMN | Step Two – FTM: The Work of the Congregation (FTMC)

This five-day course emphasizes the work of the congregation. The fundamental tasks of the congregation, framed as Focus Points, are to successfully navigate the transition period:

HERITAGE– Reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed.

LEADERSHIP– Reviewing the member needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership

MISSION– Defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction

CONNECTIONS– Discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself

FUTURE– Developing congregational and pastoral profiles

http://imnedu.org/interim_transitional-education/the-fundamentals-of-transitional-ministry-the-work-of-the-congregation/

[Images for discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself](#)

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin / Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder.

Our faith calls us to see the world as interdependent. The ELCA has become a force for **connection**, working across denominations, faiths, organizations and sectors, locally and globally. We're a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others and share a common vision to uphold human dignity.

News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of April 20, 2014

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1117167717943.html>

[Images for denominations, faiths, organizations and sectors](#)

[PDF]Rethinking Transitional Ministry - Amazon Web Services

The Center also speaks of "**Connections**" instead of "Reconnecting with the Denomination." The reality is that we are in a post-denominational era and while it is important to remember one's roots and become reacquainted with available resources, it is equally valuable to reconnect with neighborhoods, cities, or towns and the ecumenical and interfaith community. More and more, interim ministers are helping churches find and use demographics, interview key leaders in their community, and discern needs of which they may not be aware.

http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf Page 5

<https://alban.org/archive/rethinking-transitional-ministry/>

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566997669/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies-for-Churches-and-Pastors>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/transitional-ministry-today-norman-b-bendroth/1120409955>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23811442-transitional-ministry-today>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518>

<https://louisville-institute.org/interviews/norman-bendroth/>

[Images for Rethinking Transitional Ministry](#)

Step 5: Tie Together

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. John 15:1-4

The use of branches in this text seems an appropriate way to illustrate how we are connected to Jesus Christ. We are tied together in the body of Christ. Within the church there are three expressions – congregations, synods and churchwide ministries. These expressions connect each one with other parts of the body of Christ beyond ourselves and facilitate collaborative ministries.

What are the ways your congregation is connected to the body of Christ beyond itself?

How do these **connections make God's work possible** together that could not be done alone? Your responses to these questions demonstrate that you as an individual and a congregation are not alone. Christ is always with us. And, by lifting up what we do together, we see the strength of the body of Christ.

Relational Ask Six Steps

ELCA Stewardship Resources - Stewardship – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Six_Step_Relational_Ask.pdf

[Images for connections make God's work possible](#)

Still Connected?: How's Your Bandwidth? By Dr. Kenneth McFayden

Judicatory leaders are keenly aware of the need to stay connected to congregations and their leaders in times of transition. How would you assess the capacity, speed, and reliability of your connections? This evening, we will explore these and other questions, using the image of bandwidth.

[Annual Conference | IMN - Interim Ministry Network](#)

<https://imnedu.org/annual-conference/> 2010 Program

<http://imnedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2010Program.pdf>

<https://www.upsem.edu/about/faculty/kenneth-j-mcfayden/>

[Images for Dr. Kenneth McFayden](#)

Page 4

[Tending Intentionally to Congregations in Transition | Franconia Conference](#)

We learned there are five developmental tasks of this work which really focus on five points:

Developmental Tasks	Focus Point
Coming to Terms with History	Heritage
Discovering a New Identity	Mission
Allowing and empowering new leadership	Leadership
Renewing denomination linkages	Connections
Commitment to new future	Future

"The real work of the intentional interim minister is to facilitate and coach, guide and support the members and leaders of the congregation as they engage in the focus points." (John Keydel)

<http://franconiaconference.org/tending-intentionally-to-congregations-in-transition/>

[Images for Developmental Tasks Interim Ministry](#)

[The Center for Parish Development](#)

What is God calling and sending the church – and your church in particular to be and do? The answer is expressed by each circle of faith, each congregation, as it discerns and designs its life and practice in response to the sending God. Center Community is a platform for conversation and reflection, testimony and questions. A growing experience and experiment of churches and leaders in **connection** with each other. The journey forward is not isolation but conversation.

<http://www.missionalchurch.org/index.html>

[Images for Center for Parish Development](#)

[The Connector Acts 4:38-39, 9:26-30, 15:36-40](#)

Disciples like Barnabas are incredibly effective witnesses of Christ. The only way to communicate Christ's love is to show it, and no one loves more naturally than the connector.

<http://www.fumcwausau.org/clientimages/34002/sermon%2014.06.01.pdf>

[Images for Disciples like Barnabas are incredibly effective witnesses of Christ](#)

[THE FIVE PROCESS TASKS OF TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY | David Sawyer](#)

Process Task 3—**Connecting with the Denomination**

From the very beginning the interim pastor needs to initiate and maintain strong **connections with denominational officers**. This connection is vital to the interim process and serves to support the important developmental task of reaffirming our covenantal and connectional ties to the larger church. (It also is a support and protection for the transitional minister as the process moves along.)

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/five-process-tasks-transitional-ministry-david-sawyer>

[Images for connections with denominational officers](#)

[The Last Lecture Quotes by Randy Pausch - Goodreads](#)

"When we're **connected** to others, we become better people."

— Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3364076-the-last-lecture?page=1>

[Images for Randy Pausch connected to others](#)

[The Tipping Point - Wikipedia](#)

Connectors are the people in a community who know large numbers of people and who are in the habit of making introductions. A connector is essentially the social equivalent of a computer **network hub**. They usually know people across an array of social, cultural, professional, and economic circles, and make a habit of introducing people who work or live in different circles. They are people who "link us up with the world...people with a special gift for bringing the world together".^[5] They are "a handful of people with a truly extraordinary knack [... for] making friends and acquaintances".^[6] Gladwell characterizes these individuals as having **social networks** of over one hundred people. To illustrate, he cites the following examples: the **midnight ride of Paul Revere**, Milgram's experiments in the **small world problem**, the "**Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon**" trivia game, Dallas businessman **Roger Horchow**, and Chicagoan **Lois Weisberg**, a person who understands the concept of the **weak tie**. Gladwell attributes the social success of Connectors to the fact that "their ability to span many different worlds is a function of something intrinsic to their personality, some combination of curiosity, self-confidence, sociability, and energy".^[7]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Tipping_Point

[Images for Tipping Point - Connectors](#)

The United Methodist Church

The people of The United Methodist Church are putting our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, which is [our church's mission](#). Through the power of our [connection](#), we are making a positive difference in more than 125 countries.

[Read more](#)

<http://www.umc.org/>

[Images for United Methodist Church](#)

12 Marks of Healthy Church Behavior | Episcopal Diocese of Texas

12. Understands the Need to Be [Connected to the Greater Church](#): Demonstrates connectedness and support for the wider church.

<http://www.epicenter.org/12-marks-of-healthy-church-behavior/>

[Images for Connected to the Greater Church](#)



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Our faith calls us to see the world as interdependent. The ELCA has become a force for [connection](#), working across denominations, faiths, organizations and sectors, locally and globally. We're a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others and share a common vision to uphold human dignity.

[News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact](#)

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of June 1, 2014

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1117560370329.html>

[Images for We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Connection? - OpenBible.info

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/connection>

[Images for Bible and connection](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Connection>

<https://www.pinterest.com/christiney1334/bible-connection/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/why-getting-connected-matters-36896/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/author/rick-warren/>

[Images for spiritually connected](#)

What We Believe - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

The ELCA is a community of faith that shares a passion for making positive changes in the world. Our faith is built around a strong belief in God as made known to us in Jesus Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

What we believe

The Bible

We believe the Bible is the written Word of God, inspired by God's Spirit speaking through its authors. We believe that people meet God in Scripture, where God's heart, mind, relationship to - and intention for - humankind are revealed. Through an ongoing dialogue with the God revealed in the Bible, people in every age are called to a living faith.

[We are connected in faith](#)

The congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin believe we are called to model Jesus' call to unity (John 17). We do that by accompanying each other in this synod; sharing our resources, ideas, and questions. We also believe that our mission and ministry are strengthened when we walk with the other 64 synods of the ELCA and Lutherans around the world.

We reach out to others

Everything we do together as disciples of Jesus has one purpose - to be God's instruments for good in the world. Our congregations serve as launching pads, equipping their members to be God's hand and feet in their homes, work places, and communities. We are intentional about taking the spark of faith that the Spirit has ignited within us and turning it into a light that shines outwardly to others.

Social Issues

We believe the church has a responsibility to faithfully participate in society, and, as such, we have developed positions on a number of social issues facing us in the world today.

We Care for Creation

Lutherans believe all of creation is a gift from God to be cherished and preserved. We are called to live in harmony with God's world and, where possible, work for the betterment of all God's creatures. We do this by working together on social and ecological issues locally and globally.

http://www.nwswi.org/what_we_believe/
[Images for we are connected in faith](#)

7) Cooperative Ministries

[PDF]At Risk to Risking Mission A Guide for Congregations and Their Future

- Preface: From At Risk to Risking Mission Congregations
- Section I. Congregational Vitality Survey
- Section II. Survey Questionnaire: Do We Need to Change?
- Section III. Worksheet on Congregational Sustainability
- Section IV. Assessment of Options Worksheet
- Section V. **Suggested Options for Ministry**
- Section VI. What Next?

<http://mittensynod.org/docs/RiskingMission.pdf>
[Images for Suggested Options for Cooperative Ministry](#)

Confirmation Kick Off with James Hersch

We are excited to invite you to join us for an evening with renowned musician James Hersch on Wednesday, September 11, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. in the Worship Center! As we celebrate the start of our fall programs, we are thrilled to welcome James Hersch as our guest musician. James has a rare mixture of musical talent, humor, and sensitivity that allows him to create songs that speak to what is common in all of us. James' performance allows his listeners to experience his music through intimate images which confront and celebrate the human condition. Learn more about James at www.reachwithme.com Along with Trinity's CrossWord Youth Band, James will lead our worship service and perform his inspirational music. We will gather to connect and celebrate our faith. All are welcome to join us for Worship with James Hersch.

September 2013 newsletter - Trinity Lutheran Church
http://www.trinity-ec.org/newsletters/newsletter_2013_09.pdf
[Images for Confirmation Kick Off with James Hersch](#)

Page 8

Cooperative Ministries in the 21st Century - General Board

As we continue in the twenty-first century, what are the emerging trends for the church and its mission and ministry? And how does cooperative parish development help the church address these trends?

The short answer is that cooperative parish ministry can be an important instrument in helping congregations relate to emerging trends in the new century. We are in a time of change in the church. Loren Mead has pointed out that the day of the church culture labeled "Christendom" is over. We understand that the mission of the church is now at our doorstep, not "over there."

Today, we are in a period of rapid change. Established patterns in the organized church are being challenged, and voices for change are strong. The church faces many challenges and opportunities at this time. Will we be prepared for them?

<http://www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/leadership-development/resource/cooperative-ministries-in-the-21st-century>
[Images for Cooperative Ministries in the 21st Century](#)

[PDF]cooperative ministry - Hinton Rural Life Center

The idea known as cooperative ministry or cooperative parish has been around for many years. It has been implemented in many settings ranging from isolated rural smaller congregations to major metropolitan communities. It has been used both as a way to organize a few churches in one community and also as a way of doing ministry across whole annual conferences. The results have varied from place to place. There have been and are wonderful successes, and there have also been dismal failures and frustrations. However, in spite of this history of mixed results, cooperative ministry is still a valid way of thinking about and doing ministry in almost any context. Some of us believe that it is the most hopeful and promising way of going about ministry within the United Methodist connection.

<http://www.hintoncenter.org/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/uploads/cooperative.pdf>
http://www.hintoncenter.org/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/uploads/table_of_contents.pdf
<https://www.hintoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/hinton-center-cooperative.pdf>
[Images for COOPERATIVE MINISTRY - Hinton Rural Life Center](#)

Cooperative Ministry Meeting Highlights

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Curtiss, WI - August 12, 2014

"We do together what we can't do alone." Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson, assistant to the bishop and director of evangelical mission. Nine churches were represented at Tuesday evening's Cooperative Ministry Meeting at St. Paul's facilitated by Rev. Skow-Anderson. The importance of being attentive to what God is saying to us was stressed. Each congregation looked at what they felt God wanted them to accomplish. Rev. Skow-Anderson cautioned us as a congregation not to love the form more than the product or people. Things we did in the 50's, 60's and 70's worked well back then but not today.

Why people attend, or don't attend, church was discussed. The church is not a social club says Rev. Skow-Anderson. Rather than inviting our friends to come to church, she suggested we invite them into a relationship with God.

The group decided to meet again at St. Paul's in Curtiss on September 11 at 7pm. The group will look at neighboring congregations that make sense working together. In the meantime, representatives attending the meeting will report back to their councils and congregations to discuss things that congregations could do together.

