

Celebrating the New Jersey Synod!

Grow the Church
Raise up Leaders
Build Peace

Who are we?

We are God's people, gathered together as approximately 80,000 Lutherans, 193 congregations, 1 camp and conference center, 2 ministries under development, campus ministries, 16 mission clusters, and 327 pastors, associates in ministry, and deaconesses.

We're working together, in thousands of places, in thousands of ways, with a passion for God's Word and a compassion for God's world. We do ministry *with* each other, *to* each other, and *for* each other! On the whole, we live and work in New Jersey, but our ministries reach around the world!

What is a "synod"?

A "synod" is a "shared journey." It actually comes from two Greek words: the words that give us "synonymous" and "odyssey". So, to be together as a synod is to be on a "synonymous odyssey." It means that we journey together: strengthening, challenging, and supporting one another as God leads us, along similar paths, into God's future.

Why do we need a synod?

Because God knows we need one another! God knows we can love more fully, give more freely, and see more clearly, when we are gathered as God's people. Together we find the strength and courage to meet God's challenge each day; together we meet God's comfort and forgiveness in the compassion of one another. As individuals and as churches, we belong together as genuine partners and friends.

God calls us out of the comfort and challenge of family matters to grow together as those communities we call "congregations." And in much the same way, God calls us out of local congregations to grow together as the community that we call "the New Jersey Synod." May we take up this "shared journey", knowing that we grow toward our best as we grow together.

Together, we learn from one another's experiments. Together, we lift up one another in prayer, in challenge, and in celebration. Together, we care for one another in times of need. And together, we can reach out with a greater strength, share our insights, pool our resources, and coordinate our efforts in more effective ways!



What are we doing?

inside!

Take a look

Mission Highlights

Through gifts, grants, publications, staff work, special events, volunteers, mission teams, consultants, workshops, programs, studies and celebrations, we are bringing God's Good News around the world. In the last year, the New Jersey Synod gave over \$2,641,698.00 dollars to strengthen God's ministries across New Jersey, the United States, and the world!

**Where did the money go?
Take a look at some of what we do together!**

Strengthening Our Congregations...

Resources. Programs. Ideas. Training. Help with Evangelism. Pulpit Supply. Help during pastoral vacancy. Interim Ministry. Conflict Management. Consultations with a Church Council. Council Retreats. Planned giving seminars. Finding a pastor. Special events. Cross Roads. Summer camp. Family weekends. Discipling Mission Team. Confirmation retreats. Answered questions. Stewardship coaching. Worship support. Synod staff resourcing. Explaining guidelines. Camden Lutheran Parish. Clarifying expectations. Ministry reviews. Youth and Family Ministry. Latino Strategy. Mission discernment. Constitution reviews. Resource Development Team. Finding help. Identifying resources. Asking questions. Building relationships. The Child in Our Hands. Introducing new pastors. Conference on Congregational Ministries. Looking beyond ourselves. And much more!

**Our gifts for ministry through Congregational Support:
Over \$310,078.00**

Growing New Congregations...

Outreach programs. Training sessions. Mission starts. Mission grants. Congregational renewals. Mission and vision. New ideas. A shoulder to lean on. A reality check. Demographic research. Outreach Mission Team. Synod staff resourcing. Redevelopments. Latino Strategy. Mission Developer training. Finding mission pastors. Initiatives. Basic mission training. Support. Prayer. Conversations. Coaching. Technical support. Risk taking. Recruiting leaders. Knocking on doors. Living the Great Commission. Communications. Mission Partners. And much more!

**Our gifts for ministry through Outreach:
Over \$215,591**

Supporting Our Rostered Leaders...

First Call Theological Education. Continuing education grants. Coaching. Prayer. Spiritual direction. Pastoral care for families of rostered leaders. Special events. Help during times of transition. Interim ministry training. Compensation guidelines. Difficult conversations. Special celebrations. Finding a call. Latino Strategy. Leadership Mission Team. Keeping in touch. Challenges. Prayer. Support. Retired rostered leader gatherings. Synod staff resourcing. Caring for spouses. Sharing ideas. Phone calls. Ministerium Days. Answered questions. A chance to talk. Expectations days. Seeing beyond frustrations. Visits. Avoiding burnout. Colleague events. Professional leadership gatherings. Retirement seminars. Bible studies. Ordinations. Discernment. And much more!

