

How Do We Get Our Money to God?

Congregational Stewardship and
General Mission Support

Christians Give to God

- We give through our congregations
- We give through other organizations
- We give to family members and friends

We Have Decisions to Make!



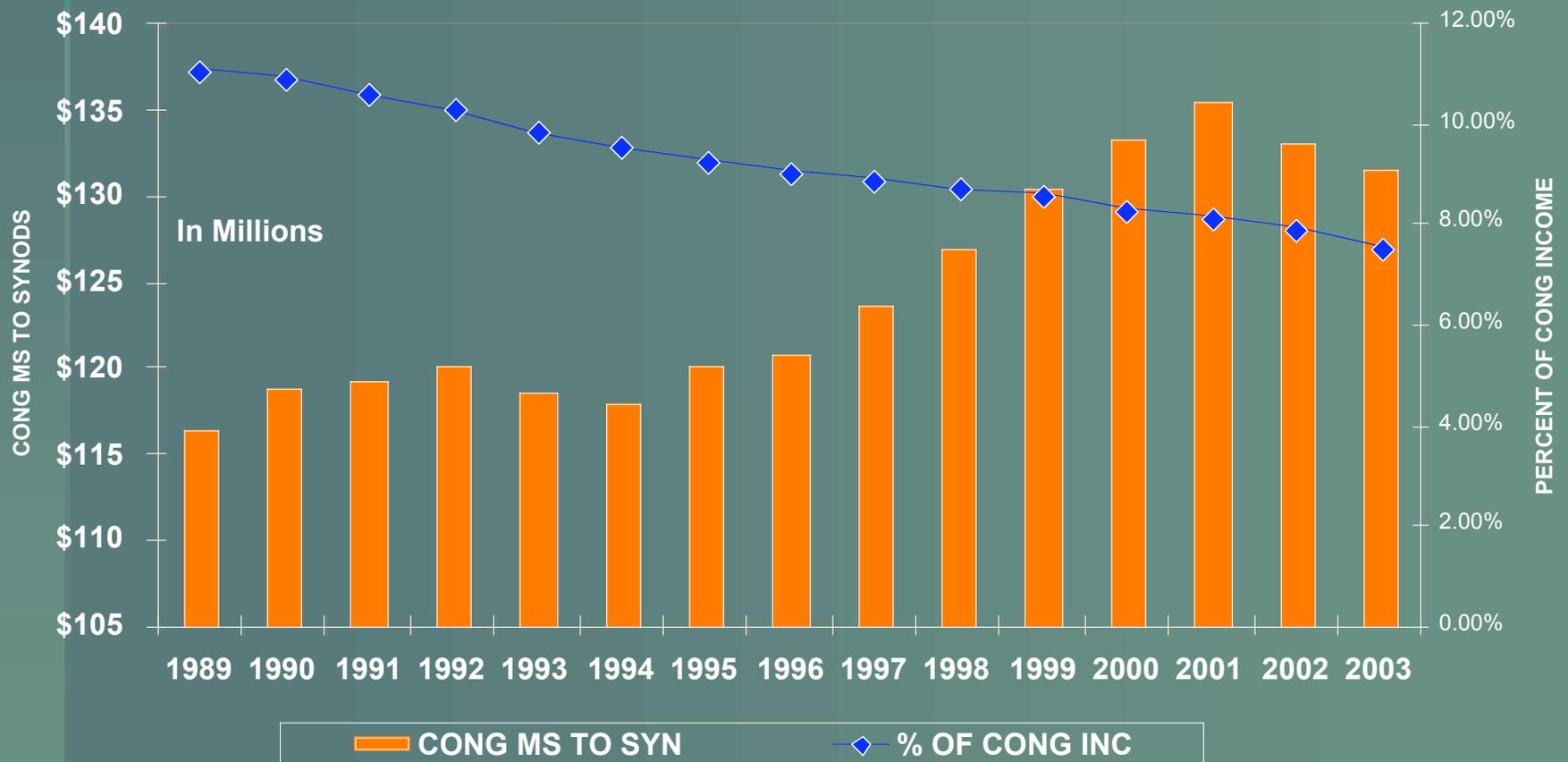
How Do We Decide How God Will Receive our Gift?

- Through ELCA or other?
- Designated or undesignated?
- Gift based on amount or proportion?
- Local or beyond our immediate community?
- Purpose based or emotion based?

