



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“One body in Christ”

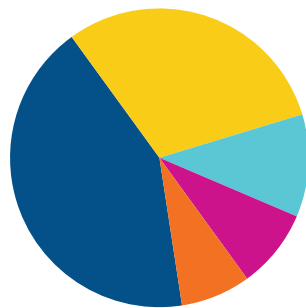
Proposed Narrative Budget Overview






Fiscal Year ending January 31, 2026

Mission Support Makes Ministry Happen.

Thank you for the Mission Support your congregation shares with this synod. Each Mission Support dollar becomes love and care for God’s people in local communities and throughout the world. For Fiscal Year 2026, the synod anticipates receiving \$1.68 million in Mission Support gifts – the largest source of giving. Thank you! In addition, we are grateful for special gifts from individuals, congregations, and grants. Thank you! Together, all these gifts make these ministries possible:

Total budgeted expenses for 2026:

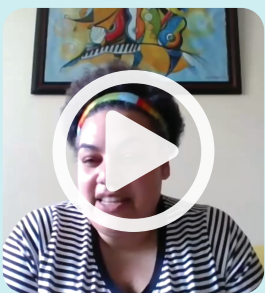


	Ministry Beyond: National and Global – 41.3%
	People Resources – 31.2%
	Equip and Lead – 11.9%
	Local Ministry Partners – 7.4%
	General Administration – 8.2%

Ministry Beyond: Domestic and Global - 41.3%

Your Mission Support dollars empower ministries here in the U.S. and around the globe. We are budgeting to share 50% of the Mission Support gifts we receive through ELCA ministries here and abroad – the equivalent of 41.3% of our total budgeted expenses. Through your generosity and prayer, the ELCA plants new congregations and develops resources for faith formation, discipleship, prayer, and worship. We send missionaries to serve in more than 48 countries around the world. We support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA through seminaries, colleges, and universities; recruit, prepare, and place rostered ministers; provide leadership opportunities for youth and young adults; and provide ministry resources for lay leaders. Our ELCA churchwide organization provides our synod with one full-time staff member – Director for Evangelical Mission (D.E.M.) Rev. Dr. Troy Pflibsen. This represents our Mission Support at work right back here at home.





People Resources - 31.2%

Members of the synod staff embody your Mission Support dollars. Synod pastoral staff walk with congregations during times of transition, call process, congregational planning, conflict, and crises. At any given time this year, synod pastoral staff are walking with 45 out of 227 congregations in various phases of the call process and transition. We also walk with congregations considering area partnerships. Administrative staff provide the essential functions of responding to questions over the phone and email, communications, supporting the candidacy and first-call process, managing the official roster of leaders, working with financials, and facilitating governance for your church and the synod.

Equip and Lead - 11.9%

St. Paul talked about how God gave gifts “to equip the saints for the work of ministry which is for building up the body of Christ.” Much of the work of the synod is to equip God’s people for everyday ministry. We support congregations as they adapt to this new time and practice new ways to do synod ministry ourselves. Gatherings for rostered ministers and lay leaders with the bishop, synod staff, and other speakers equip congregations for the vital work of leadership. The Fall Theological Conference provides high-caliber presentations to nourish and equip rostered ministers. The Continuous Growth Pathway (CGP) is a partnership with Gustavus Adolphus College dedicated to helping Rostered Ministers grow and thrive in ministry together. Events like Equipping Congregations Day continue, but in new forms. Coaching Ministry and the Congregational Resource Team provide resources to support leaders and congregations as they seek self-awareness, clarity, and action to move their ministries forward.

Local Ministry Partners - 7.4%

Your generosity allows us to direct your gifts to support our Shared Ministries, including Luther Seminary in St. Paul, which trains the next generation of pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. We help provide ministry staff on the campuses of St. Cloud State University, Southwest Minnesota State University, and the University of Minnesota in Morris. We help support Shalom Hill Farm, a rural ministry center for inspiration and learning near Windom. Our fellow believers in the Minnesota Council of Churches and Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota speak God’s word of justice close to home. All these Shared Ministry Partners continue to adjust to changing circumstances and challenges.

General Administration - 8.2%

General Administration is the scaffolding that undergirds our work of ministry. This provides for essentials like internet and phone communication. It includes vehicle maintenance and car insurance so synod staff can travel to congregations, and the use of Zoom meetings that allow us to keep the cost of travel low for group meetings and staff travel. Careful stewarding of administrative costs allows for the most faithful use of your Mission Support dollars.

And because we can’t say it enough, “Thank you!” for your generosity.

Together – We are one body in Christ !



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