



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

MEMO

TO: Rostered Leaders and Congregational Presidents of the South Dakota Synod
FROM: Pastor Bill Tesch
DATE: December 2016
RE: Important Year End Matters

Please give your attention to the following items contained in this mailing related to year-end resources, reports, decisions, and forms. All the materials below may also be accessed online at www.sdsynod.org/yearend. Thank you.

- 1) **The Bishop's Annual Letter**: Please share this with your entire congregation by including it in your annual reports and/or your bulletin and newsletters.
- 2) **Your Congregation's Plan for Mission Support**: Use this important document to indicate the portion of offerings that your congregation plans to give for Undesignated Mission Support in 2017. This is the money that is shared beyond your congregation to fund the many missions and ministries of your synod and churchwide organization. You can send it back by using the enclosed return envelope or complete the form online at www.sdsynod.org/2017-statement-of-intent. This is to be completed immediately after the annual meeting.
- 3) **Congregational Leadership Form**: Please fill this out and send it back using the return envelope or complete the form online at www.sdsynod.org/congregational-leadership. Normally this is completed immediately after the annual meeting.
- 4) **Proposed Synod Budget for 2017**: For inclusion in your annual reports.
- 5) **Stories of Faith in Action magazine**: This magazine includes stories of how your congregation's mission support dollars have been at work around the world. It also includes helpful information about where your offering goes. You can order additional copies for free (paying only the cost of shipping). Just email or call the contact information on the back cover.
- 6) **Videos**: This year, at your annual meeting or leading up to it during worship or congregational forums, consider sharing a short and inspiring video that tells a story of one of our ministries here in South Dakota and that says "Thank you" for your generosity and ministry and that describes some of the ways we work together? Go to www.sdsynod.org/who-we-are/media for five brand new 2-3 minute videos.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these important matters and for your partnership in God's Mission.