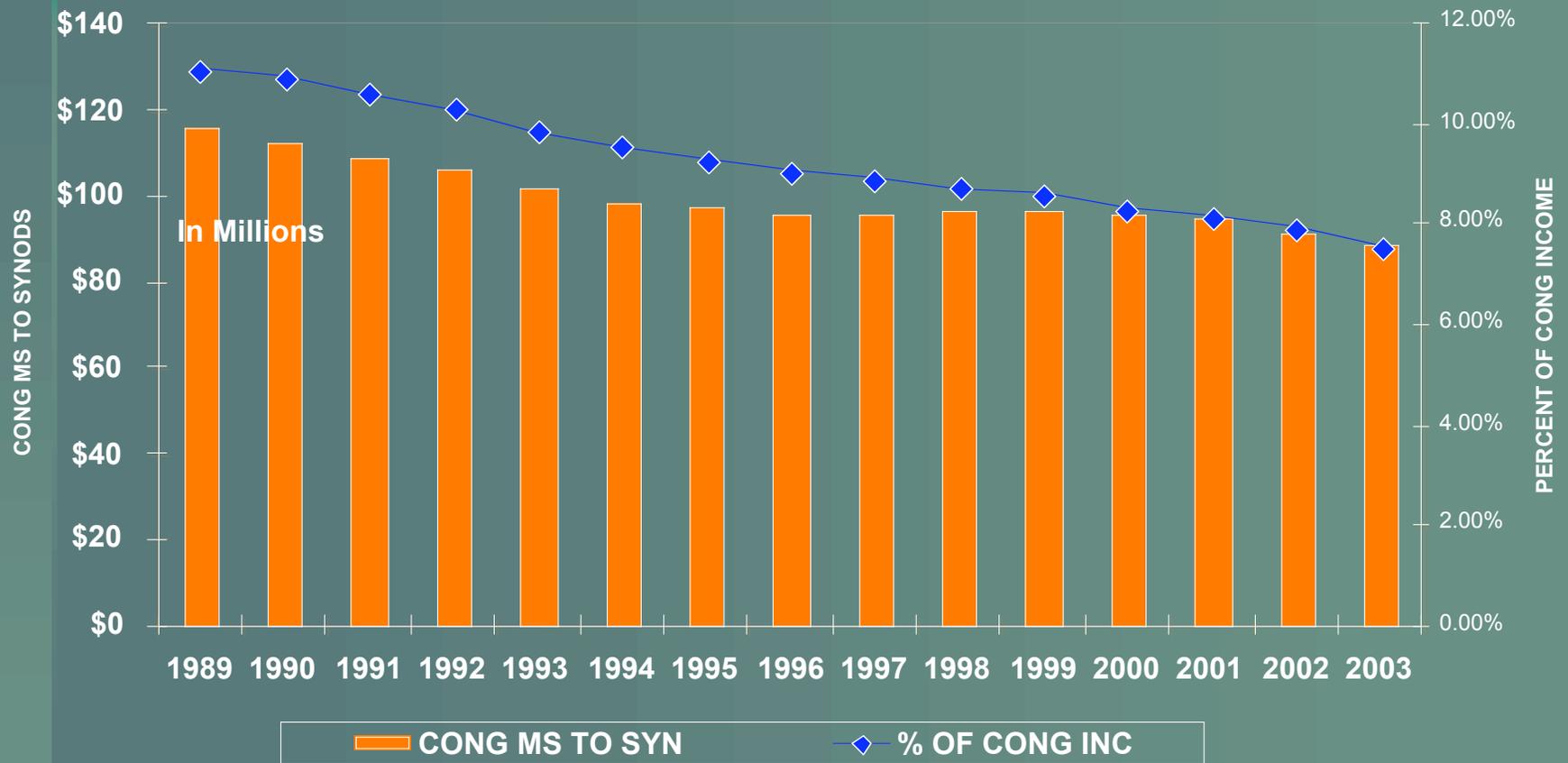
ELCA or Other?

