



Grand Canyon Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Communicate Jesus. Connect People. Create Possibilities.



February 2025 - January 2026

# Impact Report



Grand Canyon Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Office of the Bishop

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# On The Journey Together

The Grand Canyon Synod is one of 65 synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The ELCA is a church of more than 3.5 million members who actively participate in God's work in the world.

We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. There are 82 congregations in the Grand Canyon Synod and 3 Lutheran Campus Ministries. The territory of this synod is the State of Arizona; the counties of Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye in the State of Nevada; and New Promise Lutheran Church, in St. George, Utah.

## Mission

**Communicate Jesus. Connect People. Create Possibilities.**

## Vision

**Communities together in Christ serving the world.**

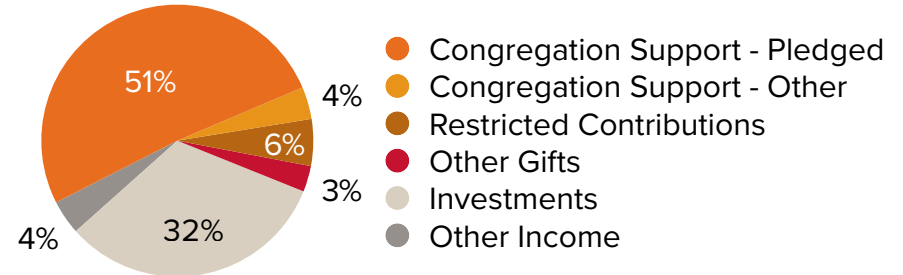
## Core Values

Grounded in grace of Christ, we **encourage, empower, and equip** our communities to: proclaim Jesus from Lutheran teachings; nurture passionate inclusivity; live out radical hospitality; work for justice and mercy, and cultivate faith-filled relationships with all ages.

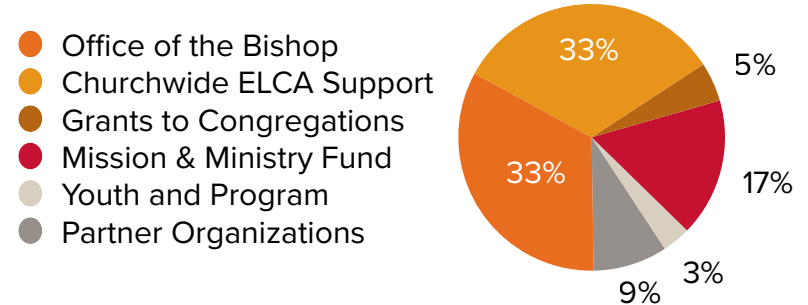


# Stewarding Our Mission Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026

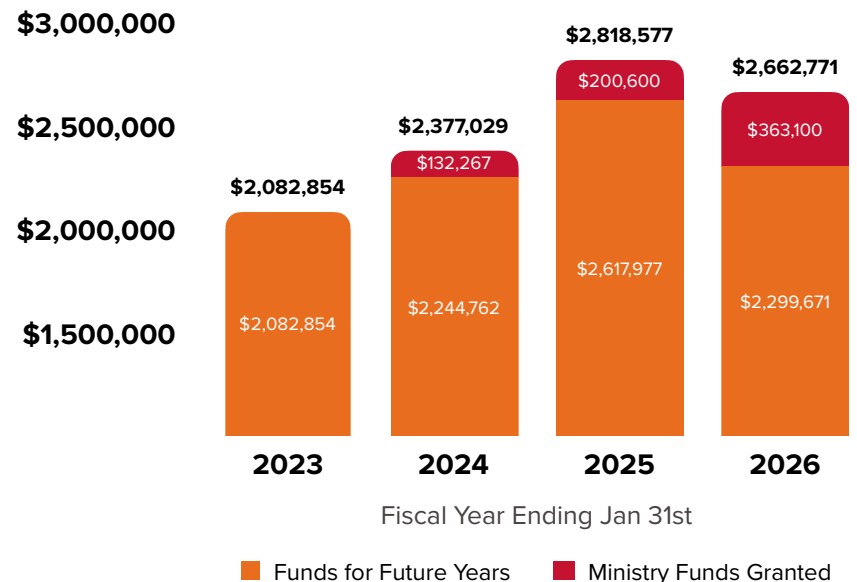
**Income \$3,435,051**



**Expenses \$2,671,675**



## Grand Canyon Synod Mission & Ministry Fund



Fiscal Year Ending Jan 31st

■ Funds for Future Years ■ Ministry Funds Granted

# A Note of Thanksgiving

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7*

Dear Partners in Ministry,

What began as a moment became a movement: a people rooted in God's story and sent into the world. That same Spirit continues to gather us today, shaping us together for the sake of the gospel.

