



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

MISSION SUPPORT CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL VISITS

SETTING UP THE VISIT

When calling the congregation you could say something like...

"Hi, I am _____ and I serve on the Synod Council/Stewardship Team/Cabinet of Deans. We would like to visit your church council to thank you for your giving and share some of the things we are doing together as the church. May I have 15 minutes or so at your next council meeting to visit with you?"

TALKING POINTS

1. I'm here to say thank you for your giving to the ministries of the wider church, beyond your walls. First a reading from Scripture and a prayer.

The apostle Paul, when he was collecting from the churches for the need in Jerusalem wrote;

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

-2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Good and gracious God, I give you thanks for _____ Lutheran Church, for Pastor _____, and for this congregation council. Bless the work of the church here in this place, in this country, and around the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2. How are things going here at _____ Lutheran Church?
3. I invite you to take a look at the packet.
4. The first document in your packet is an informational brochure that shows pictures of some of the ministries you are supporting with your mission support.
 - A. Sending missionaries
 - B. Supporting our companion synods in Peru and the Central African Republic
 - C. Planting new congregations
 - D. Preparing rostered leaders to serve
 - E. Addressing global hunger
 - F. Responding to disasters

(Expound on one of these that inspires you personally.) You are a part of this!

"A network of growing, Christ-centered, outwardly-focused congregations passing the faith to the next generation"

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5. The second sheet shows a history of your congregation's giving to the ministries of the wider church
 - A. **Mission support** is the non-designated portion of offering that your congregation shares with the synod and the churchwide organization (ELCA) for God's mission beyond the local congregation.
 - B. **Benevolence** is the portion of your offering you designate for local charities or special gifts, for instance to Lutherhill, campus ministry, world hunger, or some other important cause.
 - C. Explain the various bar and line graphs.
 - D. Depending on where that particular congregation is in their mission support giving either:
Thank you for your faithful giving beyond the recommended 10%.
Thank you for your faithful giving of the recommended 10%.
Thank you for your faith giving of ___%. We encourage you to set a goal of 10%.
6. The third sheet is an estimate of giving. As you set your budget this fall, simply let us know what you are budgeting for the ministry of the wider church. This helps us with our planning and helps you be intentional about your giving to the wider church. Can you get this to us as soon as you have your congregational meeting to set the budget?
You can also fill this out [online](#). (The url is located on the cover letter)
7. The final sheets tells you what some of the other congregations in your conference are giving.