



Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Endowment Fund of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

### Congregational Mission Grants for 2025-2026

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The Southwestern Minnesota Synod Endowment Fund Committee will once again award grants to support the mission and ministries of congregations in their local communities in 2025-2026. The Endowment Fund Committee is looking for projects proposals in the following areas:

- Community Outreach
- Youth Activities
- Special Mission Projects
- Addressing Community Food Insecurity

These grants are intended for *new initiatives* or for *significant expansion of existing programs to serve new people*. The Endowment Fund is particularly interested in proposals that involve partnerships with other faith communities and/or organizations in the community. We hope applicants will think creatively and strategically about other groups in their community who can be invited to support their proposal through funds, hands-on collaboration, and/or implementation. We are all better together. In evaluating applications, the Endowment Committee also will consider sustainability following the initial grant period where applicable.

The Endowment Committee will decline to fund building improvements, maintenance, or renovation; congregational mission trips or retreats; VBS; or curriculum. The Endowment Fund does not provide funding to pass through to other non-profit organizations. In addition, while welcoming applications which involve *minimal short-term project administration*, ongoing staff positions and internships will not be considered.

Congregations of the SWMN Synod, as well as Conferences and Campus Ministries, are invited to apply.

There is \$43,000 available to be awarded this year. Funded projects must be completed, and final report received by November 30, 2026.

This is the seventh year for Congregational Mission Grants. In 2024 a total of \$24,670 was awarded to fund seven projects. The awards ranged from \$750 to \$3,000.

#### Deadlines

- July 1, 2025 - Application deadline
- August 15, 2025 - Applicants will be informed of whether their proposal is approved or declined on or before this date. A Grant Acceptance Agreement will be sent to applicants whose proposal was approved
- As soon as applicants for approved proposals return a signed agreement form, funds will be distributed.  
November 30, 2026 – Completion Reports must be submitted by this date. We encourage grant recipients to submit this report as soon as the project is completed.

The application link is on the synod website.

#### For more information, please contact:

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