

Where does my Congregation's Mission Support go in the Synod in 2026?



Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Spirit-Led Christ-Centered

- Oversees and supports 2 strategic ministries, 6 synod-authorized worshiping communities, 1 synod authorized outreach ministry, and 2 community outreach ministries.
- Accompanies 10 candidates discerning their call for Word and Sacrament or Word and Service ministry through the ELCA candidacy process.
- Cultivates leaders through Lay Ministry Formation, Fresh Expressions, The LiVE Project, Educational events, and more. Over 60 congregations participate.
- Supports pastors and deacons in mobility, call discernment, and vocational including 7 ordinations and 8 installations since.
- Walks with 9 congregations in transition, offering care, coaching, and stability.
- Awards grants to 51 congregations, sparking new life in communities of faith.
- Raises up diverse leaders and innovative ministries.
- Collaborates across denominations with ecumenical partners.
- Connects congregations with resources and other partners.
- Keeps congregation and rostered ministers files in good order.

Justice, Equity, Belonging

- Nurtures two Lutheran Campus Ministries (UW and WWU) in forming faith-filled student communities.
- Supports Camp Lutherwood in celebrating God's creation with all.
- Helps over 60,000 people through partnerships with Lutheran Community Services Northwest.
- Participates in the Lutheran World Federation, joining 145 ecumenical partners in service and development.
- Amplifies our voice for advocacy and justice in the state through Faith Action Network.
- Pays Real Rent to the Duwamish.
- Partners with Paths to Understanding developing face-to-face relationships.
- Contributes and works with Reconciling Works on behalf of the LGBTQ+ Community.
- Launches the Synod Equity Team for authentic diversity.
- Collaborates with the Church Council of Greater Seattle in community organizing.
- Deepens international relationships through visits to other LWF partners including our companion synod: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia.

Becoming Equipping

- Shares mission support dollars with ELCA Churchwide – funding ministries across the U.S., globally, and in our synod, including churchwide grants and our Director for Evangelical Mission.
- Collaborates with Region One for the Financial Services Office and the Church Wellness Network.
- Offers a ministry of presence to congregations and leaders during times of crisis, transition, property issues, and other possibilities.
- Leads the Bishop's Convocation and provides space for education, rest, and renewal.
- Coordinates the Synod Assembly, ensuring voting and discernment reflect congregational identity and mission.
- Personally connects with every congregation and ministry through visits by Bishop Bryan Wee and synod staff.
- Accompanies first call pastors and deacons as they begin ministry in the synod, promoting a culture of lifelong learning.
- Fosters leadership in conference deans.
- Encourages coaching for rostered ministers and lay people.
- Invests in theological education through support of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Luther Seminary, and Pacific Lutheran University.

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How we are Church Together in the ELCA

