

2022 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



Our Synod's vision of Journeying Together in Christ has continued to focus our work. We invite you to take a few moments to review the list below which celebrates some of the ministry we shared together in 2022. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2022 we:**

- Walked with a new start congregation, **Spirit of Hope, in Scotland, SD**, called their mission developer and found a site to worship, as they had outgrown their house.
- Continued to partner with the **McLaughlin Community Alliance Group**, a non-profit utilizing the building of Redeemer Lutheran Church for the empowerment of the community.
- Began exploration for two new potential church plants, with **Box Elder** and **Shepherd's Table in Sioux Falls**.
- Walked with the **30** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and have 3 new entrance interviews scheduled in January 2023!
- Received **9 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **28 Ministry Site Studies** and extended **41 calls!**
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God's people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!)
- Distributed **\$60,201** through the **Seminary Debt Reduction Program**.
- Granted **\$124,290** in **scholarship funds** to seminary students plus **\$20,000** in **internship site assistance**.
- Received **\$102,000** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- Distributed **37 disaster recovery micro-grants for \$18,800** to congregations in need of repairs or community relief after natural disasters. In addition, Beaver Valley Lutheran Church received **\$22,000** from Lutheran Disaster Response and **\$10,000** from Synod Storm Recovery funds for tornado recovery.
- Held a **Synod Assembly**, where we gathered again as a community to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring** and **Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Continued to invest in **FaithX**, a community mapping tool for congregations to see hard data about their neighborhoods and learn more about their neighbors.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the synod through visits by synod staff, both digitally and in-person.
- Created **new synod staff** positions including a **Rural Ministry Liaison** to journey with our rural ministry sites. In the past year, the Rural Ministry Liaison has worked directly with **10 communities** and **19 congregations**.
- Held an inaugural **Farm to Table Dinner and Auction** which resulted in gifts and pledges of almost **\$100,000** to support rural ministry in South Dakota.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota this past year! God has called us to be the body of Christ together, and this is an active and healthy body. We look forward to continuing our journey with you in 2023 and beyond!