Rev. Kris A. Bjerke-Ullman



http://www.osspeca.org/About_Us.html

[Images for Rev. Kris A. Bjerke-Ullman](#)

Food Pantries - Cooperative Christian Ministry

CCM food pantries collect and distribute over \$1.5 million worth of groceries each year. Among those foods are healthy produce and other perishable items that are moved from grocery stores to kitchen table within 24 hours of receipt from the stores. Grocery stores, assigned by Feeding America, and volunteer pick-up drivers make this ministry possible.

<http://www.cooperativeministry.com/programs/hunger-relief/food-pantries>

[Images for Food Pantries - Cooperative Christian Ministry](#)

Life Together: Stages of Cooperative Ministry

Contact Rev. Julie A. K. Anderson jaka4mky@hotmail.com for an electronic copy.

Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

VI. **Cooperation with other church bodies** in the exercise of Word and Sacrament ministry Page 43

A. With church bodies in the United States Page 43

1. Full communion partners

2. Other Lutheran bodies

3. Other church bodies in local practice of pulpit and altar fellowship

[PDF] [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 2017 Roster Manual](#) \Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Policies_Procedures_Roster_Mgmt.pdf Page 54

[Images for cooperation with other church bodies](#)

[DOC] Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as **cooperation** with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations

<https://download.elca.org> > ELCA Resource Repository > Model Constitution

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for To emphasize... cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran](#)

Shared Ministry Agreement Worksheet

Contact the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin info@nswwi.org for an electronic copy.

See Chapter 10 Constitution Appendix 1 for an amended version.

SouthWest Iowa Ministries... A Shared Ministry of five congregations

SWIM is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

<http://swimwebsite.weebly.com/>

[Images for shared ministry five congregations](#)

Tri-County Ministry

Formed in 1992, **Tri-County Ministry (TCM) is an ecumenical parish** made up of one Presbyterian and six Lutheran congregations. The cooperative ministry of these PCUSA and ELCA congregations has broadened the opportunities of our members to serve our communities and beyond in the name of Jesus Christ. Through the years, TCM has been an intern site, especially for students wishing to focus on rural ministry. For several years, TCM sponsored the annual Seminary on the Prairie, a continuing education event open to all clergy, seminary students, and laity. TCM serves as an example of innovative rural ministry on the prairie of North Dakota.

<http://www.tricountyministry.org/>

[Images for Tri-County Ministry \(TCM\) is an ecumenical parish](#)

United in Christ Lutheran Parish

The United in Christ Lutheran Parish was started in 2000 and consists of five congregations: Concordia, Little Norway, Maple Lake, St. John's, and Trinity.

<http://www.uclparish.org/>

[Images for United in Christ Lutheran Parish](#)

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a joint effort by several churches in the Cornell area. VBS is typically held that week after school is out and is held at the Cornell Elementary School. This is an important ministry to the kids of this area. 2013 marked the 20th year that New Life Alliance Church has been part of this joint effort. Thanks to all who help prepare and pray for this important week.

Here are the 2013 statistics.

174 kids registered

25 different church represented

31% of enrollment unchurched or indicated no home church

32 teen and adult helpers

18 adult leaders - including 5 pastors

28 Bibles were given to students that did not have one

Thank you for supporting this ministry and for praying.

New Life Alliance Church - Vacation Bible School

http://www.thelogchurch.org/site/cpage.asp?cpage_id=180060243&sec_id=180013196

[Images for Vacation Bible School joint effort by several churches](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Cooperation? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/cooperation>

[Images for bible and cooperate](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Cooperation>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Cooperation/>

<https://www.quotescosmos.com/bible/bible-verses/Cooperation.html>

<https://www.rainbowtoken.com/bible-verses-about-cooperation-be-of-one-mind.html>

<http://www.scripturessay.com/how-may-churches-cooperate/>

Winds of the Prairie Ministries

Winds of the Prairie Ministries is a group of five ELCA congregations united in mission and faith. Our six churches are spread throughout Lincoln, Lyon and Pipestone Counties of Southwestern Minnesota.

<http://www.windsoftheprairie.org/>

[Images for Winds of the Prairie Ministries](#)

8) Denominations

American Baptist Churches USA

American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with over 5,200 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/>

[Images for American Baptist Churches USA](#)

[PDF] APPROPRIATE GOALS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD

7. To Strengthen Denominational Ties. The interim leader personally maintains a good relationship with the denomination and encourages the local church to participate in denomination-wide activities and programs

https://peia.org/wp-content/uploads/appropriategoalsforinterimperiod_tab_18.pdf

[Images for APPROPRIATE GOALS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD 7. To Strengthen Denominational Ties.](#)

Are church denominations useful? - The Gospel.com Blog

Responding to the discussion raised by the conference, this post at Blogotional puts forth an interesting reason that denominations can be useful: they bring balance to individual churches' tendency to "over-specialize" in just one area of ministry.

<http://www.gospel.com/blog/index.php/2010/01/29/are-church-denominations-useful/>

[Images for church denominations useful](#)

Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of Mainline Denominations [Robert Bacher]

Bacher and Inskeep believe that mainline denominations serve as caretakers of the important American expressions of Christianity, and if they are weak or lost, society and the universal church will be the worse for it. They argue that a fundamentally American form of mainline denominationalism can and will endure, despite the rumor of its decline. The authors examine six "rumors" of the decline. Using historical trends and current statistical information, they analyze the current situation and point to vital lessons, potential problems, and key challenges. They also offer helpful strategies and provide examples of what denominations are doing that show potential.

<http://www.amazon.com/Chasing-Down-Rumor-Mainline-Denominations/dp/B002G9UFDA>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16194143-chasing-down-a-rumor>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7253/Chasing-Down-a-Rumor-The-Death-of-Mainline-Denominations>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/chasing-down-a-rumor-robert-bacher/1130333062>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451412495>
[Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of Mainline Denominations](#)
<http://www.georgetsakiridis.com/writing/book-review-chasing-down-a-rumor-the-death-of-mainline-denominations/>
http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5308
<http://www.larryhollon.com/blog/2005/08/15/the-myth-of-mainline-death/>
https://billtammeus.typepad.com/my_weblog/2005/07/page/2/ July 18, 2005
<http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/book-reviews/31404757/chasing-down-rumor-death-mainline-denominations>
<http://fortresspress.com/author/robert-bacher>
<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Bacher/e/B001JSACYG>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115303.Robert_Bacher
[Images for Robert Bacher \(author\) mainline denominations](#)
[Images for Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of Mainline Denominations \[Robert Bacher\]](#)

Christian denomination - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The word denomination is used for a large group of Christian people right across the world who use the same name, the same sort of organization and have the same (or very similar) beliefs. Christianity is divided into five main groups. These groups all branched out at different dates from the early Christianity founded by the followers of Jesus. The splits generally happened because they could not agree on certain beliefs or practices. The groups then divided into smaller groups. Each group that has its own separate name is a "denomination". The word "denomination" means "having a name".

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_denomination
[Images for Christian denomination](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations_by_number_of_members

Denominations can learn from education reform: Anthony B. Robinson

What about denominations getting focused on what makes for a healthy, vital church, and creating **systems of support and accountability** to move congregations in that direction?

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/anthony-b-robinson-denominations-can-learn-education-reform>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/anthony-b-robinson>
[Images for systems of support and accountability](#)

Denominations: Why We Love Them

Congregationalists and Independents have been historically strong critics of denominationalism. Pentecostals often rejoice at how the gifts of the Spirit draw together Christians of different backgrounds. When the denominations are most true to their traditions, they are most ecumenical. But when they allow themselves to be distracted by pride and denominational chauvinism, when they are ruled by the instinct for self-preservation, rather than the self-sacrificial spirit of Jesus, then they erect barriers to reunion. We need to be *better* Episcopalians, better Presbyterians, better Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Pentecostals, Independents, and whatever else there be.

Denominations - Reformed Perspectives Magazine

http://reformedperspectives.org/newfiles/joh_frame/PT.Frame.EVR.5.html
[Images for Denominations: Why We Love Them](#)
www.chapelofchange.org/why-i-love-my-denomination/
[Images for Why I Love My Denomination](#)
<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2015-08/church-assembled> The church assembled. Why I love denominational gatherings Aug 19, 2015 by Lee Hull Moses | The Christian Century
[Images for Why I love denominational gatherings](#)
<https://leehullmoses.com/>
[Images for Lee Hull Moses](#)

Do Denominations Matter? | The Exchange | A Blog by Ed Stetzer

A majority of pastors with denominational affiliation believe it is vital to be part of a denomination, but a majority also believe that the importance of identifying with a denomination will diminish over the next 10 years.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2011/september/do-denominations-matter.html>
[Images for Do Denominations Matter? | The Exchange | A Blog by Ed Stetzer](#)
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/june/11.24.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2008/february/denominations-growing-dying-and-future.html>
<https://www.uu.edu/news/release.cfm?ID=1568> Stetzer: Denominations have future as 'servants' of churches on God's mission
[Images for Denominations have future as 'servants' of churches on God's mission](#)
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/april/missions-denominations-and-honest-questions.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/april/five-helpful-observations-in-new-era-of-christian-networks.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/march/most-important-role-of-denominations-in-church-planting.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/february/revitalizing-denominations-through-church-planting.html>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2017/june/non-denominational-pastors-networks-and-mentoring-relations.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/topics/d/denominations/>

<http://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/144780-ed-stetzer-on-the-life-of-denominations.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Stetzer
<https://www.amazon.com/Ed-Stetzer/e/B001JP8EUJ>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/25148.Ed_Stetzer
[Images for Ed Stetzer, author](#)

Do Denominations Still Matter? | RELEVANT Magazine

Denominations are, at their core, structures that help support and enable a diversity of Christians. They are not Christianity; they merely make space for different varieties of faith to flourish. If we can understand denominational labels as descriptors rather than terms of value—who is right and who is wrong—perhaps we can see beyond the walls that separate us and begin to see the beautiful diversity there is among Christians. This may not be easy, but here are some reasons it's worth trying.

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/church/features/28954-do-denominations-still-matter>

[Images for denominations support and enable a diversity of Christians](#)

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/do-denominations-matter/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-denominational-identity-still-matters/>

[Images for Why Denominational Identity Still Matters](#)

<https://blog.capterra.com/denomination-solution-for-your-church/> When Does Denomination Matter?

Episcopal Church (United States) - Wikipedia

The Episcopal Church (TEC), less commonly known by its other official title, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America^[2] (PECUSA^{[3][4]} or ECUSA^{[5][6][7]}), is the United States-based member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion. It is a Christian church divided into nine provinces and has dioceses in the United States, Taiwan, Micronesia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, as well as the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and the Navajoland Area Mission.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_Church_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_Church_(United_States))

[Images for Episcopal Church \(United States\)](#)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian **denominations** in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

About - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<https://www.elca.org/en/About>

[Images for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

In Praise of Denominations - The Gospel Coalition

Networks, fellowships, and independent churches can't provide the same **benefits as a denomination**. They may be able to provide some of the things below, but not all of them.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/in-praise-of-denominations/>

[Images for benefits of a Christian denomination](#)

Interim ministry - Ministry Magazine

Strengthen regional and **denominational** ties. During an interim period, congregations often find themselves in close contact with regional administrative offices, particularly through the search and call process. The interim period is a prime time for the local church to remember its covenant relationship with the wider church.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2015/11/interim-ministry>

[Images for interim ministry strengthen regional and denominational ties](#)

Mainline decline: Understanding Membership Drop - The Lutheran Magazine

Mainline **denominations** matter. America needs them. Our country is polarized: Conservative religious groups are synonymous with political conservatism, while more liberal groups seem out-of-touch. But mainline denominations—if they hold true to their heritage—provide a place where all kinds of people can live together and learn from each other as Christians.

Black and white, rich and poor, biblical literalists and modernists, political conservatives and liberals—all come together in one body to worship each week. This is critical to the well-being of society. It's time that mainline denominations celebrate this gift.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5806&key=33709634

[Images for Mainline decline: Understanding Membership Drop - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

[Images for mainline denominations matter](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Making A Case for Denominations | Zack Hunt

Because of this I think denominations are relevant and important now more than ever. In a world of consumeristic “have it your way Christianity” when we all, pastor or lay, want to be accountable to no one, when need to be reminded that autonomy and consumerism are antithetical to Christianity. It was Jesus who said, “not my will, but Yours”. If we are going to claim to be Christ-like then we have to learn that we are not the center of the universe. If there was anything Jesus taught us, it was that should always be the needs of others first.

<http://zackhunt.net/2012/01/27/making-a-case-for-denominations/>

Images for Making A Case for Religious Denominations

Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America Daniel L. Guder, Lois Barrett. - 1998 - Religion.

The church form we know as the “denomination” has undergone substantial change over time in the North American context.

