



EMBRACE
God's Mission

EQUIP
God's People

Synod Assembly

PRIZES

Each congregation is allowed **ONE** entry. The congregation members in attendance at our assembly must decide together which of the three categories to enter for their congregation.

Prize winners will be drawn at the end of the 2017 Synod Assembly. Must be present to win. Winners can choose how to apply the award within the opportunities named in the category. The three categories reflect the ministry emphases of the Funding Initiative:

Congregational Vitality: *(value up to \$1,000)*

Congregations with 150+ average worship attendance may have a Missional Assessment Profile (MAP) and Interpretation; smaller congregations may have a LEAD (Living Everyday as Disciples) or ELCA Congregational Vitality Project (CVP) assessment and interpretation. The MAP is a tool developed by Kairos and Associates in which congregations, through an online (or paper) assessment of members, learn key insights from members about the congregation. With this congregational input, the MAP, LEAD, or CVP is able to measure a congregation's impact, effectiveness, and potential for living God's mission in the community and the world today. The value of the MAP, LEAD, or CVP begins to unfold as a congregation enters into a process of discovery and discernment of God's calling to them.

- OR -

Communication website building and maintenance training. Communication is important to developing outreach into the mission field around us. A good website tells your congregation's mission story and invites others to join with you. This award will provide financial resources for expert help to get your congregation's website started or remodeled to provide a window into your congregation's ministries.

Local/Global Mission: *(value \$1,000 can be applied to more than one item listed below)*

Apply to a local food packing event in a congregation or community. A gift of up to \$1,000 will be given to the congregation for use in sponsoring a local food packaging event. The cost of purchasing the food for these packing events is provided by the sponsoring organization, so this award can help make for a generous packing event. The congregation can choose the event they want to sponsor.

- OR -

Support a local backpack program. Many congregations have been supporting local backpack programs that provide food for children and their families on weekends. This award can be applied to food purchases and other needs of providing food for children who live with hunger and food insecurity.

- OR -

Fund a mission trip. Congregations throughout SW MN Synod are active sponsoring youth and adults on mission trips which serve the needs of people nationally and globally, especially with our mission partners in the Southeastern Diocese of Southern Africa. The winning congregation can apply this award to the cost of those participating in a mission trip from their congregation.

Developing Servant Leaders: *(Value \$1,000 can be applied to more than one)*

Scholarships for resources from Vibrant Faith Ministries. This is a group of leaders committed to guiding people and communities in a lifelong journey of discipleship – experiencing, learning, and practicing the Christian faith – as they seek to follow God’s way in the world. Your congregation can apply this award to leadership events and webinars which they provide.

- OR -

Scholarship for Agora leadership events. Do you have new cultures moving into your community or congregation? Are there new leaders emerging? This new diversity offers opportunity and challenge. Agora engages diversity in our communities and congregations. Agora Ministries is designed to help us understand and welcome the new neighbors God is sending to our communities.

- OR -

Scholarship money to send youth and adults to a Teens in Mission (TIM) Teamtraining at one of our Bible camps or an emerging leader to “lay preacher” training at Joy Ranch. Maybe there will be other ideas for gaining skills for ministry. These scholarship dollars must be used between the 2017 and 2018 synod assemblies but are open to a variety of uses.

- OR -

Fund a congregational or conference event with a Bible teacher to grow faith practices. Reading the Bible can sometimes leave people wondering, “What does this mean?” Your congregation could use this award to invite a Bible teacher from our seminaries or colleges to come to your congregation or conference to teach. Use the money between June 2017 and June 2018 for a study of the Book of Acts to dive deeper into the mission of the early church as it guides your mission today. The possibilities are endless and what a great way to go deeper in our Christian book of faith!



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Southwestern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.