

## Where does my offering go?

*Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel, DEM*

Ever wonder what happens to the generous gift you put in the offering plate or have deducted monthly from your bank account? You might know about all the ways your offering supports the work of the ELCA in your congregation and across the state and world. Or you might not know. As I visit congregations and speak about stewardship and giving, I find this question gets asked more than once, “Where does my offering go?”

For your congregation, you’ll have to ask locally. If you’re a pastor or lay leader, there are great tools out there to help explain the impact your congregation makes with the offerings received – just ask me! Your offerings (we call it mission support) then go on in some amount to the synod, which retains some for local mission and passes along 40.5% to our churchwide organization. If you want to know what happens next, here’s some news you can use.

Each year, our churchwide partners distribute information on where the offering went the past year. The document for 2014 just came out and it’s pretty snazzy. You can see it for yourself [online here and even download it.](#)

We’ve also sent one to each congregation (ask your pastor) and have more available upon request at the synod office.

Meanwhile, here are some highlights. In 2014, members of the nearly 10,000 congregations of the ELCA gave \$1.8 billion in offerings to support the work of the wider ELCA. The examples below show the collective impact of Lutherans working together to make a difference in the world God so loves. Let’s do the numbers....

- \* 340 new congregations were planted, sharing the Good News of Jesus
- \* 220 missionaries went to 40 countries, including 70 Young Adults in Global Mission
- \* 1 in 50 people in the US are supported by social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Social Services, which is supported by our wider ELCA
- \* 8 and 26, seminaries and colleges of the ELCA, supported by the wider church

The list goes on, but you’ll have to see it for yourself. Thank you for your amazing generosity that makes this ministry possible. You make it happen.

Questions or want your own copy? Contact me, Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel, director for evangelical mission, at [alaskadem@gmail.com](mailto:alaskadem@gmail.com) or at the synod office at 907-272-8899.