

REV. ANDREW HERMODSON OLSEN – Director, Gifts of Grace.

Financial matters can weigh on us and drain us. Such burdens make us less effective in our work. It is true for pastors and deacons too. Yet financial struggles are hard to talk about. Gifts of Grace aims to break the silence surrounding financial challenges and provide support to rostered ministers.

The program has been around since 2016 and has received comments like these in the past year:

“The Gifts of Grace grants have helped us immensely over the past years...with the help of these grants, my educational debt is now gone!”

“I cannot express what a weight was lifted off my shoulders when I realized I would no longer have to pay off student loans. It was a true gift and frees me up to be more generous!”

“Gifts of Grace encouraged me to focus more on saving for retirement.”

“The support from Gifts of Grace has helped us stay above water and be encouraged in a major way.”

“In the last two years I have had significant medical debt, which has caused financial stress and instability.”

“These grants are a significant connection point for rostered leaders and the synod.”

Learn more about the grants offered to rostered ministers at the synod’s webpage <https://swmnelca.org/grants/>

In addition to financial assistance, guidance is vitally important. Did you know that Lutheran Social Services Financial Counseling provides up to six free sessions annually to rostered leaders? Let them help you by giving a financial wellness checkup or guidance with a particular issue. LSS Financial Counseling will also help encourage and guide those who are seeking Public Service Loan Forgiveness, which has become more obtainable for pastors. See their webpage at <https://www.lssmn.org/financialcounseling/>

Support the work of Gifts of Grace by making a gift on the synod’s website. Look for the Gifts of Grace tile on the giving page. Gifts from individuals, congregations, and endowments are welcome!

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Andrew Hermodson-Olsen

Gifts of Grace Director

