



Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Q: HOW WILL DONORS TO THIS FIRST SYNOD-WIDE FUND APPEAL BE RECOGNIZED?

A: Individuals, congregations and organizations that give gifts will be recognized in chronological order.

- Gifts/pledges received February 1 – December 31, 2010: Will be designated *The Gifts of Peter & Mary* (Matthew 16:18 & Luke 1:42);
- Gifts/pledges received January 1 – April 30, 2011: Will be designated *The Gifts of Isaiah and the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well* (Isaiah 55:4 & John 4:28);
- Gifts/pledges received May 1 – September 30, 2011: Will be designated *The Gifts of the Widow and the Macedonia Churches* (Mark 12:43 & II Corinthians 8:3);
- Gifts/pledges received October 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012: Will be designated *The Gifts of Sustaining Light* (Matthew 5:14-16).

Q: WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO SUPPORT THIS FUND APPEAL?

A: You can provide support in a number of ways:

- You can publicly endorse the vision and ministries of this mission fund development program and its \$7.9 million goal;
- You can offer to host a small group gathering and invite others within your sphere of influence to learn more about this fund appeal program;
- You can identify someone you feel should be personally cultivated by a member of the fund appeal leadership;
- You can respectfully ask someone with whom you have influence to prayerfully consider providing a financial gift;
- You can recommend the fund appeal to someone receiving an individual proposal.

Q: WHAT ABOUT A LONGER TERM GIFT THROUGH MY ESTATE?

A: Planned gifts are very much welcomed by the Central States Synod. The synod has a member of its advisory staff who specializes in estate planning and various gift planning vehicles. Joyce "JP" Palmer can provide confidential assistance to anyone considering a gift through their estate plan. Please call the synod office or e-mail "JP" at: jcpalmer49@aol.com.

Q: I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS. HOW DO I CONTACT THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD OFFICE?

A: You may call 866-915-3548 (toll free) or 913-948-9701; visit the Central States Synod web site, www.css-elca.org; or you may e-mail:

Rev. Gerald Mansholt, Bishop at gmansholt@css-elca.org; or
Sandy Van Tuyl, Administrative Staff at svantuyl@css-elca.org

Thank you!

Changed by Love, Sent in Love, to Serve
SHAPING THE CHURCH FOR GOD'S MISSION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHY DOES THE SYNOD NEED A SPECIAL FUND APPEAL?

A: God is calling us to be a part of his mission in the world today and has given us an opportunity to be shaped anew. When people that are **Changed by Love, Sent in Love, to Serve** respond generously to this fund appeal with individual gifts to support their passions, we are confident we will be **Shaping the Church for God's Mission**.

Q: DOESN'T MY CONGREGATION SEND A PORTION OF OUR OFFERINGS TO THE SYNOD? IS THIS WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS MISSION SUPPORT?

A: Yes. Congregations, from around the synod, typically include a line within their annual budget for Mission Support. This money is sent to the synod office, the Central States Synod passes along a full 50% of what it receives to the national and global ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the other half is used to support local ministries within the synod.

Q: WHAT IS THE FUND APPEAL GOAL?

A: Actually, there are two very important goals:

One goal is the important opportunity to tell God's story, to proclaim Jesus Christ and tell how God in his mercy has engaged us in ministry. In this new day, congregations, synods, and the national church are asking what ministry structures serve God's mandate to participate more deeply in God's mission.

The second is a financial goal of \$7.9 million. These funds will be used to follow God's call to do this through our four missional directions:

- *Igniting spiritual renewal;*
- *Raising up leaders of all ages for the church;*
- *Building bridges across the differences that divide society;*
- *Inspiring and equipping people to discover what God is up to in their lives.*

In addition to the four missional directions, support is needed for the ELCA Malaria Campaign/Global HIV and AIDS Strategy, Changed by Love Endowment Fund and to fund customary resource development costs.

Q: HOW WILL MY GIFT STRENGTHEN MY LOCAL CONGREGATION?