- ELCA is who we are
 - True partners in ministry
 - Part of the Body of Christ
 - A trustworthy community
 - Not another charity among many
- Other organizations have strong ministries, too
 - Also part of the larger Body of Christ

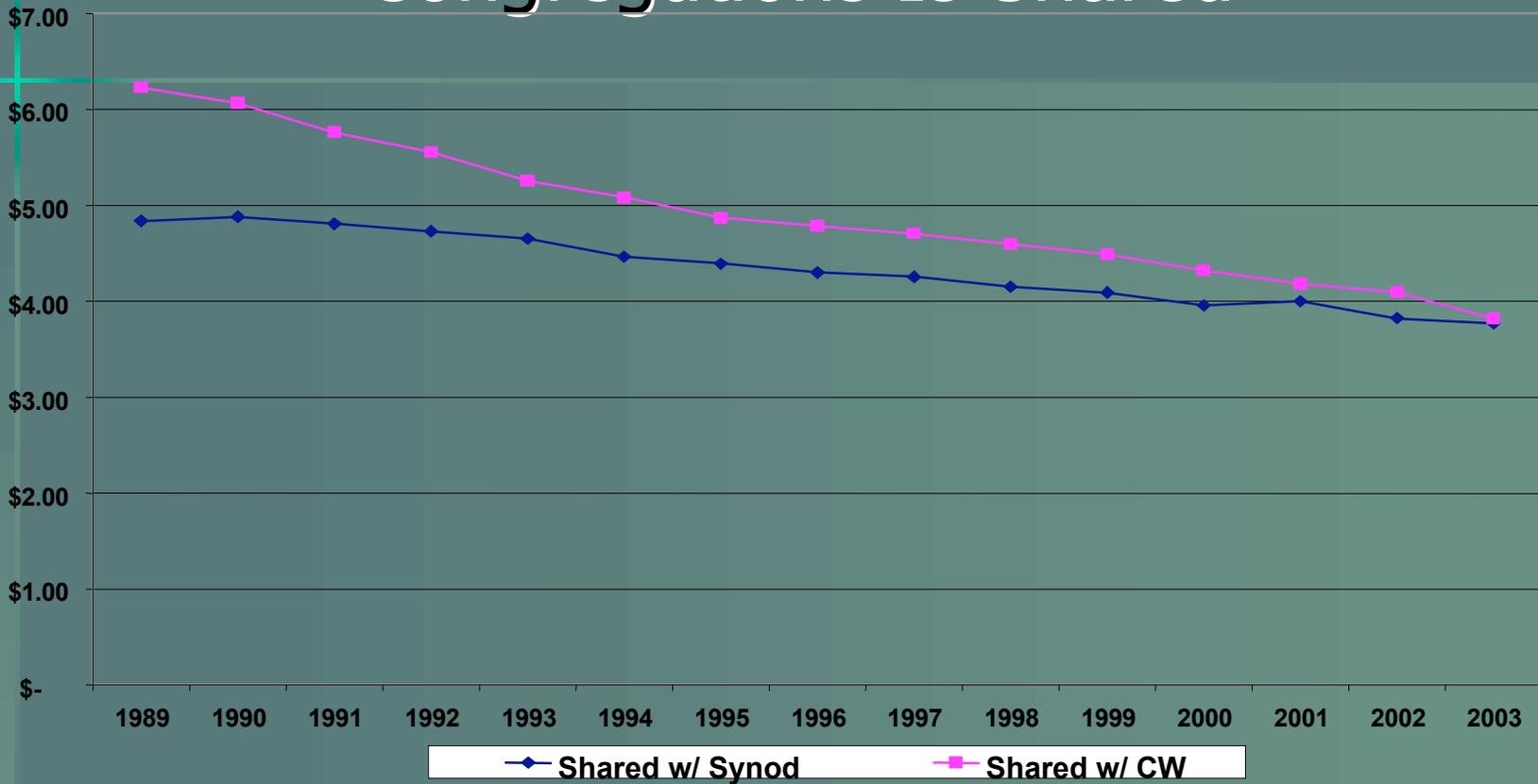
CONGREGATIONAL MISSION SUPPORT TO SYNOD AND PERCENTAGE OF INCOME



CONGREGATIONAL MISSION SUPPORT TO SYNOD AND PERCENTAGE OF INCOME (Adjusted for Inflation)



How \$100 of Offering Received in Congregations Is Shared



Designated or undesignated?

- Designated giving keeps the giver in control
- Undesignated giving shares control of the gift
- Designated giving is increasing in the US
- Undesignated giving is decreasing in the US

Proportionate Giving or Giving based on Amount?

