

EMBRACE GOD'S MISSION † EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE



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

Mission support dollars make ministry *happen!*

Based on February 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021 Budget

Mission support is the term used to describe that percentage of the tithes and offerings 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.

Throughout this narrative budget flyer you will see why your part in an estimated \$1.825 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



- 42% **Ministry Beyond: Nationally and Globally**
- 29% **People Resources**
- 13% **Equip and Lead**
- 11% **Local Ministry Partners**
- 5% **General Administration**

Ministry Beyond: Nationally and Globally

Our synod's financial support for national and global ministry is 51.5% of your congregational mission support and 42% of our total receipts. Through these financial gifts and with your prayerful support, we share our everyday spirituality by helping the ELCA plant and support new congregations, enable congregations to renew their ministries, develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, and worship. We send missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, to serve in more than 48 countries around the world.



Our daily mission includes supporting and developing current and future leaders in the ELCA through seminaries, colleges, and universities; recruiting, preparing, and implementing a system for the assignment of rostered ministers; providing leadership opportunities for youth and young adults; and providing ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.



People Resources

People are the first responders who embody your mission support dollars, from the staff person who answers the phone when your congregation has a question or is facing a challenging transition, to the pastoral staff member who will meet with your council. It is the people who make a difference in helping your congregation to share your everyday spirituality 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 – guidance through pastoral transitions, helping your church council plan for your congregation’s future, providing resources to equip your members, and recruiting your future pastors, to name a few. We are available to help meet the joys and challenges of God’s mission in all of our communities of faith.



Equip and Lead

In response to the question, “What is our synod good for?” the answer we hear most often is to EQUIP – to equip God’s people for ministry every day. The annual Equipping Congregations Day is one of the largest events of its kind in the ELCA. This one-day event in February is attended by both lay and rostered leaders of our congregations, whose everyday spirituality is supported through practical workshops, keynote speakers, and great informal conversations.

The “largest of its kind in the ELCA” also describes your synod’s Junior High Youth Gathering, which takes two back-to-back overnight events to accommodate the nearly 1,000 junior high youth and their adult leaders, gathered to be inspired by God through words, songs, and service. In addition, our rostered leaders’ everyday spirituality is fueled through theological conferences, colleague groups, training events, counseling, crisis intervention, and other ministry support.

Local Ministry Partners

Your generosity allows us to direct your gifts to support our shared ministries, including Luther Seminary in St. Paul, where we train the next generation of pastors and deacons. We provide Lutheran chaplains on the campuses of public colleges in our synod, including St. Cloud State University, Southwest Minnesota State University, and the University of Minnesota in Morris. We help support Shalom Hill Farm, a rural ministry learning center near Windom. Plus, there are efforts to address hunger with our fellow believers through the Minnesota Council of Churches and speak God’s word of justice through Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota.



General Administration

We share all of this everyday spirituality with an administrative cost of five cents of every dollar of your mission support. This provides for all the Internet and phone communication, travel for your synod staff to go to your congregation to assist you, and meals for the people who generously share their time to serve on mission teams. The use of video conferencing 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. You can check out our synod’s website (www.swmnelca.org) for all the helpful resources available for you and your congregation as you live out your many callings to love God and to serve our neighbors.