Russell Ritchie identifies five distinct phases through which denominations have gone in the past two hundred years. 26

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802843506>

Page 64

<https://www.amazon.com/Missional-Church-Sending-America-Culture/dp/0802843506>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/283799.Missional_Church

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/missional-church-daniel-l-guder/1112147245>

<http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/4350/missional-church.aspx>

<https://www.christianbook.com/missional-church-vision-sending-north-america/9780802843500/pd/43506>

<http://www.qocn.org/node/19>

<https://www.amazon.com/George-R.-Hunsberger/e/B001KHN30Q>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/159588.George_R_Hunsberger

Images for george r hunsberger

<https://www.amazon.com/Darrell-L.-Guder/e/B001K8OY6C>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/186308.Darrell_L_Guder

Images for darrell l. guder

<https://www.amazon.com/Lois-Barrett/e/B001KCKRNW>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/164853.Lois_Barrett

Images for lois barrett missional church

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/337361.Inagrace_T_Dietterich

Images for inagrace t. dietterich

<https://www.amazon.com/Alan-J.-Roxburgh/e/B001JS65UQ>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/24964.Alan_J_Roxburgh

Images for alan j. roxburgh

<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-Van-Gelder/e/B001JRYSKQ>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/164854.Craig_Van_Gelder

Images for craig van gelder

Images for Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America Daniel L. Guder, Lois Barrett.

Missional Church and Denomination | EPC

In addition to the missional church, the missional denomination has an important role to play in the ethos and practice of the EPC going forward. The missional denomination:

- Believes ministry begins with the local church.
- Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional.
- Believes that the presbyteries and Office of the General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in identifying, equipping, and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and biblical standards.
- Constantly examines whether its polity, structures, and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment.

<https://epc.org/about/values/missional/>

Images for Missional Church and Denomination

Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Practical Model for Transforming Denominations and Congregations by Bishop Claude Payne (Author), Hamilton Beazley (Author)

Reclaiming the Great Commission describes a biblically based model that can restore the missionary power of first-century Christianity to twenty-first century denominations and their congregations. Based on shared vision and mission, the model can guide the members of any congregation or denomination into deeper and broader evangelism, an enhanced experience of community, and a renewed hope of personal and spiritual transformation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-Great-Commission-Denominations-Congregations/dp/0787952680>

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?txtsearchquery=reclaiming%20the%20great&scope=all&pid=0787952680>

<http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/GreatCommission-Bena.pdf>

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0787952680.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_Diocese_of_Texas

Images for Bishop Claude Payne (Author) great commission

http://www.authorinsider.com/about_no_regrets/beazleybio.html

<https://www.amazon.com/Hamilton-Beazley/e/B001ILKHNO>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/114284.Hamilton_Beazley

Images for Hamilton Beazley (Author) great commission

Images for Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Practical Model for Transforming Denominations and Congregations by Bishop Claude Payne (Author), Hamilton Beazley (Author)

Religious denomination - Wikipedia

The term refers to the various Christian denominations (for example, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and the many varieties of Protestantism).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_denomination

[Images for religious denomination](#)

Rethinking Denominational Linkages

Congregations often are not aware of the support and resources they receive from their middle judicatory and national denominational structures. That relationship is normally more visible while the structures of the church beyond the congregation are engaged in working with the congregation in moving through the interim period and seeking to find the right pastor to call.

The transition time helps raise the awareness of a congregation to its denominational heritage, ministries and resources.

Developmental Tasks of Interim Ministry - Presbytery of Cincinnati

<http://www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org/Mission/COM/COMFileCabinet/Interim%20-%20Five%20Developmental%20Tasks.pdf>

[Images for middle judicatory and national denominational structures](#)

Rethinking Denominational Linkages

Issues

- **healthy partnership with the denomination**
- authority, dependency, interdependency, counter-dependency
- congregation's tendency to see judicatory or denomination through former pastor's eyes
- history of the relationship; dollars and trust

Toolbox

- encourage denomination to give
- clear information about its expectations, requirements, resources, and programs
- advocate use of denominational resources
- give feedback: remind denomination of its duties, promises, and programs
- identify and affirm church members who have' denomination jobs and ties
- identify common interests of church and denomination
- make use of denominational resources: staff, programs, facilities, literature, training, retreats
- allow for ventilation of feelings about denomination

Symptoms of Non-Resolution

- resistance to denominational requests or suggestions
- criticism of denominational personnel and programs
- failure to meet pledges and budgets
- "We-they" outlook

Signs of Resolution

- willingness to accept help and resources
- appreciation for the denomination's traditions and missions
- denomination's resources and facilities are used
- stable or increased giving to denomination: dollars and people
- shared "us"

[PDF]Interim Ministry Handbook - Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area

<https://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Interim-Ministry-Handbook-Interim-Pastor.pdf> Section IV A Toolbox for the

Developmental Tasks by R. Neil Chafin

[Images for healthy partnership with the denomination](#)

Interim Ministry Handbook for Interim Pastors

[PDF] View - Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod

<http://ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Interim-Ministry-Handbook-Interim-Pastor.pdf>

[Images for Rethinking Denominational Linkages](#)

Temporary Shepherds: A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry [Roger S. Nicholson]

Chapter 9 **Renewing Denominational Linkages**

Page 99

Tool 2 Bible Studies for the Journey

Page 164

Tool 3 Engaging the Developmental Tasks

Page 170

Effective interim ministry depends on strong partnership between the interim minister and congregation. Lay leaders of congregations preparing for such a transition will value the expert guidance provided by over a dozen experienced interim pastors.

What is interim ministry all about? What needs to happen during the interim? What should leaders and members expect from the interim pastor and themselves during this transition? What other resources are available for congregations?

<http://www.amazon.com/Temporary-Shepherds-Congregational-Handbook-Ministry/dp/1566992087>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1463283.Temporary_Shepherds

[Images for Renewing Denominational Linkages](#)

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy [Roger Finke, Rodney Stark]

In this provocative book, Roger Finke and Rodney Stark challenge popular perceptions about American religion. They view the religious environment as a free market economy, where churches compete for souls. The story they tell is one of gains for upstart sects and losses for mainline **denominations**.

Although many Americans assume that religious participation has declined in America, Finke and Stark present a different picture.

In 1776, fewer than 1 in 5 Americans were active in church affairs. Today, church membership includes about 6 out of 10 people.

But, as Finke and Stark show, not all denominations benefited. They explain how and why the early nineteenth-century churches

began their descent, while two newcomer sects, the Baptists and the Methodists, gained ground. They also analyze why the Methodists then began a long, downward slide, why the Baptists continued to succeed, how the Catholic Church met the competition of ardent Protestant missionaries, and why the Catholic commitment has declined since Vatican II. The authors also explain why ecumenical movements always fail. In short, Americans are not abandoning religion; they have been moving away from established denominations. A “church-sect process” is always under way, Finke and Stark argue, as successful churches lose their organizational vigor and are replaced by less worldly groups.

Some observers assert that the rise in churching rates indicates increased participation, not increased belief. Finke and Stark challenge this as well. They find that those groups that have gained the greatest numbers have demanded that their followers accept traditional doctrines and otherworldliness. They argue that religious organizations can thrive only when they comfort souls and demand sacrifice. When theology becomes too logical, or too secular, it loses people.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Churching-America-1776-2005-Religious/dp/0813535530>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/437594.The_Churching_of_America_1776_1990
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0813535530>
<https://books.google.com/books?id=PvwBeL-YjkoC>
<http://www.mikegastin.com/content/book-review-churching-america-1776%E2%80%942005-winners-and-losers-our-religious-economy>
<http://www.academicroom.com/bookreview/churching-america-1776-1990-winners-and-losers-our-religious-economy>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodney_Stark
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Finke
<http://www.religioninsights.org/role-denominations-evolves-independent-churches-multiply>
<https://www.amazon.com/Roger-Finke/e/B001IQZOLU>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15510.Roger_Finke
Images for Roger Finke, author
<https://www.amazon.com/Rodney-Stark/e/B000APQGM6>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15511.Rodney_Stark
Images for Rodney Stark, author religious economy

The Future of Denominations: Asking Uppercase Questions – Mark S. Hanson - Word & World

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

The word “denomination” does not appear in Scripture, but is a phenomenon of history and context. To be able to answer the question of “whither denominations,” we must understand the origin of the denomination, in this case the ELCA.

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/25-1_Denominations/25-1_Hanson.pdf
Images for The Future of Denominations: Asking Uppercase Questions – Mark S. Hanson - Word & World

The Future of Denominations – Rainer on Leadership #130 – ThomRainer.com

So today on the podcast, we discuss the place denominations have in our church culture and their future.

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/the-future-of-denominations-rainer-on-leadership-130/>
Images for The Future of Denominations – Rainer on Leadership #130 – ThomRainer.com images
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/01/an-open-letter-to-my-denomination-have-we-lost-our-first-love/>
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/04/eight-reasons-people-are-leaving-denominational-churches-for-non-denominational-churches/>
<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/cong/nondenom.html>
<http://thomrainer.com/2013/03/the-15-largest-protestant-denominations-in-the-united-states/>
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/01/ten-major-trends-churches-2017/> #7
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/12/ten-critical-trends-churches-2018/> #9
<http://www.yearbookofchurches.org/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer
<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B001IGLMVG>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer
Images for thom rainer (author)

The Importance of Denominations — ChristianPig

Some will say that denominations are unnecessary and actually hinder the commission of Christ to the universal Church. I submit that denominations are not perfect in any way, however, their existence is more important to the complete fulfillment of the commission of Christ. Let me explain.

<http://christianpig.com/archive/the-importance-of-denominations>
Images for Importance of Christian Denominations
<http://byfaithonline.com/how-important-are-denominations/>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/march/most-important-role-of-denominations-in-church-planting.html>
<https://www.9marks.org/article/journalpastors-forum-are-denominations-worth-it-0/>

The Missional Church and Denominations: Helping Congregations Develop a Missional Identity [Craig Van Gelder]

The Missional Church and Denominations utilizes the missional church conversation as a lens for engaging an important dimension of church life in the United States - denominations and denominationalism. Denominations have been studied from a wide variety of perspectives, including historical, sociological, and theological, but they have yet to be engaged in light of a missional church understanding. Here each essay helps to bring further clarity to the word “missional” and contributes to the ever-widening conversation.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Missional-Church-Denominations-Congregations/dp/0802863582>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6513256-the-missional-church-and-denominations>
<https://www.eerdmans.com/Products/6358/the-missional-church-and-denominations.aspx>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Missional_Church_and_Denominations.html?id=4XwVUQjrmgAC
http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/25-1_Denominations/25-1_VanGelder.pdf [PDF] Rethinking Denominations and Denominationalism in Light of Missional Ecclesiology
<http://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2010-01/missional-church-and-denominations-helping-congregations-develop-missional-identity>
<http://missionalchurchnetwork.com/rethinking-denominations/>
<https://missionexus.org/the-missional-church-denominations-helping-congregations-develop-a-missional-identity/>
<http://revlaurabarclay.blogspot.com/2010/07/missional-church-denominations-review.html>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/van-gelder-the-ministry-of-the-missional-church.html>
<http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/missional>
<http://www.postkiwi.com/2010/reading-on-missional-church/>
<https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org/bible-school/dr-craig-van-gelder-endorsed-christian-leaders-institute>
<http://fortresspress.com/author/craig-vangelder>
http://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=cvangeld
<http://themissionalnetwork.com/uncategorized/craig-van-gelder/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-Van-Gelder/e/B001JRYSKQ>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/164854.Craig_Van_Gelder
[Images for craig van gelder](#)
[Images for The Missional Church and Denominations: Helping Congregations Develop a Missional Identity \[Craig Van Gelder\]](#)

Things Your Denominational Exec Would Love to Tell You

Perhaps one task toward healthier ministries is to gain a greater understanding of the ministry of denominational executives ("Des"). As pastors and congregations begin to understand their ministry and attitudes, perhaps DEs, pastors and congregations will enjoy an even healthier partnership for the Kingdom.

What things would they just *love* to tell you?

As if you don't already know and haven't already seen it in your DE, here's some things they would just *love* to tell you...*over and over and over again*.

http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh_articles/344_things_denom_exec_will_tell.html

[Images for denominational executive](#)

What are the mainline denominations? - GotQuestions.org

Answer: When people speak of "mainline denominations," they are usually referring to the historic, established Protestant groups.

In 2009, George Barna published a list of the churches that are commonly considered "mainline": American Baptist Churches in the USA, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/mainline-denominations.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/denominations-Christian.html>

[Images for historic, established Protestant groups](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Denominations? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/denominations>

[Images for bible and denominations](#)

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Denominations/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Denominations>

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/christian-denominations/>

What is the United Church of Christ? - United Church of Christ

The United Church of Christ came into being in 1957 with the union of two Protestant **denominations**: the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Each of these was, in turn, the result of a union of two earlier traditions.

http://www.ucc.org/about-us_what-is-the-united-church-of

[Images for United Church of Christ](#)

What's the future of denominations? Series - Faith and Leadership

As the Christian landscape changes, leaders must ask and answer a new question: What's the future of denominations? In this series of videos, interviews and essays, people across American Christianity offer their thoughts on this vital issue.

