



## Mission Support Dollars Fund Ministry and People

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Narrative Budget Proposal  
for Fiscal Year Ending Jan. 31, 2018

The proposed Southwestern Minnesota Synod budget for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2018, is \$2.4 million. Anticipated income of nearly \$1.9 million is from congregations' mission support. The budget is designed to Embrace God's Mission locally and globally and Equip God's People through our congregations. Other funds will be from the Lilly grant, designated giving, and spending down our reserves.

### Local Ministry Partners \$278,100

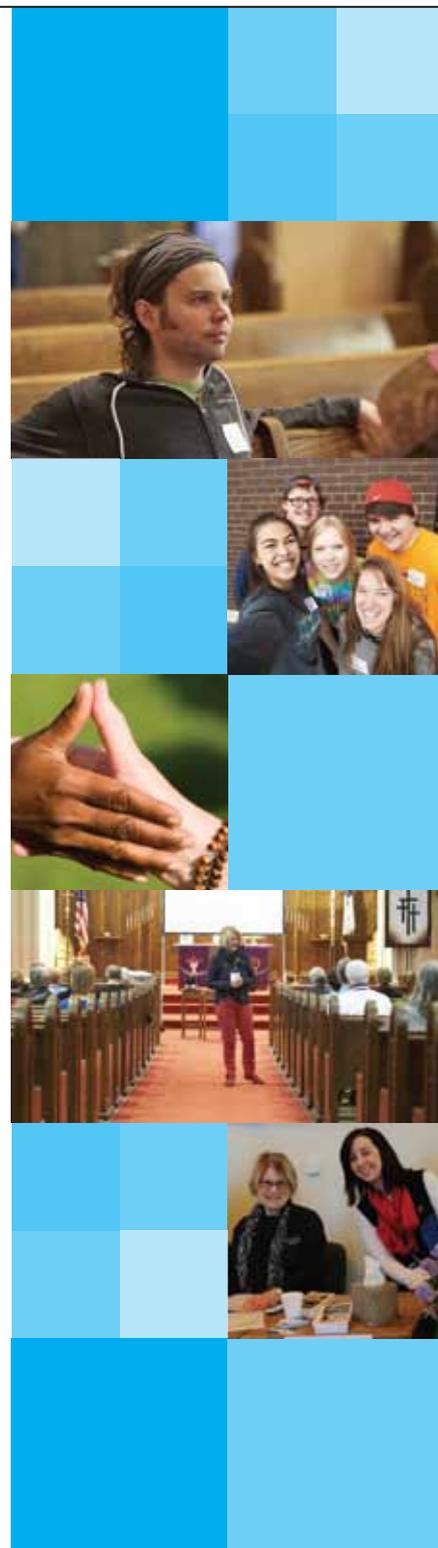
Mission support helps fund Lutheran Campus Ministers like Jeff Greathouse, Minette Johnson, and Pr. Courtney Young, each serving on public college campuses in Southwestern Minnesota. Mission support helps fund Luther Seminary, one of the ELCA seminaries that this year provided eight graduates (David Nissen, Maggie Berndt-Dreyer, Chris Richards, Erik Karlson, Nate Luong, Scott Richards, Courtney Young, Cheryl Whitchurch) who have accepted their first calls in our synod and others who are awaiting their first calls. In addition, mission support helps to provide financial resources for the rural learning center at Shalom Hill Farm, to prevent hunger through Minnesota Council of Churches, and to speak for justice with the help of Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota.

### People Resources \$700,000

Your synod staff and conference ministers provide a network of people to help your pastor, congregation leaders, and ministry teams address a wide variety of topics. At the top of the list is guidance through pastoral transitions – meeting with your church council, finding an interim pastor, guiding your call committee, recruiting pastors to serve in SW MN, and celebrating the match of a new pastor with a new congregation. You hear a number of human voices when you call on your synod staff to guide you through difficult times and provide the resources you need to carry out your local ministry.

### General Administration \$125,500

Our administrative costs are kept very low through careful stewarding of your mission support dollars. Many rostered and congregational leaders serve on boards and committees to carry out the administrative tasks of your synod, alongside your synod staff. The use of electronic technology has expanded the way we communicate weekly with you and your congregation through our e-news and synod website. Video conference calls have allowed for efficient use of meeting times and reduced travel expenses in carrying out our ministry together.



## Equipping Program and Leadership Development \$342,900

The Equipping Congregations Day has become one of the largest events in our SW MN Synod, attended by both lay and rostered persons from about half our congregations. Every year people come back and invite others to this one-day event, equipping participants through 30 practical workshops, keynote speakers, and a great time of singing hymns in a very full church sanctuary. Our ministry together inspires disciples for the ministry of Christ. Throughout the year programs are addressed to all ages, but the Junior High and Senior High gatherings planned and led by our Lutheran Youth Organization are some of the best in the whole ELCA. This past year the Senior High gathering participation increased by 100 registrants; there is something especially great going on with this ministry. Plus we have added more webinar presentations, so you can participate right at your local congregation. This past year's webinars included one on stewardship and another on evangelism using the TED talk format with 15-minute presentations. If you missed these, they are available through our synod website: [www.swmnelca.org](http://www.swmnelca.org).

## Ministry Nationally and Globally \$956,200

Some people think this nearly \$1 million goes only one way – to our national church office in Chicago. That could not be further from the truth. Pastor Larry Streng, who serves as the Director for Evangelical Mission (D4EM), is fully funded from this pool of money we send to our churchwide office. River of Hope, whom we plan to receive at our synod assembly as a newly chartered congregation in SW MN Synod, has received more than \$125,000 in grants from our churchwide office to fund the development of this new congregation. Grants are also being received at House of Grace, Montrose; Paz y Esperanza, Willmar; and for developing Laotian and African ministries in the St. Cloud area. Together we fund missionaries in 90 countries and have a growing number of young people serving one-year terms as Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) around the world. This coming year there will be 87 YAGMs, including Kari Louwagie from Christ Lutheran, Cottonwood, who will serve in Madagascar. These are only a few of the ways we are Church Together providing financial resources for Lutheran Disaster Response, seminaries, church colleges, and programing that serves all our congregations.



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