That is what I have seen this year across the Grand Canyon Synod. In the faces of newly ordained leaders answering God's call. In faithful voices lifted for neighbors in need. In congregations discovering they do not walk alone. With global companions whose generosity humbled and inspired us.

## God's story is unfolding before our eyes.

This fruit is not the result of any one gift or any single year. It is the cumulative witness of communities rooted in Christ, abounding in thanksgiving. In giving, we join a story already in motion, one that began before us and will continue long after.

You are part of this story. God's story. Thank you for your partnership and generosity, for praying, advocating, and leading, not because you had to, but because you are rooted in the one who first gave everything for you.

With you in Christ,



**Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer**  
Bishop, Grand Canyon Synod - ELCA



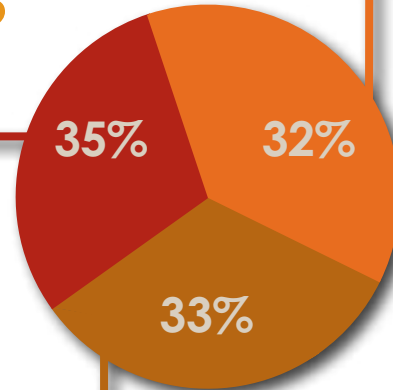


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# Where does my congregation's mission support go?

## Create Possibilities

- Empowers 10 strategic ministries, 2 synod-authorized worshipping communities, and 4 congregational outreach ministries, all committed to innovation and growth.
- Guides 13 candidates through the [ELCA candidacy process](#), discerning calls to Word and Sacrament or Word and Service ministry.
- Celebrates 6 [ordinations](#) and 7 [installations](#), welcoming new pastoral and diaconal leaders across the synod.
- Shepherds with 20 [congregations in transition](#), offering care, coaching, and stability.
- Awards \$143,079 in [grants](#) to 27 ministries and community projects, sparking new life across the synod.
- Invests in 14 vital yet vulnerable ministries in historically underserved and overlooked communities through the Mission and Ministry Fund.
- Advances [Cruzando Fronteras](#), a vital border ministry, in partnership with the United Church of Christ and Episcopal Diocese.
- Sustains Indigenous ministry through ongoing support of [House of Prayer, Rock Point](#).
- Offers leaders a place of rest, renewal, and discernment through [Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center](#).



## Communicate Jesus

- Stabilizes older adults, children, and families through [Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest](#), including 776 resettled refugees and 9,600 neighbors fed last year alone.
- Equips more than 100 congregational leaders to end hunger through advocacy and direct service through the [Grand Canyon Synod Hunger Leaders Network](#).
- Lifts faithful voices in Arizona and Nevada legislatures through [LAMA](#) and [LEAN](#).
- Extends the communion table to communities in transition through 6 Synodically Authorized Ministers, with 2 more serving additional worship sites.
- Champions 3 Lutheran Campus Ministries at [UofA](#), [ASU](#), and [NAU](#), forming faith-filled communities for college students.
- Partners with [Lutheran Disaster Response](#), [Lutheran World Relief](#), and the [Lutheran World Federation's](#) 154 member churches in 99 countries to extend God's care to the world.
- Connects congregations and leaders through 2,000 [annual posts](#) and 52 [weekly newsletters](#) reaching 1,800 subscribers.
- Strengthens interfaith relationships and public witness through the [Arizona Faith Network](#).
- Deepens pastoral formation through First Call Accompaniment and Region 2 collaborative retreats.

## Connect People

- Shares mission support with [ELCA Churchwide](#) and Region 2, funding ministry across the U.S. and around the world.
- Walks alongside congregations and leaders in times of crisis and transition.
- Convenes rostered leaders for connection and renewal through the Bishops Fall Gathering
- Builds relationships with every congregation through 134 visits by Bishop Hutterer and synod staff from June 2025 - May 2026.
- Accompanies 13 first-call pastors and deacons as they begin ministry in the synod.
- Nurtures global companionship through relationships with companion synods in [Senegal](#) and [Mexico](#).
- Cultivates future leaders through [Pacific Lutheran Seminary](#) and [California Lutheran University](#).
- Gathers over 300 Lutherans at [Synod Assembly](#), our church's primary space for shared governance and discernment.
- Unites young people under 25 and youth leaders across the synod through the [Synod Youth Advisory Team \(SYAT\)](#).