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/features/articles/series-what%E2%80%99s-the-future-denominations>

[Images for What's the future of denominations? Series - Faith and Leadership](#)

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/content/whats-the-future-denominations>

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/multimedia/jim-antal-the-challenge-for-our-generation>

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/multimedia/sarah-davis-we-must-face-honestly-our-state-affairs>

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/multimedia/wesley-granberg-michaelson-denominations-will-always-be-needed>

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/multimedia/cynthia-hale-the-power-not-the-top>

<https://www.faihandleadership.com/multimedia/chris-heuertz-working-together-for-whats-right>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/michael-kinnamon-denominations-are-wonderful-adjectives-idolatrous-nouns>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/jeffrey-leath-the-craving-for-truth>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/bill-leonard-hospitable-traditionalism>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/michael-lindsay-mainline-not-sidelines>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/john-l-mccullough-our-faith-draws-us-witness>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/brian-d-mclaren-denominations-do-invaluable-things>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/ga/geoff-moore-fuller-unity>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/rafael-malpica-padilla-particular-way-embracing-christianity>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/gregory-palmer-cohesiveness-and-capacity>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/gradye-parsons-more-vital-faith>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/gil-rendle-what-if-we-have-too-much>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/cally-rogers-witte-critical-presence-the-point-deepest-need>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/phyllis-tickle-anthill>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/susan-towner-larsen-the-elephants-the-room>
<http://leadership.divinity.duke.edu/what-is-the-future-of-denominations-and-other-christian-institutions/>
[Images for future-of-denominations-and-other-christian-institutions](#)

Why choose the PC (USA)?

Some congregations are wrestling with whether or not to maintain their connection to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Here are just a few of the many reasons for them to choose to remain within the **denomination**.

► See also [Why I Belong](#)

Presbyterian Mission Agency

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/>

[Images for Presbyterian Church USA](#)

Why I like denominations - Patheos

For example, most colleges and universities in the U.S. were founded by denominations. So were most hospitals. Most denominations have charitable agencies that are involved in feeding the hungry, training people for jobs, community development, etc. And, of course, most have mission-sending agencies. Small churches that cannot afford to do these things (e.g., found a college or hospital or even support a missionary family) pool their resources better to do them.

Denominations also provide accountability for pastors and other “church professionals.” And I think that accountability works best when the authority is closer to the churches and their leaders.

Denominations also keep each other sharp. A certain amount of competition serves to raise the bar, so to speak, so that there is motivation constantly to update, refurbish, stay sharp (e.g., with regard to technology, training for ministry, etc.).

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/rogereolson/2012/10/why-i-like-denominations/>

[Images for why I like religious denominations](#)

Why We Need Denominations | RELEVANT Magazine

But if the Gospel is of first importance in a denomination, the Church will not be divided by denominations. The Church is a beautiful bride and she is adorned in many colors. Each color has as its base the blood of Jesus. And if she keeps her eyes on Him, the Church can dance to a hundred expressions of the same truth.

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/church/why-we-need-denominations>

[Images for Why We Need Church Denominations](#)

<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-blogs/170439-why-we-need-denominations-networks-and-or-missional-agencies.html>

<http://revkencarter.blogspot.com/2011/10/why-congregations-need-denominations.html>

[Images for why congregations need denominations](#)

<https://gracerector.wordpress.com/2011/10/07/do-we-need-denominations/>

http://www.episcopalcafe.com/do_we_need_denominations/

[Images for ministries denominations provide](#)

<http://baptistnews.com/blog/leadership/do-we-need-denominations-in-the-21st-century-2013-07-23/>

[Images for denominations in the 21st Century](#)

9) Disaffiliations

CENTRAL FLORIDA: Leadership outlines 'disaffiliation protocol for those desiring to disaffiliate from the Episcopal Church'

The Diocesan Board of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida has adopted what it calls "A Protocol for Those Desiring to Disaffiliate From The Episcopal Church."

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/article/central-florida-leadership-outlines-disaffiliation-protocol>

[Images for disaffiliation to disaffiliate from the Episcopal Church](#)

Disaffiliation and Congregational Splits | Church Law & Tax

Which faction in a local church is entitled to the church's property following an attempted disaffiliation from a hierarchical denomination? That was the issue before a Texas appeals court in an important ruling.

<https://www.churchlawandtax.com/cltr/1992/may-june/disaffiliation-and-congregational-splits.html>

<https://www.churchlawandtax.com/cltr/1992/july-august/disaffiliated-local-church-allowed-to-retain-property.html>

[Disaffiliation from the ELCA – Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA](#)

<https://nwmnsynod.org/resources/disaffiliation-from-the-elca/>

[Images for Disaffiliation from the ELCA](#)

[\[PDF\]1 Winnebago Presbytery Disaffiliation Policy](#)

<http://www.winnebagopresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/Disaffiliation-Policy-Adopted-2-11-12.pdf>

[Images for Presbytery Disaffiliation Policy](#)

MEMO

To: Rostered Leaders in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
From: Evangelical Leadership Commission, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Re: Boundaries with former ELCA congregations and pastors
Date: July 15, 2011

Over the past two years, some congregations and rostered persons have chosen to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, most of whom have affiliated with a separatist group. In some synods, there have been no departures; in other synods there have been many. To date, seven congregations have left the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; 205 congregations remain. The departure of sisters and brothers in Christ from our fellowship in the Gospel has been unfortunate and painful.

Long standing relationships with **disaffiliated** colleagues and congregations are now significantly different. Therefore, we, the Evangelical Leadership Commission of the synod, have consulted with our bishop and wish to offer the following as a reflection regarding appropriate boundaries with former ELCA pastors and congregations.

- First and foremost, we acknowledge the loss of valued colleagues and congregations from our denomination's ministry and mission. We are diminished by their departure, and we grieve that they have chosen to leave us.
- We are grateful that, in spite of their separating themselves from our fellowship, we are still brothers and sisters in Christ in the water and Word of Holy Baptism. For this God-giving unity, we give thanks!
- We welcome the participation of those who have disaffiliated in ELCA ministries that have always been open to all regardless of religious affiliation: Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, use of Augsburg Fortress material, college and seminary offerings, world hunger efforts, outdoor ministries, etc.
- We understand that those who have disaffiliated will no longer participate in Conference or synod events, gatherings for ELCA rostered leaders and/or congregations, Women of the ELCA, ELCA global companion relationships, Lutheran Youth Organization meetings and gatherings, etc.
- We acknowledge and affirm that rostered ELCA clergy, both active and retired, are not to provide pastoral service of any kind for groups who have left or who are taking steps to leave the ELCA, and requests for such from those disaffiliated is inappropriate.
- We support interaction and cooperation with disaffiliated pastors and congregations when community-related ministry and mission benefits from partnerships that go beyond our full communion ecumenical relationships.
- We look forward to a future when all God's people are defined by what unifies us in Christ, rather than the differences that separate us.

Again, because relationships have changed, we think it is important to be clear about what constitutes appropriate boundaries to minimize awkwardness and to honor and abide by the polity of our church. We offer our thinking to the other rostered leaders of our synod for your prayerful consideration.

The Evangelical Leadership Commission
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
944 24 1/4 Street, Suite 2, Chetek, WI 54728
office: [715-859-6810](tel:715-859-6810) fax: [715-859-6812](tel:715-859-6812)
www.nswwi.org

10) Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations

[\[PDF\] Claimed, Gathered, Sent: A Guide for Conversation](#)

Claimed, Gathered, Sent: A Guide for Conversation includes this leader guide and five handouts, each outlining a process for conversation. The first four handouts focus on one of the emphases Presiding Bishop Eaton has identified for the ELCA:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

The fifth session turns to the ELCA's relationship with its global and **ecumenical** partners, particularly The Lutheran World Federation.

The goals of this guide are:

To invite reflection, conversation and discernment about what being the church means today.

To strengthen the mission and ministry of congregations and the ELCA as a whole by going back to our spiritual roots.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ClaimedGatheredSent_AGuideForConversation.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Tr96wOutTg> Claimed, Gathered, Sent: A Guide for Conversation – YouTube

[Images for Claimed, Gathered, Sent - ELCA](#)

[Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations | Episcopal Church](#)

The ecumenical movement is the Episcopal Church's response to Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John 17:21 "that they may all be one." The Office for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations offers prayers for unity and participates in formal dialogues to nurture a spirit of understanding and respect, while collaborating actively in mission and ministry opportunities. The Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations works closely with [Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers \(EDEIO\)](#) to equip diocesan officers to carry out ecumenical work. Each province of the Episcopal Church is represented by a provincial coordinator elected from within the organization.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ecumenical-and-inter-religious-relations>

[Images for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations | Episcopal Church](#)

[Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

Welcome to the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations resource page. This resource page provides you a visual way to explore and download the many types of resources we have available. You may also use our powerful [search](#) engine to find other resources not listed here.

Below is a list of resources you can download or purchase. For more information about a specific resource, just hover over the icon.

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations>

[Images for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations – ELCA](#)

Ecumenism

The Future of God's Church – Death and Resurrection

Keynote Address by Bishop Duane Pederson

Walking Together: a congregational resource event March 17, 2013

During the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) this past January, I preached at an ecumenical service at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Superior and many of our ELCA members and clergy were present. The text was from Micah 6, those familiar words about what the Lord re-quires—to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

In the sermon, I said, "Our witness is not to our denomination, but to the Lord who always loves the last, the least, and the lost, and who calls us to love the same. I can assure you, the poor and marginalized of our neighborhoods, country, and world could care less if we are Methodists, Roman Catholics, or United Church of Christ. All they hunger for is kind-ness and justice, dignity and fairness. And if we live out Micah's words, they will see the face of Christ in us."

It is my conviction that the mission context in which we live today will require much closer cooperation with other Christian bodies, particularly between congregations in local communities. The local community of faith is the heartbeat of church, gathering around Word and Sacrament and then sent into the world as disciples living for Jesus. And the unity that Christ has already brought into being through baptism into his body, by being steeped in his death and resurrection, will be lived out more and more as old prejudices and doctrinal arrogance give way to cooperation for the sake of witness and service.

If we are serious about introducing an unchurched, disconnected world to the transformative power of Jesus Christ, then we should be partnering every time it makes sense to carry out mission and ministry together.

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/keynote_pederson_2013.pdf

Page 3

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/5938> Duane Pederson Elected Bishop of ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

[Images for Bishop Duane C. Pederson](#)

info@nswi.org

[Images for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#)

[What Does the Bible Say About Ecumenism? - OpenBible.info](#)

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/ecumenism>

[Images for bible and ecumenism](#)

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Ecumenism/>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Ecumenism>

[Images for encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Ecumenism](#)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/ecumenism-ecumenical.html>

<https://www.virtueonline.org/bible-can-put-new-zest-ecumenism-n-t-wright>

11) Ethnic Specific & Multicultural Ministries

[Developing Multicultural Churches in the United States - General Board of Global Ministries](#)

Global Ministries has a mandate to develop churches in the United States, a country whose population is rapidly changing, largely through immigration. Thus, traditionally and in the last few decades, we have focused on establishing faith communities among US ethnic minorities. Our "national plan" ministries have reached out to Hispanics, Latinos, Koreans, Native Americans, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

<http://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/New-World-Outlook-Magazine/New-World-Outlook-Archives/2013/Jan-Feb-2013/0227-Developing-Multicultural-Churches>

[Developing-Multicultural-Churches](#)

[Images for Developing Multicultural Churches in the United States - General Board of Global Ministries](#)

Different models for multicultural congregations and ministries | Iron Shapes Iron

Congregations which are intentionally inclusive and motivated to minister to all people in the community, give in different ways practical and structural expression to it. This is due to reasons such as different sociological contexts, resources available, the maturity and mission awareness of the congregation and the theology, vision and gifts of the leadership. Multicultural congregations may at times also move through different stages or models of multicultural ministry in the course of time. Some congregations may use or adapt more than one model in their multicultural congregation and ministry.

<https://ironshapessiron.wordpress.com/2011/10/05/different-models-for-multicultural-congregations-and-ministries/>
Images for Different models for multicultural congregations and ministries | Iron Shapes Iron

Ethnic Specific & Multicultural Ministries - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Members of the ELCA believe that Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. Our faith liberates us to embrace each person in their wholeness — questions, complexities, ethnicity, culture and all. The Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team assists the ELCA in becoming more culturally diverse and anti-racist by working with ELCA congregations, synods, communities, agencies and institutions. The team provides consultation, programming and resources to help accomplish this work to which the ELCA is called.

The Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team works within the ELCA toward the goal of full partnership and participation of African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander and Latino people in the life of this church. This is done in partnership, together with leaders throughout the church, churchwide ministries staff, regions, synods, congregations, agencies and institutions. Each ethnic specific community has developed a mission strategy unique to their needs and aspirations. Each ethnic specific ministry program director works in partnership with their community's rostered and lay leaders and ethnic associations.

The Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team also assists this church in working to become more culturally diverse and anti-racist by providing resources and opportunities to engage in cross-cultural and racial equity learning through the work of Racial Justice Ministries.



