

WALKING TOGETHER WE'RE ABLE TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S ABUNDANT LOVE AND GENEROSITY IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGHOUT DELAWARE AND MARYLAND

2020 Delaware-Maryland Synod Mission Support Story

The Greek word “synod” literally means “walking together” and that is exactly what we’re doing! Our Synod gratefully serves Delaware and most of Maryland through the ministries and missions of more than 160 congregations plus synodically authorized worshipping communities and partner ministries. From city neighborhoods to suburban communities, from shore towns to mountain villages, we walk together in the ways of Discipleship, Leadership, Connectedness and Communication living out our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world.

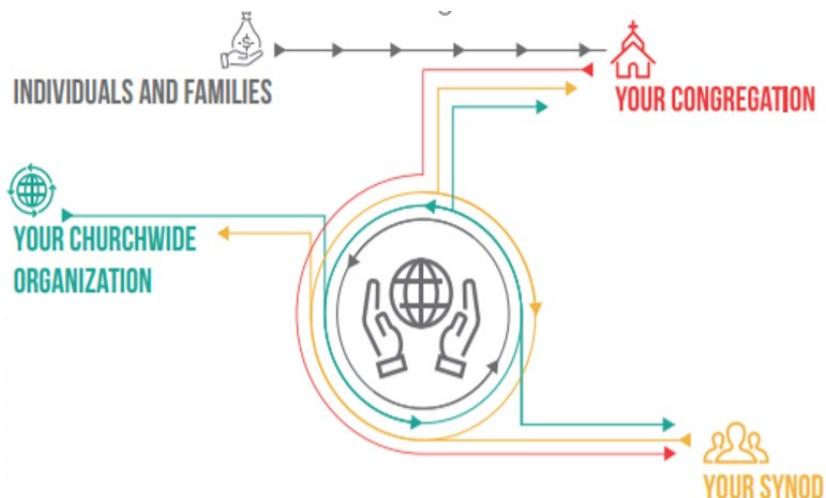


Gratitude This Year

During this year of pandemic, our synod has had much to rejoice. Our congregations have learned to adapt to offer online worship, zoom small groups, socially distanced gatherings, and reach outside their walls in ways we never had before. We found new ways to stay connected, new ways to celebrate, even marking our Bishop's 20th Anniversary of Ordination! Yes there have been struggles yet we have lived out the greatest commandment to “love the Lord your God...[and] love your neighbor as yourself.”

Celebrate Mission Support

Each year, ELCA congregations pledge to share a portion of their offerings to fund ELCA ministries in their synods, across our nation, and throughout the world. We call these Mission Support. In our synod, we send 47% of all Mission Support funds to the ELCA which enables our ELCA's 9,100 congregations and 65 synods to combine resources to love and serve our neighbors in ways that no individual or congregation can do alone.



This year our synod received \$1,627,429 in mission support from 145 congregations, ranging from less than \$10 to \$90,000. We are grateful for every gift and were especially amazed that during the pandemic, 45 of our faithful congregations actually gave more this year than in 2019. What a joy and testament to our work together.

"¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11-12

In 2020 how did we use \$2,108,372?

First, of the \$1,627,429 in Mission Support received, we sent 47% of this Mission Support directly to the ELCA at \$764,891.

We received an additional \$480,943 from our Annual Synod Fund, Special grants and other revenue giving us \$1,343,481 for our 2020 Synod spending across our vision areas:

- ◆ 26% Discipleship \$346,713
- ◆ 35% Connectedness \$472,798
- ◆ 14% Communication \$192,003
- ◆ 25% Leadership \$331,967

2020 Synod Spending

