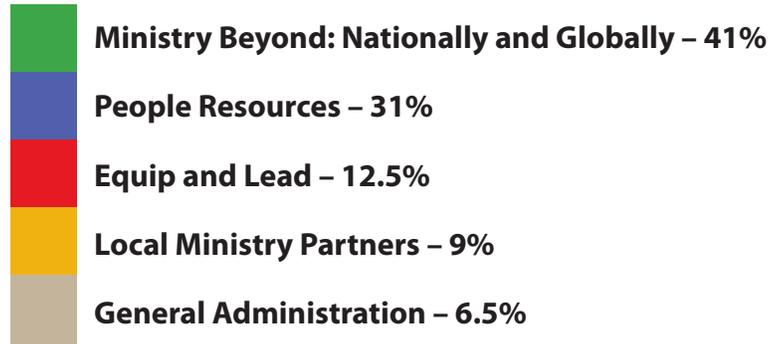
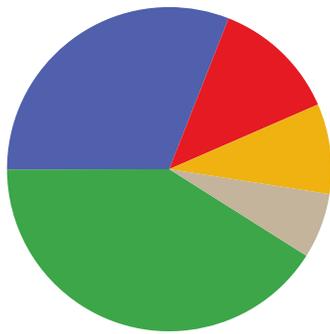




Mission Support Dollars Fund Ministry and People

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Narrative Budget for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2023

Mission Support is provided primarily from our congregations. Each Mission Support dollar is carefully invested to love and care for God's children in local communities and throughout the world. The synod's proposed \$1.65 million Mission Support budget, plus additional financial resources from grants, registrations, and partnerships, will not only help provide your congregation with resources to be used in your local mission field, but will also help support each of these ministry areas – every day.



■ Ministry Beyond: Nationally and Globally

Our synod's financial support for national and global ministry is 51.5% of your congregational Mission Support and 41% of our total receipts. Through these financial gifts and with your prayerful support, the ELCA plants and supports new congregations, strengthens congregational vitality, and develops and shares resources for faith formation, discipleship, outreach, prayer, and worship. Our ELCA also fully provides for a full-time staff member on our synod staff – the Director for Evangelical Mission (D.E.M.) – who serves as an ELCA staff member deployed in our synod and working with outreach, mission congregations, vitality, and stewardship.

Because we are part of the ELCA, you are there around the world through the ministries of missionaries, teachers, health care ministries, and once again through Young Adults in Global Mission resuming their fine work following the global shut-down. We are thankful that our communications and partnership with our Companion Synod in South Africa is also beginning to move forward once again.



Reborn Lao Lutheran Church, one of our two Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in SW MN Synod.

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.





Bp. Dee Pederson's Installation Day

People Resources

In this second COVID year your synod staff have been called on to support congregations to adapt and adjust to rapidly changing realities. 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. 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 ministry in all of our communities of faith during a time when we are seeing more changes in leadership than ever before.



Your synod staff.

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. In this COVID year, some of our annual events were canceled. Some events have moved "online" – Ministry Basics, the Synod Assembly and the Fall Theological Conference. Whatever the future holds, we can say this in confidence – the work of our Synod to equip and lead will continue!

Synod 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. Our shared ministry partners continue to adjust to changing circumstance and challenges.

General Administration

We share this work of ministry with an administrative cost of 6.5 cents of every dollar of your Mission Support. This provides for all the Internet and phone communication, and travel for your synod staff to go to your congregation to assist you. 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. 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 love our neighbors.