



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

What Mission Support Looks Like

A story about our 2025 Churchwide Assembly



Almost a thousand ELCA Lutherans made their way to toasty Phoenix, Ariz., to gather for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly from July 28 to Aug. 2. It was a joyous, thoughtful and busy week. Alongside the normal business of the assembly — considering resolutions, memorials and social statements — voting members were tasked with electing a new presiding bishop and secretary to lead our church for the next six years.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, who currently serves as the bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, was elected to serve as our new presiding bishop.

Presiding Bishop-elect Curry has a fascinating vocational story. He started his ministry as a lay mission developer at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., while participating in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program in pursuit of ordination. Following his election, he told the assembly, “Perhaps I’m out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough. And so, for two years, I said no, and finally said yes to becoming a mission developer. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars [including Mission Support] look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

The assembly also elected the Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills to be our next secretary. Secretary-elect Mills currently serves as assistant to the bishop and interim director for evangelical mission in the ELCA North Carolina Synod. Following her election, she remarked, “I have to echo our newly elected presiding bishop and say, I am the product of you. I am also a TEEM candidate.” Mills celebrated “a new season for our church. I do believe that the reason why I, an African American woman, [can stand] before you, with no degrees in a church that loves to have people who are educated, is because you saw the gifts in me and the possibility and potential in me. ... I celebrate with you that we listen to God’s call and that we will become God’s beloved community.”





Both Presiding Bishop-elect Curry and Secretary-elect Mills celebrated and gave thanks for the support of the whole church, including the impact that the sharing of Mission Support had on both of their ministries. Through Mission Support, synods and the churchwide organization provide vital funding for mission developers, new and emerging ministries, and candidates in the TEEM program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts such as ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. Our next presiding bishop and secretary were both able to answer their new calls in part because of our Mission Support dollars and the investment made in them by the whole church. We all say, Amen.

ELCA MISSION SUPPORT VIDEO

AVAILABLE FOR ALL TO SHARE AT GODSLOVE.ORG/MISSIONSUPPORT

Do you need a way to explain Mission Support to others? This Mission Support video details how your congregational offering supports ministries around the world through our synods and churchwide organization. Of the \$1.6 billion given to ELCA congregations and worshipping communities as regular offerings, most stays with the congregation to fund its vital ministry. A portion — about 5% on average — becomes Mission Support, given by congregations to our synods. Mission Support ensures that synods can find and equip leaders of all ages and deploy an array of ministries, including those of synod companions and those for youth and young adults. Our synods, in turn, give a portion of that Mission Support to our churchwide organization to fund our shared work across the country and around the world. Mission Support is possible only because of your congregational offering. Read more stories about Mission Support at livinglutheran.org/SOFIA.



In gratitude,
Victoria Flood, ELCA Senior Director for Congregation and Synod Support
Nick Kiger, ELCA Director for Mission Support
Karen Kretschmann, ELCA Coordinator for Storytelling Engagement

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.

 **LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF** 2354 Grove Road
Allentown, PA
October 10 & 11

Friday Oct 10 from 9:00am to 12:00pm
Saturday Oct 11 from 8:00am to 9:00am

Accepted items include Baby Care Kits, School Kits, Personal Care Kits, and Quilts.

godslove.org/2025-lwr-ingathering



2nd Drop Off Location: Christ, Reading Oct 11 at 9:30am or any Friday between 9:00am and 12:00pm