

- Cooperative outreach with ecumenical partners
- Disaster response that serves neighbors close to home and reaches around the globe
- Feeding millions of people thanks to the ELCA Hunger Appeal

Together, We Recognize Our Differences

Sometimes ELCA members, including those of us in Southeastern Iowa, have differing opinions on matters that are important to the life of the church and to the communities where we live. On occasion, the disagreements become disruptive to ministry.

Still, as a whole church and as individual members, we are at our best when we remember that it is God’s own mission into which we have been called. And we trust that wherever the church is in error, God’s own Spirit will direct and reform it. And where the church is right, this same Spirit will strengthen it. In any event, we trust that God, who calls us into mission, will provide for our every need.

**Together in God’s Mission,
we are congregations**

we are the Southeastern Iowa Synod

**we are the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

Together

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are equipped to carry out God’s own mission because of our partnerships through congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries. We interdependently linked to enhance our witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ

The gifts (*Jesus*) gave were...for building up the body of Christ...speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love. (*Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16*)

Together, We Are Grounded in the Word

We confess “Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.”

We believe in the Word of God, and receive God’s Word in Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate; in proclamation of God’s message to us as both Law and Gospel; and in the canonical Scriptures, the inspired and written Word of God, which provides the authoritative source and norm for proclamation, faith and life.

Together, We Support God's Mission

Called to be missionaries of the Gospel, disciples of Christ, we share our financial resources as well as our efforts and time. Our prayers and our offerings become mission support that strengthens the very ministries for which the ELCA is already widely known. Together, we:

- Fight hunger, especially hunger among children,
- Accompany global partners,
- Work for peace, locally and globally,
- Share the Good News, especially among new communities of immigrants,
- Support social service agencies like Lutheran Services in Iowa
- Raise up leaders for vocations in Christ's church; and.... always and regularly, we
- Gather around the means of God's grace for worship

Together, We are the Southeastern Iowa Synod

As a member of your congregation you are a part of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. You are joined with 95,000 other Christians in 150 congregations throughout central and southeastern Iowa.

Through the ministry of the synod, we

- Help prepare pastors and other rostered leaders
- Help congregations find and call leaders
- Assist congregations struggling through times of financial hardship, conflict or transition
- Celebrate with congregations as they mark significant milestones in ministry

...and we help one another. For example we:

- Encourage and join together in the study of Scripture.
- Provide opportunities for youth and young adults to explore the heart of their faith formation
- Form partnerships throughout the world, especially with Lutherans in the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Tanzania
- Tell others, including seekers and immigrant communities about the healing and forgiving love of Jesus
- Cooperate to alleviate hunger and to address the needs of Iowans living in poverty
- Support agencies and institutions that serve the needs of others in and around the synod

Together, We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

As a members of congregations, we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which includes 4.5 million followers of Jesus Christ in 10,500 congregations in the United States and the Caribbean.

In the broad-based partnership with one another, we are doing God's work in ways that any one congregation or even a whole synod cannot do alone. For instance, our shared ministry includes:

- More than 200 congregations in development
 - More than 150 supported in their intentional focus on renewal
 - Ministry in more than 90 countries
 - 8 seminaries and 27 colleges and universities, almost 200 campus ministries, more than 1500 early childhood education centers, 267 Lutheran elementary schools, and 147 outdoor ministries
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