



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

A Mission Support Conversation for Church Councils

What you will need: This guide, the 2016 SD Synod Thank You Video and accompanying talking points along with a way to show the video, your congregation's Trend Report, copies of "Stories of Faith In Action."

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.*

- ❖ Pastor and/or President: Express gratitude on behalf of Bishop Zellmer and the whole South Dakota Synod for their Mission Support that empowers our hands for God's Work.
- ❖ DISTRIBUTE: copies of the trend report.
- ❖ 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: What is most important to us? What do we value as disciples of Jesus Christ?
- ❖ SHOW: One or more vignettes from the mission support video and accompanying talking points.
- ❖ DISTRIBUTE: "Stories of Faith in Action." Highlight one story that you find inspiring or of interest to your congregation.
- ❖ ASK: Is our giving beyond our own congregation a true reflection of our values and of 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 to begin (or continue) growing towards giving 15% of our undesignated offerings for Mission Support? Or, what % of regular offerings are we feeling called to give that would be a true reflection of our commitment beyond our own congregation?
- ❖ THANK: Express gratitude to each other for your prayerful conversation, your generosity and for your service to this congregation and this community.

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 wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*