

TOGETHER, WITH CHRIST



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

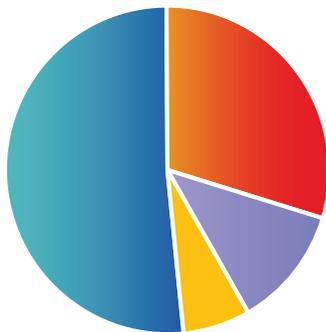
Mission support dollars make ministry *happen!*

Based on February 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020 Budget

Mission support is the term used to describe that percentage of the tithes, offerings, and estate gifts your congregation shares beyond your local ministry site. The mission support you send is invested here in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and globally through our ELCA because we live out God's vision and mission "**alive together, with Christ.**" (Eph 2:4-5a).

Throughout this narrative budget flyer you will see why your part in an estimated \$1.86 million in mission support is important.

Thank you! Your mission support makes a difference as we are called to "*Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People*" **alive together, with Christ!**



- 51.5% **Ministry Beyond: Nationally & Globally**
- 29.8% **People Resources**
- 12% **Local Ministry Partners**
- 6.7% **Equip and Lead**

Ministry Beyond: Nationally and Globally

Church colleges and seminaries were formed by congregations who decided to work together to provide places of higher education for their young adults. They knew no one church could support this bold vision, but together it was possible. Today we benefit from a network of Lutheran colleges and seminaries who educate our youth (and adults) and prepare our pastors to preach the story of God's love to all. This is true also of our desire to have missionaries serve all over the world. We do this together through your financial and prayer support.

Plus, Pastor Larry Strenge, who serves as our Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), also represents what we are able to do together. His ministry in our Southwestern Minnesota Synod is fully funded by your mission support we share as one of the 65 synods of the ELCA. Our total financial support for national and global ministry is 51.5% of your congregational mission support.





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 recruiting 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 meet the joys and challenges of God's ministry in our local congregations.

Equip and Lead

In response to the question, "What is our synod good for?" the answer we hear most often is to 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 Southwestern Minnesota Synod congregations. Every year people come back and invite others to this one-day event, equipping participants through practical workshops, keynote speakers, and great informal conversations. The "largest event in the ELCA" is also used to describe the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Junior High Youth Gathering, where it takes two back-to-back overnight events to accommodate the nearly 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.



Shalom Hill Farm



Local Ministry Partners

Raising funds for ministries can be expensive! Your generosity allows us to direct your gifts to support ministries that none of us could do alone, including Luther Seminary in St. Paul, where we train the next generation of pastors and ministers of Word and Service (deacons).

We join together to provide Lutheran chaplains on the campuses of public colleges in Southwestern Minnesota. These include St. Cloud State University, 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.

