



**North Carolina Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**We have a purpose:**

It is called "Walking Together, Sharing Christ," which is the mission statement of our synod. This means that we, together, are the church called to share Christ with one another and the world. The apostle Paul wrote, *"For just as the body is one and has many members... so it is with Christ"* (1 Corinthians 12:12). We cannot fulfill our purpose alone. We need one another today more than ever.

**We have potential:**

Congregations of the NC Synod are reaching out to those most in need. Along with our six existing mission churches, there are five more word and sacrament ministries emerging in ethnic communities or among persons living in poverty. 85 persons are already in various stages of preparation to be pastors or rostered lay ministers, and with the help of synod committees, task groups, and the Heilig Resource Center we support congregations with resources for ministry.

**We have a plan:**

Our plan includes sending a team of two visitors to your congregation to hear how God is changing your life and using you to change the lives of others. We also want to talk about the great things we do together with the money you send us. We want to tell you that if you give us more, we'll do more – together.

Your church will soon be contacted to arrange this visit. Many who were visited last year have requested a second visit. We're ready to learn more about your ministry. With this in mind, **please pray for open hearts and minds** as we walk together, discovering how God is changing us and changing the world through us. (A litany for use in your worship services is provided on the reverse of this page.)



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## A Litany for Connecting God's People

Holy Spirit of God, we thank and bless you for the goodness you show to your people, the Church. You continually shower us with grace, mercy, and salvation. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we ask for your wisdom and insight as we navigate through difficult times. Help us to see beyond our struggles so that we might recognize the open doors of opportunity which you provide. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Jesus the Word made flesh, you teach that the church is one body with many parts. We need one another to fulfill the purpose you have given us as your people – to walk together, sharing Christ. Teach us how to live into this purpose as one church with three expressions – congregation, synod, church-wide. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of abundance, you always provide more than we need as your people, the church. You do this because you are a generous and abundant God, who created all people to reflect your image. Inspire us to demonstrate generosity and abundance when we are tempted to act out of stinginess and scarcity. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We ask for all these things in your most holy name.

**Amen.**

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