

# WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER.



“ Walking together in confidence, we cultivate life-giving congregations, nurture partner ministries, and cooperate in the life of the ELCA. ”



Dear friends in Christ,

**We are church together.** From small congregations on the prairie to large congregations in urban centers (and everything in between), we come together as the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Thank you for your financial support of our shared ministry.

We Are Church Together!

As we look ahead to 2023 we have exciting opportunities ahead of us. An additional \$75,000 in Mission Support will:

- **Expand leader's capacity to guide congregations**, experimenting and adapting to define who they are and what ministry can look like in these challenging times. This will happen as we expand our coaching network through a coordinator and scholarships and as we expand scholarships to lay ministry training. It will happen as we invest in innovation.
- **Grow the faith of youth**, providing tools and coordination for congregations to deeply connect with young people. This will happen as we expand the Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator position.
- **Invest in our thriving new ministries.** Increasing support for our two emerging ministries will allow them to proclaim the Good News in new ways. Our Laotian community has the highest number of adult baptisms of anywhere in the synod – probably the Region!
- **Discern God's call for the Synod**, as the Synod Council engages in vital conversations about the possibilities for of our ministry together.
- **Maintain our excellent ministry**, providing critical resources to continue our existing work of supporting congregations and leaders.

As you consider your congregation's Mission Support for 2023, we invite you to prayerfully consider growing in generosity.

Know that whatever amount you share, we highly value your partnership in God's mission.

If you have any questions about these opportunities, please reach out to me or Pastor Troy Pflibsen at [troy.pflibsen@swmnelca.org](mailto:troy.pflibsen@swmnelca.org) or [dee.pederson@swmnelca.org](mailto:dee.pederson@swmnelca.org). We'd love to share more!

Again, thank your partnership in God's mission. We are church together!

In Christ,



Rev. Dee Pederson, D.Min.  
Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

“ P.S. Did you know that from 2020 to 2021 more than half the congregations in the synod grew or stayed the same in Mission Support! It's exciting to see this energy for our shared mission. ”



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

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