

# Why we give

Our financial generosity is an expression of our love for God, for our neighbor and for ourselves. We are new people in Christ: compassionate and eager to share.

## PROPORTIONATE GIVING

Proportionate giving, or tithing, includes all undesignated giving to your congregation.

Many ELCA members call this giving their Sunday or weekly offering. "Undesignated" means that you support your congregation's decisions to allocate these funds.

About 90 percent of this giving stays in your congregation.

This helps to ensure that the ministry of word and sacrament flourishes in your community through local outreach and ministries.

Your congregation then shares a small portion of your offering, called Mission Support, with your synod and the churchwide organization. This financial commitment makes possible God's work through ELCA synodical and churchwide ministries close to home, in our country and around the world.

## DESIGNATED GIVING

Designated giving opportunities invite you to provide deeper financial support for key ministry areas of this church, including the alleviation of hunger and poverty, disaster response, leadership development and missionary sponsorship.

For example, the overwhelming response of ELCA members to the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the

2010 earthquake is an example of designated giving. These designated gifts were able to go directly to relief efforts because Mission Support helped pay for administrative costs.

Without your generous gifts through Mission Support, the ELCA's generous outpouring of financial support would not have been possible.

Designated giving complements your annual pledge to financially support the work of your congregation, your synod and the churchwide ministries.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Additional giving, sometimes called special offerings, is above and beyond your commitment to your regular congregational giving.

This can be our most personal and spontaneous kind of giving, reflecting the spirit of cheerful giving that Paul wrote of in his second letter to the Corinthians.

Perhaps you have made a financial commitment to help the high school students in your congregation attend an ELCA Youth Gathering. Or you may have written a check to benefit a family whose home was lost during a fire. Your outreach makes God's love for them feel very real and very immediate; your kindness reveals Christ's presence within them as well.



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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