<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries>

Images for Ethnic Specific & Multicultural Ministries - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Ethnic-and-Multicultural-Ministries>

<http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries/Latino>

<http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries/African-Descent>

57 best Multicultural Ministry images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/jaredsorber/multicultural-ministry/>

Images for Multicultural Ministry Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/disciplesfcm/multicultural-image-resources/>

Gifted for Leadership: Multicultural Ministry at Work - An Interview with Vancouver Pastor Joel Adrienne Amzil

A willingness to really learn about the cultures of those who start to trickle in is important, too. Learn their communication styles. Be open to having translation available to those who need it. Really be willing to get to the root of issues and dialogue.

Also, ethnic diversity among the visible leaders helps. We have board members, ministry coordinators, staff members, and worship team leaders that represent Trinity's diversity. So, our church is not just one that welcomes people from all nations here, but they will be invited to lead and to minister as they are gifted and called.

http://www.giftedforleadership.com/2013/12/multicultural_ministry_at_work.html

Images for Gifted for Leadership: Multicultural Ministry at Work

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gifted-for-leadership/2013/december/multicultural-ministry-at-work.html>

<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/jo%25C3%25A8l-adrienne-amzil-318b9b2a>

Multicultural | Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership

The Catholic Church in the United States is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of culture, race and ethnic backgrounds and age. These realities must be faced with bold and successful initiatives to invite and welcome a new generation of diverse leaders into the ministry ranks as soon as possible. The specific needs of pastoral leaders emerging from within culturally and generationally diverse communities will be the focus of research in the area of recruitment, training and formation.

The reality of diversity in parish life has grown beyond expectation. The United States is in the midst of its second and largest wave of immigration. Spanish speaking immigrants as well as those from Asian and African cultures are filling American parishes.

<http://emergingmodels.org/focus-areas/multicultural/>

Images for Multicultural | Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership

Multicultural Ministries — Episcopal Church in Minnesota

The Episcopal Church of Minnesota is a multi-cultural community of congregations that reflects the diverse ethnic realities of Minnesota, where all congregations are empowered to have a shared voice within a culture of mutual accountability. Given the increasing populations of immigrants through the state, there are numerous opportunities before us to develop ethnic-specific as well as multi-cultural congregations. Below are some of Minnesota's congregations helping to achieve this goal.

<http://episcopalmn.org/about/multicultural-ministries/>

[Images for Multicultural Ministries — Episcopal Church in Minnesota](#)

Multicultural Ministry: Finding Your Church's Unique Rhythm [David Anderson]

Multiculturalism isn't a trend, it's a reality. Evidence of this country's rich racial mix is all around us in our schools, our stores, our neighborhoods, our recreational facilities---everywhere except our churches. Heaven may include every culture, tongue, and tribe, but in the United States, Sunday morning remains one of the last bastions of ethnic separatism. It's time to stop merely talking about multicultural worship and start living it. In this groundbreaking book, David Anderson invites us all-African-American, Asian, Caucasian, and Latino-to learn how to dance the dance of multicultural ministry. We've all got different moves, but that's the beauty of diversity: the various gifts we bring, the wisdom of our heritages, the different creative ways we express the same Lord. Think it can't be done? Think again. As Anderson demonstrates, it is being done successfully by more and more churches. Wherever your church is now on the multicultural continuum, you can join the ranks of those moving toward a diverse and thriving ministry.

Combining frontline insights with inspiring stories, Anderson takes you and your church into the strategy-level realities of what it takes to make multicultural ministry work in your setting. Do you hear the beat of the Spirit? God is calling your church to the dance of unity in diversity. Don't hold back! Grab this book, get out on the dance floor, and let Multicultural Ministry show you the steps. Includes a Racial Reconciliation survey and six-session Racial Reconciliation curriculum.

<http://www.amazon.com/Multicultural-Ministry-Finding-Churchs-Unique/dp/0310251583>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9238371-multicultural-ministry-handbook>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/multicultural-ministry-handbook-david-a-anderson/1112134511?type=eBook>

<http://www.zondervan.com/multicultural-ministry>

<https://www.ivpress.com/multicultural-ministry-handbook>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Multicultural_Ministry.html?id=rNDpb5MgxZkC

<http://www.nuibebooks.com/multicultural-ministry-finding-your-churchs-unique-rhythm-PDF-1303961/>

<https://www.9marks.org/review/multicultural-ministry-david-anderson/>

<http://www.facetofaceintercultural.com.au/multicultural-ministry-anderson/>

<https://www.bridgeway.cc/new-here/senior-pastor>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830837159>

Page 195

<http://www.rpmministries.org/2009/08/the-best-of-books-on-multicultural-ministry/>

http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/central/sp/documents/AndersonsMaximizingYourDiversityPotentialSession_000.pdf

<http://www.andersonspeaks.com/biography>

<https://www.amazon.com/Gracism-Inclusion-Dr-David-Anderson/dp/083083737X>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/113867.David_A_Anderson

[Images for david a anderson author multicultural ministry](#)

[Images for Multicultural Ministry: Finding Your Church's Unique Rhythm \[David Anderson\]](#)

Multicultural Ministry in Today's Parish - Ken Johnson-Mondragon

Taken as a whole, the research findings from the Emerging Models in Pastoral Leadership Project provide a detailed snapshot of the current strengths and challenges, the hopes and fears of leaders in Catholic parishes throughout the country. When viewed through the lens of ministry in multicultural, bicultural, and ethnic parishes, the insights offer a tantalizing glimpse into the cultural dynamics of many contemporary parish communities, but they also raise many more questions than they answer.

This summary will synthesize the most important findings of the research, identify areas in which further research will enhance our understanding of multicultural parish ministry, and present important themes and suggestions for improving and expanding ministry in multicultural parishes in the coming years. For a complete analysis of the Emerging Models Project research viewed through the lens of multicultural ministry, see Ministry in Multicultural and National / Ethnic Parishes, available online at:

www.emergingmodels.org/reports.cfm

http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/multicultural_ministry_in_parishes_today_-_johnson-mondragon.pdf

<https://www.smp.org/author/386/Ken-Johnson-Mondragon/>

<https://vencuentro.org/ken-johnson-mondragon-joins-the-v-encuentro-leadership-team/>

<http://fchcatechesis.org/two-experts-to-explore-topic-of-effective-outreach-to-us-born-hispanic-youth/>

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3AKen%20Johnson-Mondragon

[Images for Ken Johnson-Mondragon, author multicultural ministry](#)

[Images for Multicultural Ministry in Today's Parish - Ken Johnson-Mondragon](#)

Multicultural ministry - Living Lutheran

Is it a matter of faith or a fad?

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/01/multicultural-ministry/>

[Images for Multicultural ministry - Living Lutheran](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Study on Catholic Church: Multicultural Parishes Increase as Hispanic Membership Grows in US

The percentage of multicultural Catholic parishes in the U.S. is on the increase, according to research by the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). The report also indicates that some 29.7 million U.S. residents who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino are estimated to be Catholic, representing about 59 percent of the 50.5 million people of this race in the country.

Membership of Hispanics in the Catholic Church is growing, reaching to 38 percent, according to the study as presented by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Non-Hispanic whites are still the majority at 54 percent of the national Catholic population.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/study-on-catholic-church-multicultural-parishes-increase-as-hispanic-membership-grows-in-us-106332/>

[Images for Catholic Church: Multicultural Parishes Hispanic Membership Grows](#)

Who We Are - Presbyterian Mission Agency

The mission of **Multicultural** Congregational Support

Assist the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s efforts in becoming the church intended to be as a multiracial, multilingual and multicultural community of faith and empower congregations and governing bodies as they seek to claim, live and celebrate the vision expressed in the Biblical mandate.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/multicultural/who-we-are/>

[Images for Presbyterian Mission Agency The mission of Multicultural Congregational Support](#)

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/multicultural/sunday/>

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/doing-ministry-multicultural-setting/>

<http://www.hudrivpres.org/upload/resources/crossculturalresources.pdf>

12) Faith Tribes

The Seven Faith Tribes: Who They Are, What They Believe, and Why They Matter [George Barna]

In this groundbreaking book, now available in softcover, acclaimed researcher and author George Barna identifies, describes, and analyzes seven major "faith tribes" in America—documenting who they are, what they believe, how they vote, and what they are passionate about. Barna provides helpful insight into how these groups influence our economy, politics, and values—and what their potential is to change America. Through his in-depth study of all seven tribes, Barna has identified potential strategies that faith tribes—if they choose to—could employ to facilitate healing and restoration in American culture, and cultures across the world.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/seven-faith-tribes-george-barna/1102466147>

<http://www.amazon.com/Seven-Faith-Tribes-Believe-Matter/dp/1414338813>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6255514-the-seven-faith-tribes>

<https://www.tyndale.com/p/the-seven-faith-tribes/2707/e-book>

<https://www.cumbbooks.co.za/media/chapters/9781414324043.pdf>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=141433365X>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Seven_Faith_Tribes.html?id=wP55OAAACAAJ

<http://equip.pacep.org/the-seven-faith-tribes-who-they-are-what-they-believe-and-why-they-matter.html>

http://bookfoolery.blogspot.com/2009/06/seven-faith-tribes-by-george-barna_12.html

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/culture/books/reviews/17133-review-the-seven-faith-tribes>

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/religion/2333351/posts>

<http://swiffoxmark2.blogspot.com/2012/07/potshots-on-faith-tribes.html>

<http://www.billdahl.net/book-reviews/book-review-the-seven-faith-tribes-by-george-barna/>

<https://pjmillier.wordpress.com/2009/04/28/down-the-rabbit-hole-barna-americas-faith-tribes-can-restore-nation/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/researcher-america-s-faith-tribes-can-restore-nation-38326/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/americas-5-faith-groups-becoming-more-divided-political-social-beliefs-barna-185351/>

<https://www.barna.com/research/casual-christians-and-the-future-of-america/>

<http://www.barna.org/>

<https://www.amazon.com/George-Barna/e/B000APJB4G>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/32052.George_Barna

[Images for george barna, author](#)

[Images for The Seven Faith Tribes: Who They Are, What They Believe, and Why They Matter \[George Barna\]](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Tribes? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/tribes>

[Images for bible and faith tribes](#)

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/how-the-bible-is-relevant-to-every-tribe-tongue-and-nation.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-every-tribe-and-language-and-people-and-nation>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/lamb-and-his-tribes/>

13) Fellowship

Bible Fellowship Church - Wikipedia

The Bible Fellowship Church is a conservative pietistic Christian denomination with Mennonite roots.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_Fellowship_Church

[Images for Bible Fellowship Church](#)

[Fellowship of Congregational Churches - Wikipedia](#)

The Fellowship of Congregational Churches is a conservative Congregational denomination in Australia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellowship_of_Congregational_Churches

[Images for Fellowship of Congregational Churches](#)

[Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches - Wikipedia](#)

The Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches is an evangelical Christian denomination with an Anabaptist Mennonite heritage.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellowship_of_Evangelical_Bible_Churches

[Images for Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches](#)

[Fellowship of Evangelical Churches - Wikipedia](#)

The Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (FEC) is an evangelical body of Christians with an Amish Mennonite heritage that is headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The FEC contains 60 churches located in Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellowship_of_Evangelical_Churches

[Images for Fellowship of Evangelical Churches](#)

[Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches - Wikipedia](#)

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, before 1976 known under the name of National Fellowship of Brethren Churches, is a theologically conservative fellowship of Brethren churches that was founded in 1939 as a conservative split from the Brethren Church.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellowship_of_Grace_Brethren_Churches

[Images for Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches](#)

[Fellowship of Lutheran Christians - Wikipedia](#)

The Fellowship of Lutheran Congregations,[1] FLC is a group of Lutheran congregations that left the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation LCR in 1979.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellowship_of_Lutheran_Christians

[Images for Fellowship of Lutheran Christians](#)

[What Does the Bible Say About Fellowship? - OpenBible.info](#)

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/fellowship>

[Images for bible and fellowship](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/fellowship,-among-believers>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/3-importance-fellowship-new-testament-church>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Fellowship/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/fellowship/>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/we-need-each-other> We Need Each Other: Christian Fellowship as a Means of Perseverance

[Images for We Need Each Other: Christian Fellowship as a Means of Perseverance](#)

14) Global Church

[Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation by Craig L. Nesson \(Author\)](#)

Visionary yet practical, Nesson's influential book makes a persuasive case for the centrality of mission in the life of the church.

Nesson's model of mission-driven leadership is strongly centered on the community of faith's worship and draws unique connections between the worship life of a congregation and every aspect of the church's ministry. Around the twin foci of congregational identity and mission, the chapters in this dynamic book provide solid theological and radical direction on the themes of worship, education, fellowship, stewardship, evangelism, global connections, and social ministry.

