

EVERY GENDER, EVERY RACE, **ALL** ARE COVERED BY



Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

GOD'S

Grace

ALL ARE WELCOME.

We Invite You to Make a Statement of Intent for 2021

In his letter to the Christians at Ephesus (Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-16), the apostle Paul makes seven references to the word “one,” reflecting the importance of being called into the ‘unity of Christ.’ While the members of this young faith community were Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities, they were taught to believe in ‘one Lord, one faith, one baptism.’ Paul also invited these early Christians to recognize the different gifts given to each person by God and to consider these as gifts to



These gifts were to equip and support God’s work, and for ‘building up the body of Christ.’ Today we too are connected in the same body of Christ. We enable and support each other to grow in faith and put our faith into action. One way we are connected is the regular offerings shared by members and friends with your congregation. These are a gift to be used for ministry in your congregation and as Mission Support for your ministry partnerships with the congregations of the Western Iowa Synod and whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Whether your congregation is a younger one beginning its journey or one that has served long through Christ, we are knit together to “promote the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” We invite you to grow in the grace given to your congregation by building up the portion of your regular offerings share as Mission Support. **We ask each congregation to prayerfully consider taking a 1% step up toward releasing a tithe of your offerings for the wider ministries we share.**

Thank you for expressing your unity in Christ through our work together. And thank you for your commitment to Mission Support. Together we are building up the body of Christ.

With gratitude,

Reverend Lorna Halaas
Bishop of Western Iowa

Reverend Jim Mossman
Director of Evangelical Mission

SHAPING YOUR CONGREGATION'S PLAN FOR MISSION SUPPORT

As your congregation prepares a spending plan for 2021, please reflect on the following questions in making your decisions.

- In what ways is your congregation like the congregation in Ephesus, “tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind”?
- Where do you find “one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling”?
- In what ways does the grace given by God to each person strengthen and increase the whole congregation?
- How do you build up the body of Christ through your regular offerings and Mission Support?
- How are you building up your commitment to Mission Support from one year to the next?

As you discuss your Mission Support commitment for the coming year, please consider how your offerings reflect your calling and build up the body of Christ. As a church together, we can have a greater impact in your community, the Western Iowa Synod, and beyond, sharing God’s abundant grace with others.

Instructions: Use the columns below to indicate your congregation’s current level of Mission Support and your 2021 Mission Support plan. When you have completed this information, please return to the synod office.

Western Iowa Synod
318 East 5th St
Storm Lake IA 50588

Name of congregation _____

Congregation ID number _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Submitted by _____ Date _____

Phone _____ Email _____

	2020 Actual	2021 Projected	Percent Change
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Regular offerings received from members	\$	\$	%
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Mission Support budgeted For Western Iowa Synod	\$	\$	%
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Percentage of Mission Support (Mission Support divided by weekly offering)	%	%	
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