



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

December 2019

Dear South Dakota Rostered Ministers and Congregation Presidents,

Peace and blessings to you from the South Dakota Synod Office! As we roll into the new year, here are a number of resources for your annual meetings. Each of these items are something that helps us be the church together better, either helping you in your work or sharing what is going on in your ministry with us.

Please take time to carefully read each document, and how you will use it. Filling out this paperwork helps us plan out the next year and where to prioritize our resources - time, money, and people. Sharing our communications with your ministry helps everyone understand that we are church TOGETHER!

All of these resources may be accessed, or filed, online at sdsynod.org/yearend.

- 1. 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 2020. 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 sdsynod.org/yearend. This is to be completed immediately after the annual meeting. It is due in the Synod office no later than **January 31, 2020**.
- 2. Congregational Leadership Form:** Please fill this out and send it back using the return envelope or complete the **form online at sdsynod.org/yearend**. This should be completed immediately after the annual meeting. It is due in the Synod office no later than **January 31, 2020**.
- 3. Bishop Hagmaier's Annual Letter & Presiding Bishop Eaton's Message:** Please include Bishop Hagmaier's letter in your annual report. A video report from Bishop Hagmaier can be accessed online at sdsynod.org/yearend.
- 4. Where does my offering go? - SD Synod Adopted Mission Plan -** Use this document to explain the importance of Mission Support and what your offerings make possible throughout the South Dakota Synod and the ELCA.
- 5. For Stories of Faith in Action,** please include this link and info:
[ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA) where you can download the packet (SOFIA 2019), a "how to use" guide (SOFIA 2019 How to use), and devotions (SOFIA 2019 Devotional).

If you have questions about using these resources, please let me know, and I'll be happy to share some thoughts with you. You can reach me at 605-906-1197 or jsteiner@sdsynod.org.

Thank you for your time and work, as we work together to share the Gospel!

Rev. Jonathan Steiner
Director for Evangelical Mission,
Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship & Outreach