10. **Global Connections:** The Church Catholic

Centrifugal Force of the Gospel

Beyond Nationalism

Global Connections in the Congregation

<http://store.fortresspress.com/store/productgroup/463/Beyond-Maintenance-to-Mission-A-Theology-of-the-Congregation>

http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Maintenance-Mission-Theology-Congregation/dp/0800663268#reader_0800663268

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7190175-beyond-maintenance-to-mission>

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3334

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451405391>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Beyond_Maintenance_to_Mission.html?id=rjAQfrXaEjsC

<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/7889/>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/craig-l-nessan>

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/people/dr-craig-l-nessan/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-L.-Nesson/e/B001JSAG9C>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/723724.Craig_L_Nesson

[Images for Craig L. Nesson \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation by Craig L. Nesson \(Author\) 10. Global Connections: The Church Catholic](#)

ELCA Global Church Sponsorship - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome to the ELCA Global Church Sponsorship resource page! There are a variety of resources here that lift up the work of ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, International Leaders and Global Ministries—including the Hand in Hand newsletter, bulletin inserts, the annual missionary directory and more!

Explore the tabs below to download free electronic resources or to order print resources from our e-store. To order a Young Adults in Global Mission directory or tribute cards, order by [email](#). Find more resources at www.elca.org/Resources/Global-Mission or by using our powerful search engine. Below is a list of resources you can download or purchase. For more information about a specific resource, just hover over the icon.



<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship>
[Images for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship](#)

Global Companions

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin has special relationships with Lutherans in Malawi and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. These relationships remind us that the church, in this country and abroad, is engaged in mission far and wide. Through these relationships, we learn from one another, encourage and pray for one another, and support one another for the sake of Christ's mission.

[Visit the website for Partner Synod: The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.](#)
[Learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi \(ELCM\).](#)

Accompaniment is how we describe our commitment to our global companions. This commitment is illustrated by the image of walking alongside companions in respect and mutuality, together discerning future directions for shared mission.

The synod is very intentional about our ministry with our international companions. We are a Companion Synod with the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi](#) (ELCM). Please click on the links (above) to discover more about these companions.

[Our Faith in Action - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

http://www.nswi.org/our_faith_in_action/

[Images for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi](#)

Global Mission

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) emphasizes God's call to us to share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. "Global mission" refers to the ways we respond to [God's call to mission beyond our local congregations](#). We reach out to others through evangelism, witness, education, promotion of justice, service, relief and development across the globe.

[Learn about the Global Church and ELCA Global Mission.](#)

[Our Faith in Action - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

http://www.nswi.org/our_faith_in_action/

[Images for God's call to mission beyond our local congregations](#)

Global Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Explore accompaniment as the "why" and "how" of mission and learn methods of application in various ministry areas, including cross-cultural relationships, migration and immigration, cross-generational ministry, interfaith dialogue, worship that includes global music and stories, peace and non-violence and short-term mission trips. Become familiar with how you are in relationship with Lutheran companions in more than 120 countries through companion synod relationships. Deepen your knowledge about how the ELCA's global engagement has changed in the 21st century.

These resources provide an overview of the work of the ELCA in relationship with our global companions, The Lutheran World Federation and the planning documents that act as foundational documents of accompaniment.



<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Global-Mission>
[Images for Global Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

Global Relationships

A Warm Welcome from the Warm Heart of Africa

The following note is from the Rev. John Sutherland, assistant to the bishop:

Malawi remains an amazing place that defies words or explanation. I do have a soft spot for this place, but I contend for good reason. So far, we have enjoyed gracious hospitality, warm friendships and genuine appreciation of our presence.

We are staying in the new guest house that was completed last year. While the stove does not work to heat water for morning coffee, it does have hot water, and that is really appreciated.

I am happy to report that the Pastors' Academy is a huge success thus far. I have witnessed a great exchange of information and collegiality. All the participants are having a great time, and I feel blessed to be part of it. View more photos and follow the travelers on the synod Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nswi) and Walking Together ELCM-NWSWI Community (www.facebook.com/elcmnswi).

[eclipse Like us on Facebook This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1118013427946.html>

[Images for Church Global Relationships](#)

Global Relationships

Malawi was devastated by floods in January 2015. There has been loss of life, loss of homes, infrastructure damage and crop damage. Disease outbreak and famine may result from the heavy rains that came late and wiped out young crops. A state of emergency has been declared in this country of 15 million people (10 million are below the age of 15). Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world.

How can we help? Sunday, February 15, has been designated, "*A Valentine for the Warm Heart of Africa.*" Make valentines to send to our brothers and sisters in Malawi. Include prayers, personal messages of hope, love and support. Collect a special offering to help provide for their needs--food, shelter, clean water, etc. Please encourage your congregation to get involved! Watch your mailbox for more information.

[News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact](#)

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of January 18, 2015

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119844102078.html>

[Images for encourage your congregation to get involved](#)

Global Relationships

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world together.

Companion church relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world.

Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods and congregations. Each of the 65 synods has at least one international church companion and many have additional relationships, resulting in more than 120 companion synod relationships.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) is our companion synod. Dozens of congregations within the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin have formed companion congregation relationships with a parish in Malawi. Opportunities for more congregational matches are available. If your congregation is not currently matched, but would like to learn more about companionship, we'd love to hear from you!

[Learn more about the ELCM and companion relationships.](#)

[View the list of matched congregations](#) in our synod.

Contact [John Sutherland](#), assistant to the bishop/companion synod coordinator

[News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact](#)

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1115931473905.html>

[Images for global church relationships](#)

[68 best The Global Church images on Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/catholicword/the-global-church/>

[Images for global church pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/alyacroft/church-the-global-church/>

15) Interim Ministry

ABC Ministers Council and (2) Interim Ministries-ABC

- I will maintain a strong emphasis on ABC mission support and participation by the church in ABC life.

<http://www.interimministries-abc.org/Local/documents/codeofethics.pdf>

[Images for participation by congregation in denomination](#)

Congregational Ministry Assessment - Relationship to the Synod, ELCA, Ecumenical, and Interfaith Organizations

Describe briefly the congregation's significant relationships with the broader faith community.

How are these relationships maintained?

What is the vision for renewing relationships with the synod during the interim?

Call Process Booklet EDITED - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/call_process_rev11.17.09smaller.pdf Page 55

Call Process Booklet - Yumpu

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/53432941/call-process-booklet>

[Images for Congregational Ministry Assessment](#)

[Images for congregation's significant relationships with the broader faith community](#)

From Your Interim Minister

Renewing affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association, renewing denominational linkages, is one of the tasks of the interim ministry process. This is not just for the benefit of the denomination, or even to reconnect in preparation for the ministerial search process, but for the congregation's greater good. Sometimes I have observed that members and committees of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester do not know that denominational resources exist to help the congregation through an issue.

Sometimes I have observed folks thinking that they had to invent a process when one already exists. Attending the district conference is a way to remedy that. Besides, being in the room with hundreds of Unitarian Universalists from our district gives one perspective and the feeling that we are not isolated.

Article: February 2005

<http://www.mbc-designs.com/LarrySmithUU/article1.html>

[Images for Renewing affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

How Can an Interim Minister Help?

Your interim minister will help your congregation be aware of its connection to the **wider fabric of our movement and our collective ministry.**

http://www.spiritquest.ws/About_Interim_Ministry.html

[Images for wider fabric of our movement and our collective ministry](#)

Interim Bible Study for Who and Where We Are Now

This Bible study relates to three of the interim church's tasks – discovering a new identity, managing shifts in leadership, and renewing **denominational linkages.**

Who and Where We are Now - Congdon Street Baptist Church

http://www.csbchurch.org/BibleStudyOutline_04-14-10.pdf

[Images for denominational linkages](#)

Notes from the Third Transition Meeting TASK THREE: RENEWING DENOMINATIONAL LINKAGES.

1. What do we understand by the statement that we are Anglican or within the Anglican Communion?
2. What do we expect from the Diocese?
3. What do we contribute to our Anglican context?
4. What helps the pastoral transition period be a positive time?
5. What helps this congregation maintain focus, commit to a common mission and renew a sense of purpose?

http://www.sjapostle.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=297:notes-from-the-third-transition-meeting&catid=14:transition-meetings&Itemid=41

[Images for RENEWING DENOMINATIONAL LINKAGES](#)

Renewing denominational linkages

Who are we Presbyterians?

Why are we a **connectional church in Christ?**

INTERIM MINISTRY GUIDELINES - Presbytery of Cincinnati

<http://www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org/InterimMinistryGuidelines2011.pdf>

[Images for connectional church in Christ](#)

Renewing Denominational Linkages: The Developmental Tasks Revisited

The Journal of the Interim Ministry Network. Volume 2, Number 3 – November, 1998.

By Nancy Tanner. Interim Ministry Network. 5740 Executive Drive, Suite 212, Baltimore, MD 21228. www.imnedu.org

Strengthening Denominational Ties

4. Strengthening Denominational Ties

During the interim period, congregations find themselves working more closely than usual with the denomination, particularly with conference staff and resources. A prime opportunity exists to reinforce and strengthen a local congregation's sense of belonging to the wider church.

[Interim Ministry Guidebook - Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ](http://www.scnuc.org/resources/d/InterimMinistGuide2.pdf)

<http://www.scnuc.org/resources/d/InterimMinistGuide2.pdf>

Page 8

[Images for Strengthening Denominational Ties](#)

The Call Process: Partnership and Interdependence

We believe it is our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides the call process. The calling of a pastor represents a valuable partnership among God, the calling congregation, and the synod of the ELCA. An ideal call process builds on trust, openness, and good communication. When the call process results in a good match between pastor and congregation, the total mission of the church is furthered.

http://www.swmnelca.org/Call_Process/Step_4/STEP4_FORMING_THE_CALL_COMMITTEE.pdf Step 4 – Page 2 of 4

[Images for Pastoral Call Process: Partnership and Interdependence](#)

What is Intentional Interim Ministry? || Texas Baptists / Baptists General Convention of Texas

3. **Connections**—Baptist theology, financial support of other ministries, partnerships in ministry and missions—most church members are disconnected to these important areas of a church's life. The interim period is a key time for reconnecting the church to Baptist life, unifying the church around these concepts, and making sure the Pastor Search Committee finds an appropriate candidate for the church.

<http://texasbaptists.org/education-discipleship/pastorless-churches/what-is-intentional-interim-ministry/>

[Images for partnerships in ministry and missions](#)

16) Mission Interpretation

Mission Interpretation - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mission interpretation helps ELCA congregations understand all of God's work that we do together through the three expressions of the ELCA.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Stewardship/Mission-Interpretation>

[Images for Mission Interpretation - ELCA](#)

[PDF]Mission Interpretation - Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

http://www.myselca.org/forms/Memo_419.pdf

[Images for Mission Interpretation – Metropolitan Chicago Synod](#)

Mission Interpretation Resources - the Metropolitan New York Synod

It's easy to start a mission interpretation ministry in your congregation - to help people understand where offerings go and equip them with skills for telling their own stories. These resources can serve as a guide for giving mission moments.

- [General Mission Interpretation Resources](#)
- [Interpreting Mission on a Congregational Level](#)
- [Interpreting Mission on a Synodical Level](#)
- [Interpreting Mission on a Churchwide Level](#)
- [Samples](#)

http://www.mnys.org/giving/mission_interpretation_resources/

<https://www.facebook.com/myselca/>

[Images for Mission Interpretation Resources - the Metropolitan New York Synod](#)

Mission Interpreter - Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Mission Interpreters:

- Thank people for what they do in Jesus' name
- Inform people about how their giving makes a difference in the lives of others
- Teach people about the ministries and contexts we serve together
- Inspire people to be aware of and connected to ministries of the church
- Tie together our efforts in common ministry
- Invite people to be active participants and supporters of the mission we share

www.nemnsynod.org/mission-interpreter.html

[Images for Mission Interpreters – Northeastern Minnesota Synod](#)

Mission Interpreters - Delaware-Maryland Synod

A dynamic feature of stewardship, [Mission Interpretation](#) helps congregants understand the practical impact of the offering; how giving makes a real difference in people's lives.

Mission Interpreters are excellent communicators who delight in sharing stories that reveal how the ELCA's mission and ministry is accomplished within their congregations. Consider becoming involved with Mission Interpretation if you:

- feel called to tell others about mission and ministry;

- have strong verbal and written communication skills;
- actively support an ELCA congregation; and
- are willing to receive special training for telling stories of faith in action.

For more information about Mission Interpretation, becoming a Mission Interpreter, and to share stories about your congregation contact: Claudia Harrington, claudia7376@gmail.com

www.demdsynod.org/mission-interpreters.html

[Images for Mission Interpreters - Delaware-Maryland Synod](#)

17) Mission Support

Mission Support - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

As members of the ELCA, our faith in a loving God frees us to be generous and to boldly participate in God's work in the world. Stewardship is no longer simply about paying the church's bills. It is about how congregations can together live out God's call to love our neighbor. We are open to the Holy Spirit's invitation to participate in and contribute to God's work in the world using all of the gifts that God has entrusted to our care. Mission Support — the portion of offerings that ELCA congregations share with synods and the churchwide organization — unites us in this vital, life-giving work.

Mission Support provides 80 percent of the resources to enable the ELCA to begin [new ministries](#) and accompany existing congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission. These funds also provide the staff and resources for the development of [new leaders](#), partnership with churches around the [globe](#), alleviating [poverty](#), working for [justice](#) and peace, and so much more. The ELCA's evangelical and missional witness invites generous giving. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to increase Mission Support through their decisions and actions. Synods and the churchwide organization share these Mission Support dollars through our work in the expressions of the church. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities throughout the world.

