



South Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

MEMO

TO: Rostered Ministers and Congregational Presidents of the South Dakota Synod
FROM: Pastor Bill Tesch
DATE: December 2018
RE: Important Year End Matters

Please give your attention to these important year end matters and resources. All the materials below may also be accessed online at sdsynod.org/yearend. Rostered Ministers – consider these materials as tools in living out two of the expectations for rostered ministers expressed in the ELCA model constitution. “Endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA.” And “Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church.” (C9.03, b 5 & C9.23, h)

- 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 2018. 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, 2018.
- 2) **Bishop Zellmer’s Annual Letter – Presiding Bishop Eaton’s Message**: Please include Bishop Zellmer’s letter in your annual report. Please also find Bishop Eaton’s letter along with options for the annual report cover at sdsynod.org/yearend.
- 3) **Mission Support FAQ’s**: Use this document to explain the importance of Mission Support and what your offerings makes possible throughout the South Dakota Synod and the ELCA.
- 4) **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, 2018.
- 5) **Stories of Faith in Action magazine**: This annual publication includes stories of how your congregation’s mission support dollars are at work around the world. It also provides 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 of the magazine.
- 6) **The Video “Pieces of the Pie”**: This year, at your annual meeting or leading up to it during worship or congregational forums, consider sharing this short video that tells a story of several ministries here in South Dakota. It is also a way of saying, “Thank you” for your congregation’s generous mission support. Find the video, go to sdsynod.org/stewardship.

Questions? Contact Pastor Bill Tesch, Director for Evangelical Mission at btesch@sdsynod.org or 605-274-4026.

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