- Proportionate giving based on percentage
- Proportionate giving is Biblical
- Proportionate giving is fair
- Proportionate giving reflects faith
- Proportionate giving is a model

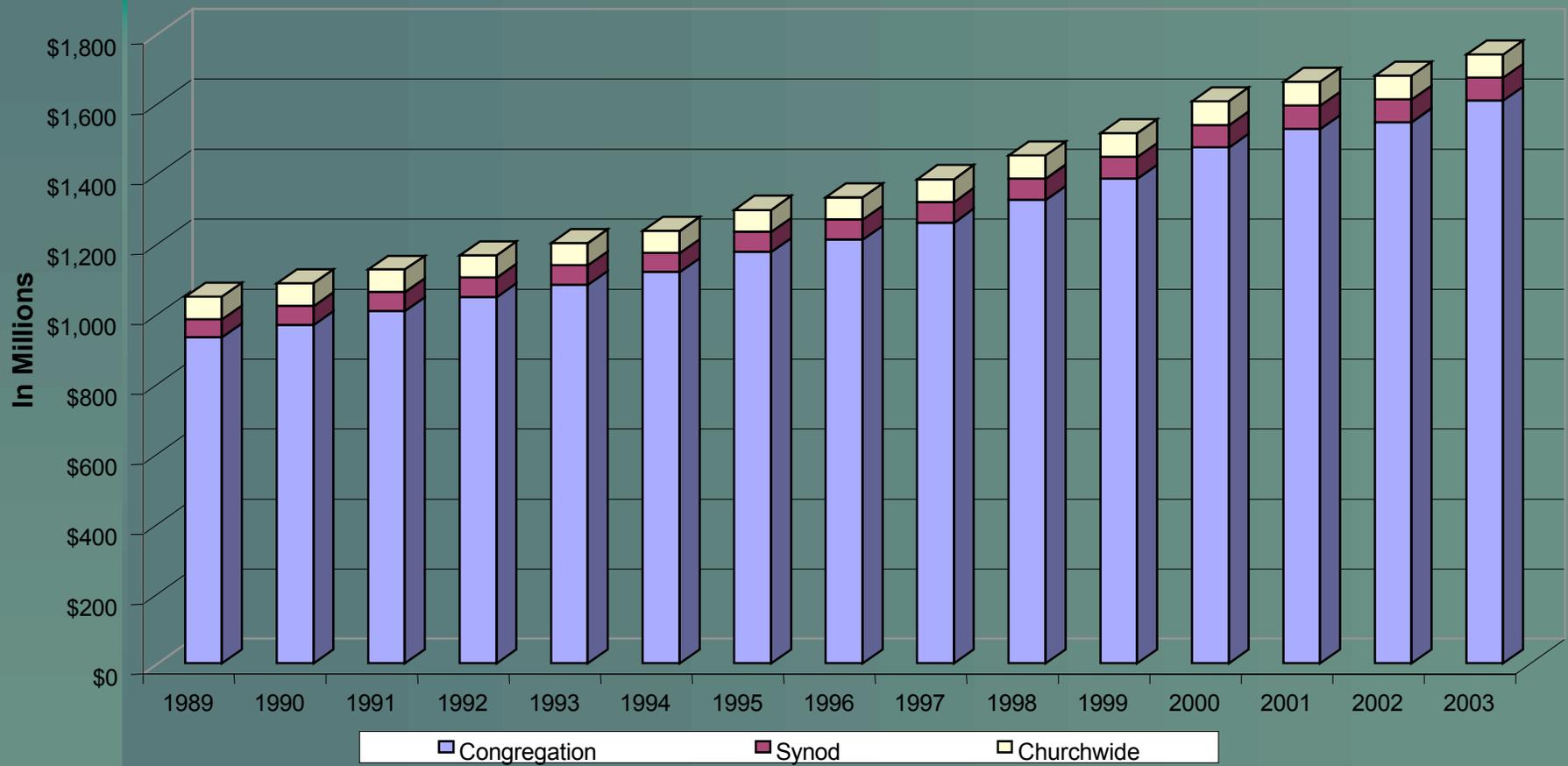
Local or Beyond?