<https://www.elca.org/missionsupport>

[Images for Mission Support - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

Mission Support from an ELCA Perspective - North Carolina Synod Stewardship Conversations

What is mission support?

Mission support is that portion of an individual's financial offering that a congregation shares with the synod and churchwide organization to fund the mission and ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

All that we do as the ELCA is made possible through the financial gifts shared through mission support.

Together we do God's work with our hands in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.

<http://www.nclutheran.org/congregations/documents/NC-Synod-Mission-Support-from-an-ELCA-Perspective.pdf>

[Images for Mission Support ELCA Perspective](#)

Mission Support: What Is Mission Support? | Mission Support | MNYS

What is mission support?

Mission support is an offering. Just as individual members give offerings to God to support their congregation, individual congregations give offerings to God to support our synod and the wider church. Congregations can also serve as role models when they tithe—giving a percentage of their income to our synod as mission support.

http://www.mnys.org/giving/mission_support/

<https://www.facebook.com/NJSynodELCA/>

[Images for support synod and wider church](#)

New Jersey Synod of the ELCA - Mission Support Principles

God's stewards are God's stewards. We are therefore called to accountability for managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. This page affirms the commitments of the New Jersey Synod in Assembly in 2002 to Biblical stewardship principles.

These expectations are for consideration by each Congregation Council in the synod.

Principle 1: Mission Support sharing is proportional.

Principle 2: 10% is the base level of Mission Support sharing in New Jersey.

Principle 3: Mission Support sharing is a first-fruits gift.

Principle 4: New Jersey congregations tithe unrestricted bequests.

Principle 5: New Jersey congregations tithe unrestricted endowment income.

<http://www.njsynod.org/content/view/133/134/>

[Images for New Jersey Synod of the ELCA – Mission Support](#)

Should Our Congregation Offer More Choices? | The Parish Paper

But today's congregations serve in a new cultural context whose adults have very different thinking patterns. One example of congregational response to the current insistence on more choices is in the financial [support of missions](#).

http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/uploads/2/5/4/8/25486559/51_resources_congregations_parish_paper_2009_feb.pdf

<http://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue/should-our-congregation-offer-more-choices>

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper> February 2009 - "Should Our Congregation Offer More Choices?"

[Images for financial support of missions](#)

Top Ten Reasons for Congregations to Give 10% (or more) to Mission Support

1. Ultimately it is about God and Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. Nothing we can do can earn that love. We are free! Free to respond in service to others.
2. Uncharacteristically, we as Lutherans can brag because we have the largest non-profit caring ministry system in our country, Lutheran Services in America, some of the finest colleges, wonderful camps, disaster response and hunger ministries and much, much more that happens when we together pitch in with our tithe to this common work.
3. Mission support stops us from taking for granted having pastors and other rostered leaders, educational materials, support for evangelism, stewardship, and other areas of our ministry, all become available because congregations participate generously in mission support.
4. Mission support reminds us that we began as congregations because other congregations first helped us when we started out as a mission. It takes us back to our mission roots.
5. Generous givers through mission support are motivated by the overwhelming generosity of a loving God who provides for our daily needs. In a small way, we are given the opportunity to say, "Thank You" for our daily bread.
6. Generous giving through mission support lifts our spirits and frees us from clutching our possessions too tightly so that those possessions don't possess us. It teaches us that sacrifice can be a "good thing".
7. Mission support unites you in a common mission with your brothers and sisters in neighboring congregations as a reminder of how St. Paul understood what it means to be the church together.
8. Mission support provides the opportunity for your members to hear inspirational stories of how their mission support makes a difference in another person's life.
9. Mission support models for your congregation members the experience of what it means to tithe of their resources to God.
10. Mission support is an opportunity for your congregation to discover the joy of giving to God's mission beyond yourselves. It turns us from facing inward all of the time to facing outward to our neighbors.

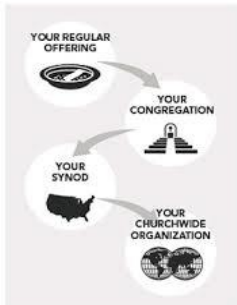
Top 10 Mission Support Reasons.pdf

http://www.neos-elca.org/unified_mailing/2009/08-2009/Top_10_Mission_Support_Reasons.pdf
[Images for generous givers through mission support](#)

What is Mission Support?

Mission Support is the money you place in the offering plate that is shared with your synod and church organization for ELCA ministries beyond the congregation. When we work together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are doing God's work in ways that no individual or none of the over 10,000 congregations can do alone. By sharing out time, talents, and treasures generously, God's Spirit inspires others to give generously. You Mission Support dollars support the whole church!

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action/Mission-Support/FAQs.aspx>
[Images for What is ELCA Mission Support?](#)



Why Give ELCA Mission Support: Building the Case

Many congregations ask, "Why give mission support?" For congregations that remember their early days and the role of the larger church in providing guidance and financial support, the answer to this question may be very clear. However, for older congregations the reasons may not be as clear. Actually, the reasons go beyond the age of a congregation.

Building the case begins with who we are.

Our Lutheran Identity

As Lutherans, we understand ourselves to have first received from God, and then to respond by giving a portion to God.

This faith practice of giving is based on recognizing God's grace, accepting freely and appreciating gratefully God's generosity. As a faith practice, giving is lived out in three ways – in proportion to what we have received, in priority from what was received first, in progressive amounts as one has been blessed. These reflect a core practice that is taught, learned and live out through the ministries of this church.

Our Historical Practice

Individuals are taught, invited and encouraged to practice first fruits giving. Congregations are encouraged to give the first 10% or more of offerings to mission support as a way to make ministries and outreach possible beyond the walls of the congregation. Some congregations have adopted this practice more fervently and give a third or more of their offerings beyond their walls. This practice has inspired more than 200 ELCA congregations to pass on 20% or more of their offerings in mission support. It is this historical practice that has created a model for – it is just what we do!

Our 21st Century Strategy

As the ELCA enters the second decade of the 21st century, two clear priorities have emerged – building capacity for evangelical witness and alleviating poverty by working for justice and peace. The pursuit of these priorities is directly connected to congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission. As we strengthen our partnership, we do together many things that we

could not do alone. One significant way this is made possible is through mission support income from individuals, congregations and synods. This income is the lifeblood of the work God does through the ELCA.

Our Competency as Stewards

In bringing forth and supporting faithful, wise and courageous leaders, we engage and shape well-formed stewards. This recognizes the holistic nature of a competent steward – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, financially. These stewards embrace financial health as an expression of faith in this interdependent church. Understanding the perspectives of abundance, grace, gratitude and generosity, faithful stewards express their response through regular offerings, special gifts and planned gifts. These gifts support local ministries and through mission support fund God’s work through the ELCA.

Our Constitutional Polity

Financial stewardship within the ELCA recognizes congregations, synods and the churchwide organization as interdependent partners who share responsibility for mission. In this relationship, all share responsibility for ministries and services to develop, implement and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. This partnership is reflected in our mutual ministries of community service, education, discipleship and leadership development.

[View Why Give ELCA Mission Support?](#)

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/why_give_elca_mission_support_building_the_cas_1.pdf

[Images for Why Give ELCA Mission Support?](#)

[PDF] Your Mission Support Offerings in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA



<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/525c0463e4b030e5f071b18b/t/526aba2ce4b0eb90d7730db9/1382726188489/Stewardship+-+Where+does+the+money+go.pdf>

[Images for Mission Support Offerings in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA](#)

[PDF]Your offering and Mission Support - ELCA Resource Repository

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.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/MissionSupport_FAQSheet.pdf

[Images for Your offering and Mission Support - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

<https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA-CSM-MissionSupport-Folder-2015.pdf>

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/WDMOG_Infographic_8x11.pdf

18) Network

Covenant Network Congregations - Covenant Network

The sessions of these congregations have studied and affirmed the [Call to Covenant Community](#) or the [Founding Call to Covenant Community](#).

<http://covnetpres.org/about/congregations/>

[Images for Covenant Network Congregations – Covenant Network](#)

International Congregations

In our own behalf: Welcome to the website of the **Network** of International Congregations

www.internationalcongregations.net/

[Images for Network of International Congregations](#)

Reconciling Ministries Network - Wikipedia

The Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) is an organization dedicated to the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in both the policy and practices of [United Methodist Church](#). It is one of many [Welcoming Congregation](#) organizations to emerge in American Christianity in the 1980s. The ministry currently has approximately 761 affiliated congregations and 32,681 affiliated individuals.^[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconciling_Ministries_Network

[Images for reconciling ministries network](#)

10 Major Trends for Churches in 2017 - Rainer on Leadership - Thom Rainer

9. The rise of **networks**.

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/12/ten-critical-trends-churches-2018/>

[Images for 10 Major Trends for Churches in 2017 - Rainer on Leadership - Thom Rainer 9. The rise of networks.](#)

<https://thomrainer.com/2018/09/ten-reasons-starting-revitalize-network/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2018/09/im-starting-revitalize-network-rainer-leadership-471/>

<https://revitalizenetwork.org/>

19) Networking

Church Planting by Networking - Asian Access

Let me introduce a strategy that we have been using in cooperation with Asian Access' Japan Church Growth Institute, testing it in Yamagata Prefecture since 1996. It is called "*Church Planting by Networking*."

<http://www.asianaccess.org/opportunities/cp-by-networking.html>

[Images for Church Planting by Networking](#)

Living into the Future Together

Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA Task Force

The report's resolutions clustered around:

6. Strengthened existing relationships in this church often via increased **networking**

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Presiding-Bishop/Plan-for-Mission/LIFT.aspx>

[Images for living into the future together \(lift\)](#)

[Images for Strengthened existing relationships in this church](#)

Resource Center 2.0: Today it's more about networking than materials on hand - The Lutheran Magazine

If Lutherans were asked to define resource center, how many would respond along the lines of "a place for books and DVDs"? Perhaps some of the savvier would add that the center's catalog is online.

But ask directors of **ELCA** resource centers the same question, and you'll get a different response. Darlene Kalfahs, resource director for the **East Central Synod of Wisconsin** in Appleton, said it's a place for lay and clergy leaders "to discover resources, share ideas and brainstorm with experienced people who truly care about the ministry they do."

Karen Kaufman of the **Northeastern Ohio Synod Resource Center**, Cuyahoga Falls, said it's "a link to a vast network of human and published resources" that support and inspire congregational leaders.

As an example, Julie Aageson, resource director for the [Eastern North Dakota Synod](#), recounted a recent conversation with a first-call pastor. He told her the small congregation had no history of a Christian education committee. Instead, the council would identify a person to coordinate all education for a three-year term, at the end of which the member typically felt burned out and left the church.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=10770

[Images for Resource Center 2.0: Today it's more about networking than materials on hand - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Stepping into the Community: A Networking Strategy | ChurchPlants

Learn to use the principle of "Networks" to engage your church members with the surrounding community.

<https://churchplants.com/how-tos/3576-stepping-into-the-community-a-networking-strategy.html>

[Images for engage church members with surrounding community](#)

20) Partner

Amazing Grace: Wilberforce's Guiding Principles

The Principle of **Partners**

Wilberforce could not do any of these things by himself. When you make a movie, you're making Wilberforce a heroic figure. But really The Clapham Group were the people that surrounded him, and they are in the movie. The people in this group were so committed to Christ, to the purpose of abolition and to each other that they all moved to Clapham. Some of them were already living there, but Wilberforce moved to Clapham and they all had houses around Clapham Commons, which was a big circular park outside of London. This was a little village in those days. The church sits on one end of the commons and they built their houses around it. They literally became known as the Clapham Circle. When God calls us to His purposes, it's rarely something he calls us to alone. Usually it is something that He's called us to where there are other like-minded brothers and sisters.

https://www.cbn.com/special/amazingGrace/Articles/vonBuseck_Beltz_Wilberforce0702.aspx

[Images for Amazing Grace: Wilberforce's Guiding Principles The Principle of Partners](#)

Exploring the Strengths of Your Community

Dick Bruesehoff, Outreach Coordinator, Portico Benefit Services

Walking Together: a congregational resource event

Many communities in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin have been experiencing great challenges for the past 25 years. We've seen shrinking population and economic base. They've witnessed their schools closing or merging. What we've counted as some of our strengths, our assets, have been disappearing. Yet during these same 25 years, the ELCA has adopted full communion agreements with United Methodist, Presbyterians, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church and others. In this workshop, we'll explore how these full communion **partners** – and other individuals and organizations that continue to exist in our communities have become new "assets" upon which we can draw and build community-based ministries for the future.

