



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

How to Talk About Mission Support* with your Council

*Mission support is the portion of offerings that ELCA congregations share with synods and the churchwide organization. See more at: www.elca.org/missionsupport.

Before using this conversation guide please check out one or more of the resources that describe the ministry that your mission support accomplishes. Check out the provided magazine, "Stories of Faith in Action", or go to "Where we Serve" on our Synod website (www.sdsynod.org/where-we-serve.) There you will find great stories and information about how your mission support is making a difference in the world. Finally, visit the Stewardship Page on our Synod website for stories of your faith in action through your congregation's generous mission support (www.sdsynod.org/how-to/stewardship.)

PRAY: *Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THANK EACH OTHER AND YOUR CONGREGATION on behalf of Bishop Zellmer and the whole South Dakota Synod for your Mission Support that empowers our hands for God's Work.

Distribute copies of the Mission Support Trend report.
(from Summer Stewardship Days packet or mailing)

- ASK: Are these figures accurate?
- ASK: What local ministries are supported by our church?
- ASK: What synodical or churchwide ministries are we most pleased to see supported through our Mission Support?
- ASK: Does our giving beyond our congregation accurately reflect our commitment to reach beyond ourselves with the love of Christ?
- ASK: Are we ready, with God's help, to prayerfully accept the Bishop's challenge one step (a 1 or 2% of our income increase) towards a 15% tithe in undesignated Mission Support? If not, what % of giving would accurately reflect what we feel called by God to give as reflection of our commitment to our common mission together? What % would accurately reflect our desire to make to be involved in God's mission around the world?

THANK EACH OTHER AGAIN, THEN PRAY: *God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*