

ELCA Synod Assembly Report
Content – FINAL
4.18.18

SLIDE 1

ELCA logo
2017 In Review

SLIDE 2

TITLE: Future Directions logo

Future Directions 2025 is based in a shared trust that the future is in God's hands. It expresses what this church has collectively identified as priorities into the future.

SLIDE 3

TITLE: Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA – logo

- \$174.5 million total impact for the ELCA and its ministries
 - o Including \$30.5+ million in planned gifts
- 81% of congregations currently participate

SLIDE 4

TITLE: MISSION SUPPORT

Through our offerings, we participate in God's life-changing work in our communities and around the world

- In 2017, ELCA members gave generously
- \$1.7+ billion in unrestricted offerings
- 94.3% was stewarded by congregations
- 3.1% was stewarded by synods
- 2.6% was stewarded by the ELCA churchwide organization

SLIDE 5

TITLE: FAITH FORMATION

- 180+ ELCA campus ministries in the U.S.
- 26 ELCA-affiliated colleges and universities
- 7 ELCA seminaries
- Nearly 100 youth participating in Youth Leadership Summit

SLIDE 6

TITLE: CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

Communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world.

- 151 ministries were supported with Congregational Vitality Partnership support
- 670+ leaders were trained in congregational development

- 431 new ministries are currently under development
- 59 new starts were approved in 2017
- 56% of all new starts are among ethnic-multicultural communities
- 30 Global Mission Gatherings took place around the United States

SLIDE 7

TITLE: LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Our response efforts in 2017 were close to home and across the globe

- 30 disaster responses in 21 countries
- 17 disaster responses in 15 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- \$22+ million in donations from you made this work possible

SLIDE 8

TITLE: ELCA WORLD HUNGER

- \$21.3 million raised for 518 projects that help fight hunger in 62 countries, including the U.S.
- This represents the largest year of direct giving to ELCA World Hunger in the program's history
- Because of this growth, 9 brand new projects in 6 countries joined the fight to end hunger

SLIDE 9

TITLE: GLOBAL MISSION

- In relationship with 85+ of the 145 Lutheran World Federation member churches across 94 countries
 - o 200+ grants provided for evangelism and leadership to those partners
- 11 new global ministry and evangelism projects
- 230 Missionaries including 93 Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers in 40+ countries

SLIDE 10

TITLE: AMMPARO

Accompanying Migrant Minors for Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

- 41,435 unaccompanied children entered the U.S.
- 75,622 families (1 parent and 1+ children) entered in the southwestern U.S. alone
- 76 welcoming and sanctuary congregations across 26 synods
- 5 sanctuary synods

SLIDE 11

TITLE: ADVOCACY

- 34,255 messages were sent to Congress and the administration through the ELCA Advocacy Action Center
- 30,000+ ELCA Advocacy Network members
- 231 visits to members of Congress in D.C.

SLIDE 12

TITLE: ECUMENICAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS

- Celebrating 50+ years of dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S.
- Strengthening partnerships with the Historic Black Churches
- Presiding Bishop Eaton was honored with the Interfaith Unity Award from the Islamic Society of North America Convention
- *A Declaration of Our Inter-Religious Commitment: A Draft Policy Statement* was completed in preparation for public review through June 30, 2018

SLIDE 13

TITLE: LEADERSHIP

"It's not only the job of our seminaries and universities to identify and raise up leaders in the church. This is something that belongs to all of us." Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

- \$4+ million given to ELCA Fund for Leaders
- 251 seminary students receiving financial assistance during 2017-18
- 130 students receiving financial support from the International Leaders Program
- The International Women Leaders initiative provides scholarships for 19 young women from 10 global companion churches. These leaders are studying at 7 ELCA colleges and universities.

SLIDE 14

TITLE: ELCA IN THE NEWS

The ELCA was featured across local, regional, national and international media

- National Public Radio
 - The Atlantic
 - BBC World News
 - NBC
 - Good Housekeeping
- ...and many more

SLIDE 15

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

A year-long commemoration included:

- "With New Voices" and "Our Lutheran Life" video series
- Living Lutheran's *500 facts of the Reformation*
- ELCA500.org
- Day-long event with ecumenical and inter-religious partners in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 31 with hundreds in attendance and thousands watching live
- 110 article placements in the media with 2+ million impressions

SLIDE 16

We are church

We are Lutheran

We are church together

We are church for the sake of the world

Thank You

Learn more at ELCA.org