**Our Gifts of Ministry through Leadership Support:
Over \$250,837.00**

Developing New Leaders...

Lutheran Theological Seminary support. Lutheran Youth Organization. Scholarships. Grants. First call mentoring. Candidacy retreats. Training. Evaluations. Wagner College/LTSP Partnership. Candidacy work. Synod staff resourcing. Youth Ministry Mission Team. Leadership Mission Team. Youth ministries. Summer program. Cross Roads. Retreat and conference ministry. Discernment. Interviews. Diakonia. Preparation for ministry. Recruitment. Internships. Placements. Campus Ministries. And much more!

**Our Gifts for Ministry through Future Leaders:
Over \$308,579.00**

Seeking Peace, Justice, Hospitality...

Campus Ministry. Lutheran Social Ministries. Seafarers and International House. Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry. Aids Ministry Task Force. Synod staff resourcing. Anti-Racism Team. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Task Group. Advocacy Impact. Latino Strategy. Justice and Peace Mission Team. Ecumenical/Interfaith Team. NJ Council of Churches. Ecumenical Officer. And much more!

**Our Gifts for Ministry through Building Peace:
Over \$225,458.00**

Mission Partnerships Across the State, the Country and Around the World...

Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry. Global Mission. Evangelism. Stewardship consultations. Mission Investment Funds. Leadership support. Advocacy. Stand With Africa. Campus Ministries. Ethnic Ministries. Immigration Ministries. Regional Center for Mission. Synod staff resourcing. ELCA World Hunger appeal. Counseling. Multicultural Ministries. Companion Churches. Servant Events. Directors of Outreach. Ecumenical/Interfaith Team. Urban strategies. Conversations. Worship. Leadership. National Council of Churches. New Resources. Lutheran World Relief. Fresh Ideas. Old insights. Lutheran Social Ministries. Ecumenical Partnerships. Education. New Challenges. Seminaries. Colleges. Universities. Schools. ELCA Fund for Leaders. World Council of Churches. Outreach Grants. Disaster Relief. Partner Synods. Lutheran World Federation.

**Our gifts for Ministry through Church-Wide Partnerships:
Over \$1,517,277.00**

Thank You for Your
Partnership in Ministry!

Together, we are changing lives and shaping God's world.

Our 2003 Mission Partnership
With the New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Through the ELCA's Church-Wide Ministries

- 30 Brand-new congregations just beginning
- 155 New congregations continuing to grow
- 375 Congregations renewing their focus on outreach
- 349 Missionaries and overseas volunteers in 60 countries
- Mission Churches in 75 countries
- 260 Social Ministry Organizations serving 1.8 million people
- 8 Seminaries
- 28 Lutheran colleges and universities
- 160 Campus ministries
- 277 Lutheran Schools
- Disaster Response
- Health and pension support for low income retired church workers and their families
- Education resources
- Worship resources
- Stewardship resources
- Evangelism resources
- Lutheran World Relief
- Leadership development

Through the New Jersey Synod's Local and Regional Ministry:

- New congregations
- Campus Ministry
- Congregations in renewal and transformation
- Seminary support
- Diaconal ministers and deaconesses
- Servant Trips
- Communication resources
- Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries
- Recruitment of new pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers
- Companion Synods
- Youth Ministry
- Counseling and Pastoral Care
- Mission Teams
- Synod Assembly programs
- Ministerium and Expectations days
- Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry
- Latino Strategy
- Community Organizing
- Bishop Riley and Synod Staff and leaders working with councils, congregations, and ministry teams to develop leadership and vision, programs, and resources, challenge and support

And much more!

For every dollar of congregational Mission Support shared with the New Jersey Synod,
50 cents is put to work through our church-wide ministries in the ELCA and
50 cents is put to work through our NJ Synod's ministries here at home!

From your community, your generosity touches lives throughout New Jersey, across the nation, and across the globe!

Your comments and questions are welcome! If you would like to learn more about how Mission Support dollars are making a difference in God's world, or have a story to share, please contact: Rev. Scott Schantzenbach, Assistant to the Bishop ~ Stewardship Specialist for the New Jersey Synod. 14 Spring Meadow ~ Oxford, NJ 07863 Voice: 908-453-3514 Fax: 908-453-3619 Email: sschantzenbach@njsynod.org

Thank You!

Together we lead the New Jersey Synod in our shared mission to:

Grow the Church
Raise up Leaders
Build Peace