- The answer is – Both!
- But which will draw our greatest commitment?
- Congregations keep a greater share of giving for their own ministries
- We are called to look outward and support the ministries of God's work throughout the world

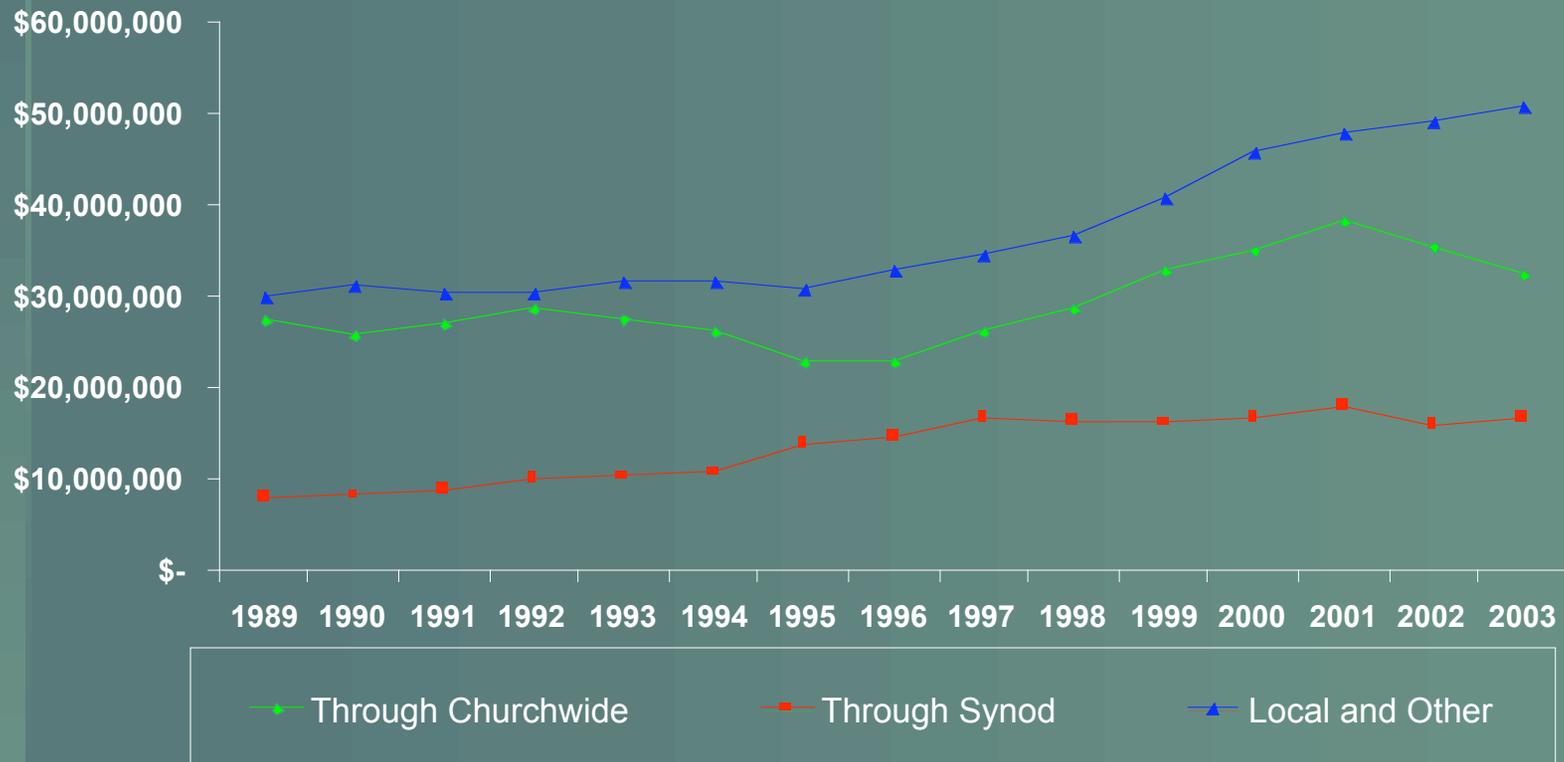
Giving Beyond Ourselves

- General Mission support
 - Bishop Berg calls for 5% minimum
 - Grow to 10% and beyond
- Specific Mission support
 - Grow towards another 10%
 - Camps
 - Missionary Sponsorship
 - Local ministries
 - LSS

Sharing of Offerings Received in Congregations



Specific Mission Support by Destination 1989 - 2003



Purpose based or emotion based?

- We often give to what feels good
 - Emotional appeals work
 - Emotional appeals satisfy the giver
- Synod work can't compete emotionally with hunger appeals or missionaries
 - Most dramatic work is confidential
 - It's infrastructure for ministry

How Do We Get Our Money To God?

- Lots of different ways
- Proportionate
- Undesignated
- Designated
- Purpose based
- Local ministries
- Beyond local ministries
- Through the ELCA