



SHARING IN GOD'S MISSION WITH THE GLOBAL NETWORK

From www.ELCA.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Partner-Related-Organizations.aspx

Though the ELCA is one church body comprised of three expressions - congregations, synods, and our churchwide organization - our shared mission also depends on partner organizations.

These relationships allow for:

Access. Because of these relationships, the ELCA works with agencies that have local contacts around the world - so when crises occur, we have the infrastructure and networks in place to act quickly and to stay in areas of need for the long haul.

Focus. Our partners have developed specialized capacities in many areas of service.

Financial Efficiencies. By working together with partner agencies, we reduce duplication of efforts, and increase our capacity to help people all over the world.

Help for more people. Because of our ecumenical relationships, we can gain access to help people regardless of whether they share our faith tradition.

Stronger, more effective ministry. Together in mission, Lutherans - and all of God's people - can accomplish much more.

The ELCA shares important relationships with the following groups:

The Lutheran World Federation - a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. The LWF has 140 member churches in 79 countries all over the world representing over 70 million Christians.

World Council of Churches - a fellowship of nearly 350 Christian churches in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world.

National Council of Churches of Christ - an ecumenical network of churches throughout the United States.

Social Ministry Organizations - The ELCA supports and shares mission with nearly 300 Lutheran Social Ministry Organizations (SMOs) in the United States through Lutheran Services in America.

Lutheran Immigration and

Refugee Service - advocates and provides assistance for refugees, migrants and those seeking political asylum.

Lutheran Disaster Response - when disaster strikes, ELCA Disaster Response works alongside and in support of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), a collaborative ministry of the ELCA and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

ACT International - alliance of the World Council of Churches coordinates response to international disasters to ensure that donations are used quickly, effectively and without duplication.

Lutheran World Relief - a ministry of both the ELCA and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works with community-based partners in 50 countries to end hunger and improve the quality of life in communities.

Church World Service - The ELCA is one of 36 denominations that support Church World Service (CWS), a U.S.-based ecumenical organization that works in places where there is no Lutheran presence, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, and where CWS has U.S. government permission to work, such as North Korea and Cuba.

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

COLOSSIANS 3:14

ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 131,000 baptized people in 185 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

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