

# God calls the NC Synod of the ELCA to...



## VITAL CONGREGATIONS

## WHOLE & HEALTHY LEADERS



## COLLABORATION

## PROPHETIC VOICE



- cultivate & celebrate vital congregations
- identify, equip, and nurture whole & healthy leaders
- embrace & engage in collaboration
- proclaim the promise of the resurrection with a prophetic voice

# ...all for the sake of the world.



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

# God calls the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA to...

## Cultivate & Celebrate Vital Congregations

**Acts 4:31-34a** *When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Led by clear vision, vital congregations strengthen their relationship with God, nurture their relationship with others, and are a life-giving presence in the community. Vital congregations embrace and reflect the fullness and diversity of the image of God. Realizing that we are part of something bigger than ourselves, we seek to cultivate vital congregations through resources and leadership. Together, we model faith practices for all generations and give and serve generously.

## Identify, Equip and Nurture Whole & Healthy Leaders

**Ephesians 4:1-3** *I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We seek to support rostered and lay leadership in healthy habits in all areas of life (social, emotional, physical, financial, vocational, intellectual, and spiritual). Reflecting the diversity of God's world, we commit to develop multicultural and culturally-sensitive leaders who engage in life-long learning. Walking with leaders, we strive to identify, nurture, and create space for ongoing discernment. We hold rostered ministers accountable to a life committed to and equipped for giving witness to the gospel.

## Embrace & Engage in Collaboration

**John 17:22-23** *The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Knowing we are better together, we seek to embrace being a church of three expressions—congregations, synod and churchwide ministries. Called to unity by the Holy Spirit, we work to build and live into the holy relationships with our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Expanding our witness to the gospel, we faithfully partner with NC Synod agencies and institutions, organizations, and with churchwide ministries.

## Proclaim the Promise of the Resurrection with a Prophetic Voice

**Isaiah 43:19** *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Anchored in grace and hope, we seek to engage congregations in vital conversations about purpose and ministry in the world. God is always doing a new thing in congregations and systems, freeing us to speak truth to power and advocating for the dignity of all God's people. The gospel frees us to live and proclaim courageously.

**...all for the sake of the world.**