A: Gifts will benefit local congregations by enhancing support for existing ministries and creating NEW ministries and programs:

- **Support for theological training.** Average debt for first call pastors is \$40,000 from seminary. We want to decrease this load through scholarships and debt reduction.
- **Worship workshops and resources.** Providing different and expanded options.
- **Education and training for enhancing stewardship** (e.g., Nathan Dungan's *Share, Spend, Save* events). New ways of looking at personal and congregational stewardship.
- **Integrate faith and daily life.** Retreats, workshops, and more resources for individuals and congregations.
- **Advanced education and training.** Provided by life-long learning centers and theological education for emerging ministries. Create distance learning technology and training.
- **Parish Ministry Associate Program (PMA).** Support training for lay leaders.
- **Partnership for Missional Church (PMC).** Growth and renewal for existing congregations through this program which has already reached 10% of the Central States congregations.
- **Interim pastors, and pastoral internships.** Support in transitional times.
- **Leadership development for youth and adults.** New young adult exchanges, youth leadership events and work with new and existing campus ministries.
- **Outdoor ministries.** Bolster current ministries and increase programs.

Q: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT I GIVE? WHAT IF MY SITUATION CHANGES?

A: We share a common mission to enable God's people to grow in faith and put faith into action. Ministries of the Central States Synod represent faith in action and are enabled through our financial support. Individual gifts are necessary for us to live into a new day and our promised future. If your financial situation changes contact the Central States Synod office to modify your support.

Q: IF I DO NOT HAVE A LOT TO GIVE, WILL MY GIFT STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A: Yes. Gifts of all sizes are welcome, greatly valued, and will make a meaningful difference. Without broad financial support from all members across the synod, we will not be able to live more faithfully and fully into the missional directions to which we have been called. With a financial goal of \$7.9 million, gifts of all sizes are being sought.

Q: HOW CAN I FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THIS FUND APPEAL?

A: You can make a gift to *Changed by Love, Sent in Love, to Serve – Shaping the Church for God's Mission* by completing a Statement of Donor Intent (pledge form). This form lists choices as to how an actual gift or payment of a multi-year pledge may be fulfilled. Options include payment by: major credit card; check; or through a gift of stock or property.

If you would like to be contacted in regard to making a pledge please contact the Central States Synod office 866-915-3548 (toll-free) or 913-948-9701 or email svantuyl@css-elca.org

Q: IS MY GIFT TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

A: Yes, the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, contributions to which are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift for tax purposes.

Q: DO I HAVE TO GIVE EVERYTHING AT ONE TIME?

A: No. We encourage you to consider a multi-year commitment, with a pledge payment term of three years. This will make it possible for you to prayerfully consider and budget for your gift to support the synod. A one-time gift to this fund appeal is also certainly welcome.

Q: HOW WILL MY OUTRIGHT GIFT OR PLEDGE BE DIVIDED?

A: Our intent is that all outright gifts and multi-year pledges given to support *Changed by Love, Sent in Love, to Serve – Shaping the Church for God's Mission* will be allocated, on a percentage basis, to each of the seven featured fund appeal objectives:

- *Igniting spiritual renewal* – 27%
- *Raising up leaders of all ages for the Church* – 19%
- *Inspiring and equipping people to be part of what God is up to in their everyday lives* – 12%
- *Building bridges across the differences that divide society* – 8%
- *Changed by Love Endowment Fund* – 13%
- *The ELCA Malaria Campaign / Global HIV and AIDS Strategy* – 10%
- *Resource development costs* – 11%

Q: HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE APPROVED AND ALLOCATED FOR EXPENDITURE?

A: Expenditure of all funds will be specifically recommended by the Bishop with the approval of the Central States Synod Council. The outlines of ministries represented in the Resource Development Case for Support are "an illustration" of how the funds will be spent. As the fund appeal evolves, the Central States Synod Council will refine and approve the actual expenditure of funds.

Q: WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT FUND AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A: An endowment fund is a carefully-managed pool of investments out of which a certain percentage is paid each year to support the ongoing purposes. As one of the featured objectives of this mission development program, the Central States Synod Endowment – *Changed by Love Endowment Fund* – is being created. This endowment fund will be managed by the Mission Endowment Fund Committee of the Central States Synod. Funds will be used for creating a means of sustainable support for the four missional directions and ministries of the synod going forward.