



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.



**Now Is the Time for Moving Forward in Ongoing Reformation**

Our synod stands at a pivotal moment. We are eager to embrace the many opportunities to equip God's people to steward the Good News in our swiftly changing mission field. In the past year we engaged in deep listening among congregations, lay and pastoral leaders. The themes that emerged revealed a real readiness to embrace the future with courage. The people of our Southwestern Minnesota Synod are poised to move forward with hopefulness and expectation. It is time to prepare for the future. It is time to mobilize God's people for God's work.

**The Funding Strategy Vision:**  
*"Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People"*

Our mission as a synod calls us to empower and equip leaders. Through this appeal we will gather resources to empower leaders in three main areas identified as priorities. We expect our investment will bring significant improvements to our synod's congregations and leaders. In addition to these initiatives, we will also gather resources to allow us to explore strategies we have not yet discovered.



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.



**Now Is the Time for Moving Forward in Ongoing Reformation**

Our synod stands at a pivotal moment. We are eager to embrace the many opportunities to equip God's people to steward the Good News in our swiftly changing mission field. In the past year we engaged in deep listening among congregations, lay and pastoral leaders. The themes that emerged revealed a real readiness to embrace the future with courage. The people of our Southwestern Minnesota Synod are poised to move forward with hopefulness and expectation. It is time to prepare for the future. It is time to mobilize God's people for God's work.

**The Funding Strategy Vision:**  
*"Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People"*

Our mission as a synod calls us to empower and equip leaders. Through this appeal we will gather resources to empower leaders in three main areas identified as priorities. We expect our investment will bring significant improvements to our synod's congregations and leaders. In addition to these initiatives, we will also gather resources to allow us to explore strategies we have not yet discovered.





# BUILD A MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE FUND

A **Funding Initiative** for the people and congregations of your synod.

As a key part of our *Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People* Funding Initiative, we are called to:

- Raise an initial \$250,000 to be matched by the grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., to create a Ministerial Excellence Fund
- Use this new Ministerial Excellence Fund to enable our pastors to:
  - Reduce burdensome educational debts
  - Meet difficult emergency medical expenses
  - Prepare for retirement with greater pension equity
- Raise additional resources to build and sustain this fund for ongoing use

The synod invites you to think about, pray about, and consider contributing financially in a way that fits your capacity and passion.

For more information please contact the synod office.

Southwestern Minnesota Synod

Ph: 507-637-3904

[www.swmnelca.org](http://www.swmnelca.org)



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



# BUILD A MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE FUND

A **Funding Initiative** for the people and congregations of your synod.

As a key part of our *Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People* Funding Initiative, we are called to:

- Raise an initial \$250,000 to be matched by the grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., to create a Ministerial Excellence Fund
- Use this new Ministerial Excellence Fund to enable our pastors to:
  - Reduce burdensome educational debts
  - Meet difficult emergency medical expenses
  - Prepare for retirement with greater pension equity
- Raise additional resources to build and sustain this fund for ongoing use

The synod invites you to think about, pray about, and consider contributing financially in a way that fits your capacity and passion.

For more information please contact the synod office.

Southwestern Minnesota Synod

Ph: 507-637-3904

[www.swmnelca.org](http://www.swmnelca.org)



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.