

STEWARDSHIP STRENGTHENS Your Faith and Church

Like the ancient people of God in the Old Testament we bring into our congregation the “first fruits” of our labor. As they brought grain and animals, today we bring money to offer, and we make our offering in the middle of the worship service.

While it is important to know what our dollars do, it is more important to first think about where those dollars come from, about how and why those dollars have been offered.

Our offering is an act of worship. In our worship we seek to love and honor God. We express that devotion by sacrificing and sharing something of value.

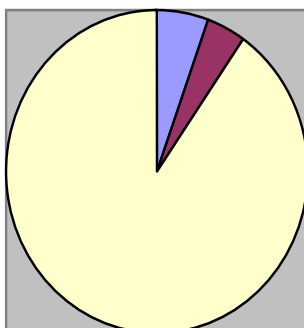
Our offering is an act of liberation. We know the temptation to allow money to rule our life and shape our values. In the face of that temptation, we break the hold of money and release it freely and with joy. In our offering we demonstrate that we are liberated to serve God and not mammon.

Our offering is an act of community. This is about ministry that is beyond me. This is about ministry that is shared with all the people of God. My offering is released into the care of the wider congregation, the Synod, and the Churchwide expression. My offering becomes part of our ministry, an expression that my identity is not part of the Church.

Our offering is an imitation of Christ. We are generous because Christ was generous, in his work and in his sacrifice. We want to be a follower of Jesus. We share our generous offering in memory and in imitation of the generous offering that Christ is for the world.

COME AND FOLLOW JESUS FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

In 2005, your congregation and 191 others gave **\$43.6 million** to support God's mission and ministry through the congregations of the New Jersey Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. **Thank you for sharing your resources to support and strengthen your faith and church!**



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| ■ Mission Support 6.1% |
| ■ Local and Other Benevolence 4.6% |
| □ Local Congregation Ministry 89.3% |

\$2,661,505 shared with the New Jersey Synod in Mission Support

\$2,008,901 shared with local and other benevolences.

\$43,627,106 total income in New Jersey Synod congregations.

WE BRING OUR OFFERING

Every \$100 of the mission support received by the New Jersey Synod supports the following types of mission in the following amounts*:

CHURCHWIDE MISSION

\$50.00 supports God's mission and ministry through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

\$10.57 funds ministry partnerships with Region 7 Center for Mission, Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia, Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ, Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry, Lutheran Archives Center, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Upsala at Wagner, Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries, New Jersey Council of Churches, Seafarers and International House, Diakonia.

LEADERSHIP AND CANDIDACY

\$0.73 supports the work of the synod in recruiting, preparing, and placing leaders for ministry.

OUTREACH AND DISCIPLING

\$4.57 provides resources for strategic outreach ministries, redevelopment and transformational

ministries, multi-cultural and urban development and discipling initiatives.

ADVOCACY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

\$0.22 funds advocacy and justice initiatives.

YOUTH MINISTRY

\$0.89 makes possible youth ministry events, programs and ministry support for people during the first third of life.

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

\$0.09 maintains our connections with our companion synods, global, ecumenical, and inter-faith partners.

COMMUNICATIONS

\$0.32 funds news and information projects and electronic, web-site and on line communication.

SYNOD MISSION DEVELOPMENT

\$7.28 conducts mission development projects on the territory of the New Jersey Synod including funding youth ministry specialist, synod assembly, Synod Council, worship, mailings, stewardship resources, and

volunteer meeting and travel costs.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

\$11.65 supports the work of the Bishop including pastoral staff compensation, and staff travel and expenses related to the work of the Office of the Bishop.

FISCAL AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

\$4.27 maintains all building services, equipment repair and service, legal and audit services, property management, and automobile maintenance and replacement.

SYNOD OFFICE OPERATIONS

\$9.40 provides resources for the staffing and operation of the Synod office. All office based staff compensation, contract staffing, postage, supplies, and phone systems are included in this allocation.

For more information about the current New Jersey Synod spending allocation, visit www.njsynod.org or contact Pastor Scott Schantzenbach, Assistant to the Bishop, at sschantzenbach@njsynod.org

*Based on 2007 spending plan