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/program_book_3.16.13.pdf

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[Images for Exploring the Strengths of Your Community](#)

[Images for full communion partners](#)

<http://www.revwriter.com/revwriter-resource/leadership-for-the-21st-century/>

<http://www.eqhrcenter.org/center-leadership-richard-bruesehoff/>

<https://www.facebook.com/dick.bruesehoff>

[Images for Dick Bruesehoff, Outreach Coordinator, Portico Benefit Services](#)

<http://50forwardlife.com/meet-dick-bruesehoff-living-faithfully-workshop-leader/>

Lutheran World Relief

The ELCA **partners** with Lutheran World Relief to seek lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. One way many congregations get involved is by making and shipping quilts, school kits and health kits to those in need.

[Learn more about Lutheran World Relief.](#)



Our Faith in Action - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nswi.org/our_faith_in_action/

[Images for ELCA partners with Lutheran World Relief](#)

Mission Partners - New England Synod | ELCA

What is the purpose of mission partners?

Its purpose is to bring congregations into direct and personal relationships, yielding benefits to both partners. For example, established congregations are always enriched and often awakened to a new sense of mission through their involvement with a

new mission-start, or a renewed urban ministry; and new and renewed congregations receive needed support and encouragement from established partners.

What does the name signify?

“Mission” describes our central purpose as the church – every congregation is called to be in mission in its own neighborhood.

“Partners” describes another basic reality of our faith, the strength we achieve through common action in mission.



What is exchanged in this partnership?

Prayers – Publicly or privately praying for the ministry, the people, and the pastor of the partner congregation.

Presence – Sharing in firsthand interaction with the people of the partner congregation as they engage in ministry.

Presents – Tangible expressions of support, such as... things (supplies, equipment, etc)... funds (dollars to help underwrite the ministry of the partner congregation. Also, helping with funds for capital expenses, staff, etc.)... services (volunteering to help in the partner’s ministry as needed.

What is a mission partner’s covenant?

A Mission Partners Covenant is a formal agreement between two congregations  [Mission Partner Agreement](#) or between an individual and a congregation  [Mission Partner Friends Form](#), listing specific commitments for their partnership in ministry and the length of the commitment. For more information or to begin the Mission Partner process, contact the [New England Synod Mission Partners Team](#) (co-chairs: Pr. Dan Wilfrid, Pr. John Nieman).

<http://www.nesynod.org/resources/peopleandpolicies/missionpartners>

[Images for Mission Partners - New England Synod | ELCA](#)

[DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- i. To emphasize **partnership** with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](#)

<https://download.elca.org> › [ELCA Resource Repository](#) › [Model Constitution](#)

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization](#)

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Full Communion Partners

<http://nswwi.org/companion-ministry/full-communion-partners>

[Images for Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Full Communion Partners](#)

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Our Faith in Action

PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES

Partnership ministries reveal the breadth and depth of our ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ.

[View our partnership ministries](#)

<http://nswwi.org/about-us/our-faith-in-action>

[Images for Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Our Faith in Action](#)

Partnership - Wikipedia

A partnership is an arrangement where parties, known as **business partners**, agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests. The partners in a partnership may be individuals, **businesses**, interest-based **organizations**, **schools**, **governments** or combinations. **Organizations** may partner to increase the likelihood of each achieving their mission and to amplify their reach. A partnership may result in issuing and holding equity or may be only governed by a contract.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partnership>

[Images for partnership](#)

Collaborative partnerships are agreements and actions made by consenting **organizations** to share **resources** to accomplish a mutual goal. Collaborative partnerships rely on **participation** by at least two parties who agree to share resources, such as finances, knowledge, and people. Organizations in a collaborative partnership share **common goals**. The essence of collaborative partnership is for all parties to mutually benefit from working together.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaborative_partnership

[Images for Collaborative partnership](#)

Racial Justice: Changing Our Perspectives – Winter Theological Event – February 12-13, 2017

Rostered Ministers are invited to join Bishop Hoyme and the Synod Staff at the Clarion in Eau Claire for the annual Winter Theological Event on February 12-13, 2017. This will be a great opportunity to visit with other colleagues from across the synod and engage in a timely and important conversation about racial justice.

Joining us for this event will be Rhonda Hill, Director of Discipleship for the Greater Milwaukee Synod Staff and Dr. Sharon Chubbuck, Associate Professor of Education, Marquette University.

As Director of Discipleship, Rhonda brings her gifts of building **partnerships** as she is called to be a liaison for partnership ministries both locally and globally and works to help identify and establish new partnerships in her synod. Rhonda also coordinates and strategizes urban ministry events and opportunities.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/3_Winter_Theo_2017_.jpeg

Images for Racial Justice: Changing Our Perspectives

<http://www.covenantmadison.org/Images/Entry%20Points%20-%20Conversations%20About%20Race.pdf>

<https://milwaukee-synod.org/people/rhonda-hill/>

<https://milwaukee-synod.org/who-we-are/>

<https://milwaukee-synod.org/download/GROWING%20HEALTHY%20LEADERS%20AND%20HEALTHY%20CONGREGATIONS.pdf>

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<http://archive.jsonline.com/news/religion/miracle-of-faith-seen-in-milwaukee-womans-suffering-healing-b99447840z1-293484511.html>

http://www.marquette.edu/education/faculty_staff/sharon_chubuck.shtml

<http://www.marquette.edu/education/news/Chubuck2.shtml>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJeTBN6S6yU> Dr. Sharon Chubuck Forum Part 1 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlwL-9Fn6Go> Dr. Sharon Chubuck Forum Part 2 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4k3-vjUGQec> Dr. Sharon Chubuck Forum Part 3 – YouTube

Seven Essentials To Creating Ministry Partnerships That Last

Partnerships can be a powerful way for you to leverage your limited resources in ministry for the purpose of serving others. I've been creating partnerships for 15 years, and I've learned many lessons the hard way. I've worked on partnerships with nonprofits, local governments, churches, major publishers, best-selling authors, and I continue to work new partnerships for [Beacon Ads](#)—an advertising marketplace for Christian-focused advertisers.

Partnerships don't have to be painful or confusing. They don't have to be costly or consuming. If you approach partnerships with the right tools and mindset, your community will benefit greater by your efforts.

<http://orangeblogs.org/orangeleaders/2015/01/30/seven-essentials-to-creating-ministry-partnerships-that-last/>

Images for Ministry Partnerships That Last

21) Resource Centers

Association of Lutheran Resource Centers

<https://associationoflutheranresourcecenters.wordpress.com/>

Images for Association of Lutheran Resource Centers

http://www.nclutheran.org/ministries/heilig_center.php

Images for Heilig Resource Center - NC Lutheran Synod

<http://www.nesynod.org/resources/education>

Images for Janssen Resource Center - New England Synod

<http://ecsw.org/resource-center/>

Images for Resource Center East Central Synod of Wisconsin

<http://www.fbsynod.com/resourcecenter/>

Images for Resource Center | Florida-Bahamas Synod

<http://neos-elca.org/resource-center-information/>

Images for Resource Center Information | Northeastern Ohio Synod

www.lss-elca.org/resources/resource-center/

Images for Resource Center - Lower Susquehanna Synod

www.swpasynod.org/resources/resource-center

Images for Resource Center - Southwestern PA Synod

www.alleghenysynod.org/resources

Images for Resources | Allegheny Synod

<http://nwos-elca.church/resources/for-congregations/>

Images for Resources for Congregations | Northwestern Ohio Synod

<http://nwmnsynod.org/resources/>

Images for Resources – Northwestern Minnesota Synod

<http://www.resourcecenterspselca.org/>

Images for Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/>

Images for Synod Resource Center

Congregational Resource Center - Christian Theological Seminary

<http://www.cts.edu/community/congregational-resource-center.aspx>

Images for Congregational Resource Center - Christian Theological Seminary

Ministry Resource Center | Yale Divinity School

<http://divinity.yale.edu/life-yds/worship-spiritual-life-and-ministry/ministry-resource-center>

Images for Ministry Resource Center | Yale Divinity School

Parish Resource Center Valley Stream Consulting and Resources

[https://www.facebook.com/Parish-Resource-Center-Valley-Stream-Consulting-and-Resources-166039376751605/](https://www.facebook.com/Parish-Resource-Center-Valley-Stream-Consulting-and-Resources-For-Churches-166039376751605/)
[Images for Parish Resource Center Valley Stream Consulting and Resources](#)

Resource Center - Presbytery of Minnesota Valley

<http://www.minnesotavalleys.org/Resource%20Center.html>
[Images for Resource Center - Presbytery of Minnesota Valley](#)

Resource Center - Wisconsin Conference UCC

<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/>
[Images for Resource Center – Wisconsin Conference UCC](#)

22) Synod

Stories of Faith in Action - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This year the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrates its 25th anniversary as a church that is deeply rooted – and always being made new. In this special anniversary issue of Stories of Faith in Action, you'll discover 21 stories of the people whose lives have been touched by ELCA ministries in the past year, as well as our 25th anniversary timeline celebrating where we've come and where we're going as a church freed in Christ to serve. You'll also find resources on Mission Support (the portion of your weekly offering that is shared with ELCA synods and churchwide ministries) and how the important contributions members make to this church are put to use in life-changing ministries across the country and around the world.

<http://elca.org/en/Resources/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action>
[http://resources.elca.org/Congregational Life-Stories of Faith in Action 2016-2017 2.html](http://resources.elca.org/Congregational-Life-Stories_of_Faith_in_Action_2016-2017_2.html)
[Images for ELCA synods and churchwide ministries](#)

Synod - Wikipedia

Lutheran usage^[edit]

In [Lutheran](#) traditions, a synod can be on the one hand (e.g. in North America) an administrative region or entire church body or on the other hand (e.g. in Europe) a legislative body on different levels of the church administration.

- A synod as a local administrative region is similar to a [diocese](#) in other denominations, such as the [Minneapolis Area Synod](#) of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#). Whereas with the [Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod](#) it denotes an entire church body. The usage of synod as an administrative ecclesiastical region is reflected by the German term Synodalverband (i.e. synodal federation), such as the [Regional Synodal Federation of the Free City of Danzig](#).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synod>
[Images for synod lutheran usage](#)

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder.

Our faith calls us to see the world as interdependent. The ELCA has become a force for connection, working across denominations, faiths, organizations and sectors, locally and globally. We're a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others and share a common vision to uphold human dignity.

News from NW Synod of WI - Constant Contact

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1117167717943.html>
<http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/5h-0914-web.pdf>
[Images for we are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder](#)



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The word *synod*, from the Greek words *syn* and *hodos* means *walking together*, which describes the interdependent ministry relationships as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and churchwide initiatives, provide for education events and leadership training, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in all the world. This name of the 65 entities of the ELCA offers a good description of their purpose. In and through synods, congregations and various ministries walk together. Synods coordinate the work of congregations within their territories and plan for the Church's mission in their area. The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This synod is composed of 199 congregations, over 100,000 members, and nearly 300 clergy and rostered leaders.

"Together We Make A Difference." Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Walking together for the sake of mission in God's world

23) Unity

Best 25+ Unity church ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/unity-church/>

[Images for unity in the church pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/mfalk0/christian-unity/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/kgprewitt/kids-unity-in-christ/>
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/explore/unity-prayer/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/unity-quotes/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/atonementfriars/christian-unity/>

[59 Quotes About Unity | ChristianQuotes.info](#)

<https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-topic/quotes-about-unity/>
<https://www.christianquotes.info/top-quotes/15-powerful-quotes-about-unity/>
[Images for Christian unity quotes](#)
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/unity-in-the-church>
[Images for unity in the church](#)
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/unity-bible-verses/>
<http://christian-quotes.ochristian.com/Unity-Quotes/>
<https://www.christian-history.org/unity-quotes.html>
<https://faithunlocked.wordpress.com/2014/08/02/quotes-on-unity-in-christ/>
[Images for unity in Christ](#)

[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Wikipedia](#)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between Ascension and Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere and between 18 January and 25 January in the Northern Hemisphere. It is an *octave*, that is, an observance lasting eight days.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Week_of_Prayer_for_Christian_Unity
[Images for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#)

[What Does the Bible Say About Unity in The Church? - OpenBible.info](#)

https://www.openbible.info/topics/unity_in_the_church
https://www.openbible.info/topics/in_unity
[Images for bible and unity](#)
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/unity-bible-verses/>
www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2016/03/25/6-bible-verses-for-church-unity/
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NIV>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Unity/>
<https://bible.org/seriespage/2-christian-unity-ephesians-4-1-16>
[Images for christian-unity-ephesians-4-1-16](#)
<https://bible.org/seriespage/6-how-maintain-unity-church>
[Images for bible-maintain-unity-church](#)
https://www.123rf.com/stock-photo/symbol_of_the_unity_of_the_church.html
[Images for Unity in The Church](#)
<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-christian-unity>
[Images for what-is-christian-unity](#)

[World Day of Prayer | Unity](#)

Times of great change challenge us to find our center in the midst of seeming chaos. The spiritual practice of finding peace right where you are, in the midst of any situation, has been the prescription of master teachers through the ages. Unity is echoing this centuries-old practice during World Day of Prayer 2017, calling for "Peace in the Midst." We're engaging people all over the world with renewed spiritual energy to Pray Peace ... Be Peace ... Do Peace.



<http://www.unity.org/wdop>
[Images for World Day of Prayer | Unity](#)