

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SHARE GOD'S LOVE.

Today's the day. Everywhere you look, there is good work waiting to be done. The ELCA and its partners offer a wide range of opportunities to get involved, get your hands dirty and get to work. From spending a year on the other side of the globe as a mission worker, to working as a youth leader at a local congregation, to providing comfort and shelter to victims of a natural disaster -- there are countless big and small ways that you can help share God's love with the world. In doing so, you may be surprised how God blesses your life, too.

Locally

Local opportunities are often the easiest because there is little travel expense, you can continue to serve and watch the changes made, and you can get together with fellow members, family, and friends to serve.

Check with your congregation, local food pantries, local disaster relief efforts (when/where applicable), and many other aid organizations.

Nationally

Some of the most common national volunteering in churches is from youth groups who travel during the summer months. There are also many options available for adults. Some are even looking particularly for adults with certain skill sets, so always keep your mind open to using your skills from your profession or hobbies. Also watch your congregation's youth news. Often those common youth trips are in need of adults as well!

One major need for volunteers nationwide is always disaster response. By visiting www.ldr.org, you can find out what areas are in need of volunteers.

Globally

There are also many opportunities to volunteer outside of this country. One connection in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod is trips to our companion synods in Colombia and Tanzania. The synod organizes some visits and many congregations also organize their own.

ELCA Global Mission also has a

database of mission opportunities from all over the world for periods of one month up to several years. Possibilities exist for young adults, teaching, health care, evangelism, administration, or and more. Visit www.ELCA.org/globalmission for more information.

Virtually

More and more opportunities are becoming available to volunteer right from your own desk. This could include helping your congregation with a website, doing calling or e-mailing for an organization, or spreading enthusiasm for a cause by blogging your experience.

The ELCA plans to also have a database of these kinds of opportunities available online in the future. This will be available by visiting www.ELCA.org and clicking on "Service Opportunities" under "Our Faith in Action."

No matter who you are or where you are, there are ways to serve based on your gifts. Explore your options!

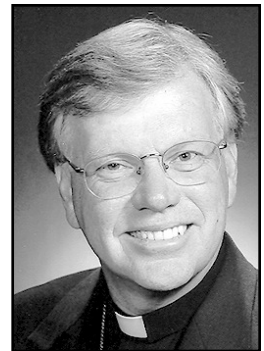
FEATURED RESOURCES

- ELCA Service Opportunities - www.ELCA.org (click on Our Faith in Action, Service Opportunities)
- Lutheran Disaster Response - www.LDR.org

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 PETER 4:10



ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 132,000 baptized people in 184 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

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