



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Partners in God's Mission,

When Jesus addressed the topic of anxiety and worry, he asked the disciples to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air who have all they need and never worry. Then he told them that "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." As leaders in the church we should consider this good news! Because it means that God has given us a way for our hearts to go where we want them to be: deeply with Christ and his church. When you give as individuals, God is shaping your heart. When your congregation gives mission support, God is shaping the heart of your whole congregation: its direction, its vitality and its purpose. God uses our giving not only as a way to love and serve our neighbor, but also as a way to help us grow in faith.

This packet includes several resources that you may find helpful as you engage in conversations about your congregation's mission support for the coming year in 2017. I hope you will make use of these resources and not hesitate to call me if you have questions. I can be reached at 605-274-4026 or btesch@sdsynod.org

Thank you for your Leadership,

Pastor Bill Tesch, Director for Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop

Here are the resources that are available to you:

- ***A Trend Report of your Attendance, Giving and Mission Support over 10 years***
This informative resource can be used to gauge your congregation's generosity over the past and to set goals for growing in generosity in the future.
- ***"Where your Offering Goes"***
This helpful resource helps members of your congregation understand how their offerings support God's mission throughout this church.
- ***"A Mission Support Conversation for Church Councils"***
- This resource is a step-by-step guide for having a healthy conversation about mission support.
- ***"Your Congregation's Plan for Mission Support" (last year's version, watch for the 2017 version later this year.)***
This form is provided as an example and a reminder of what to look for around December 1st when we will send out the annual Mission Support mailing.
- ***Online videos and resources***
Check out the Synod Vimeo channel for a new Thank You video of our work together in South Dakota. (tinyurl.com/sdsynod-videos). Check out our website for stories of our work together at sdsynod.org/where-we-serve. Check the ELCA website for stories of how your mission support impacts lives around the world. (elca.org/missionsupport)