

Our Stewardship of God's Abundance

IMAGINE what we can do together. If the 70% of congregations who currently give less than 5% of their offerings to ELCA Mission Support increased their giving to that level, the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area synods would have approximately \$3 million more to invest in God's work in the world.¹

Here are some possibilities of what our Mission Support could accomplish:

- Local ministry opportunities:
 - Ending Poverty grants to support creative ministries to and with the poor
 - Grants to congregations who are planting a new church
 - Grow multi-cultural ministries in rapidly changing neighborhoods
 - Grants to congregations seeking to reach out to their changing communities in creative ways
 - Assisting congregation leaders to dig deeper into sustainable effective youth ministry
 - Seminary internships in congregations
 - Leadership development training for congregational leaders
 - Expand ESL classes (support for immigrant communities) in our immigrant and multi-cultural congregations
 - Scholarships for children of low income families to attend Lutheran Bible camps
 - Development of a network of holistic wellness centers for congregations located in areas of poverty
 - Expand opportunities for college students to hear the gospel message through Lutheran Campus Ministry
 - Strengthen our support for colleges and seminaries
 - Debt relief for seminary graduates and congregations in need
- Global ministry opportunities:
 - Wells and clean water projects in Nigeria, Guatemala, and Tanzania
 - Leadership exchanges between our two synods and our global companion churches in Leipzig, Germany; Nigeria; Guatemala; and Tanzania.
 - Support for additional ELCA missionaries to serve abroad
- Joint synod sponsorship of conferences on topics such as:
 - Worship and hospitality
 - Growing congregational music ministry
 - Young adult ministry in congregations
 - Health and wellness of our leaders
 - How to plant a church
 - Holistic stewardship
 - Meaningful communication and engagement through web-based technologies
 - Reaching out in changing neighborhoods

These are examples of what we as one church can do together that no one congregation can do alone. God invites us to work together to love and bless the world.

¹ We celebrate the generosity of the 30% of congregations in the two synods who give 5% or more of their offerings to ELCA Mission Support and we encourage them to continue to grow in their financial stewardship.