

General Administration

Can you believe we do all of this ministry at an administrative cost of only five and a half cents for every dollar you send in as mission support? This provides for all the internet and phone communication, travel for your synod staff to come to your congregation to assist you, and provides meals for the people who generously share their time to serve on mission teams. The use of video conference has allowed us to keep the cost of travel for board and team members low. This careful stewarding has allowed for maximum use of your mission support dollars. Lots of rostered and congregational leaders serve on boards and committees to carry out the administrative tasks of your synod, alongside your synod staff serving at our Redwood Falls office. This past year we were able to introduce a new website to provide easier access to resources for your congregation.



*Your synod staff blew the vuvuzela in celebration!
The synod met the 2016 budget by 100.5%.
Thanks be to God for sharing generously!*



Mission Support Dollars Fund Ministry and People

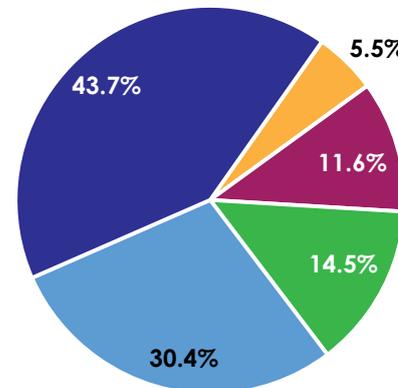
Southwestern Minnesota Synod **Narrative Budget Proposal** for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2019.

Mission Support—the way we do God’s work **together**—is provided primarily from congregations of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Each mission support dollar serves God’s work in local communities and throughout the world. The nearly \$1.9 million Mission Support budget, plus additional financial resources from grants, registrations, and partnerships, will provide your congregation with resources to be used in your local mission field. Overall, through your congregation’s generosity, this missional budget is designed to Embrace God’s Mission and Equip God’s People. Each dollar is invested carefully to do God’s work together. So imagine this: You are making possible each of these narrative descriptions. Thank you!

Note: these percentages add up to 105.7% of the anticipated financial resources for the fiscal budget year ending January 31, 2019. The additional funds will be provided from designated reserve funds.



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



- 43.7% **Ministry Beyond: Nationally & Globally**
- 30.4% **People Resources**
- 14.5% **Equip and Lead**
- 11.6% **Local Ministry Partners**
- 5.5% **General Administration**



Ministry Beyond: Nationally and Globally

Four young adults from SW MN Synod have been selected by our national church body for a year in global service. They are Rosina Halverson-Studer from Granite Falls Lutheran; Chelsey Johnson from Christ, Cottonwood; and both Megan McClure and Hannah Sackett from Celebration, Sartell. The program called Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) is part of our ministry as Lutheran Christians in the world. They will be a part of 90 young adults trained and supported by our church in developing Christ followers and servant leaders. These young adults have this opportunity because of your mission support. In addition to these young adults, we fund missionaries in 90 countries around the world providing preachers, healers, and teachers in the name of Jesus. Plus, Pastor Larry Streng, who serves as our Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), is fully funded from this sharing of money we send to our churchwide office. These are only a few of the ways we are Church Together, providing financial resources for Lutheran Disaster Response, Seminaries, Bible Camps, Church Colleges and programming that serves all our congregations. Our total financial support for our national and global outreach is 51.5% of congregational mission support, but it works out to 43.7% of our total receipts.

People Resources

People are the first responders who embody your mission support dollars. From the person who answers the phone when your congregation has a question or is facing a challenging transition to a staff member who will come meet with your council. It is the people who make a difference in helping your congregation carry out its mission in your community and beyond. Your synod staff provides a network of people to help your pastor, congregation leaders, and ministry teams address a wide variety of topics like guidance through pastoral transitions, helping your church council plan for your congregation's future, providing resources to equip your members, and even recruit your future pastors. These people are available to you and your congregation because we are Church Together. We are committed to having a trained staff available to help every congregation to meet the joys and challenges of God's ministry in our local communities.



Equip and Lead

In response to the question, "What is our Synod good for?" the answer we hear most often is EQUIP. The annual Equipping Congregations Day has become one of the largest events of its kind in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This February event is attended by both lay and rostered persons from about half of our congregations. Every year people come back and invite others to this one-day event, equipping participants through practical workshops, keynote speakers, and a great time of singing hymns in a very full church sanctuary. The "largest event in the ELCA" is also used to describe the SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering, where it takes two back-to-back overnight events to accommodate the nearly a 1,000 junior high youth and their adult chaperones. They gather to be inspired by God through words, songs, and service. We are definitely a synod that equips.



Local Ministry Partners

Raising funds for ministries can be expensive! Your generosity allows us to direct 100% of your gifts to support ministries that none of us could do alone. For example, Lutheran seminaries, such as Luther Seminary in St. Paul, where we train the next generation of pastors and ministers of Word and Service. We join together to provide Lutheran chaplains on the campuses of public colleges in Southwestern Minnesota. These include St. Cloud State, Southwest Minnesota State University, and the University of Minnesota in Morris. Together we help support Shalom Hill Farm, a rural ministry learning center near Windom. Plus, there are efforts to address hunger through the Minnesota Council of Churches and speak God's word of justice through Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota.

