

Gloria Dei, the Saint Paul Area Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The ELCA has 65 synods that vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing and program. Gloria Dei is part of the Saint Paul Area Synod. Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas, serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and other staff candidates. To strengthen the relationship between synod leaders and the ELCA churchwide office (in Chicago), many churchwide teams relate to and support the work of the synods.

Stories of Mission Support

You may be aware that our congregation provides financial support (a percentage of our overall giving) each year to the Saint Paul Area Synod and the ELCA. Thanks to you and your generosity, we can extend our ministry beyond the walls of Gloria Dei and beyond the Minnesota state lines.

Each year, ELCA congregations, including Gloria Dei, pledge to send a portion of the offerings they receive to fund ELCA ministries in their synods and beyond. The ELCA calls these funds Mission Support, which enables the ELCA's 65 synods and more than 9,100 congregations to pool resources to love and serve our neighbors in ways none of us could do alone. Support is one way we are church together – it's essential to who we are as the ELCA.

For example, Mission Support from the South Dakota Synod and the churchwide organization partially funded Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries serves a geographic area that, at 3,500 square miles, is larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined. This ministry provides diapers, sandwiches, hygiene kits and blankets, passed out the door to those in need.

You can read more about Lutheran Lakota Shared ministries [online](#) or find a [video story](#) there.

How Mission Support funds ministry across our church

