



South Dakota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Members of the South Dakota Synod,

The season of Advent has been a meaningful part of my faith life since a child. While once merely the countdown to Christmas and Jesus' birth, as my faith matured came the recognition of our hope of his return. We celebrate what God has done and keep watch together to see the power of grace and forgiveness to build God's kingdom. To be watchful is to be prayerful of God with us in the days ahead. I hope you will find these resources helpful as we look for 2024 and the ministry we share.

Included in this package are several important documents:

- **Annual Report from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the ELCA**
- **Annual Report from Bishop Constanze Hagmaier**
- **2023 Ministry Celebration**
- **5 Year Vision of the South Dakota Synod: "Journeying Together in Christ"**
- **South Dakota Synod Mission Plan**
- **Annual Report from Lutheran Planned Generosity**
- **Statement of Intent for 2024 Mission Support\***
- **Congregational Leadership Form\***

These resources are but a few tools available to help celebrate our ministry together and explore how we will continue to journey together to proclaim the hope of the resurrection.

**The Statement of Intent for 2024 Mission Support** is extremely important in helping the Synod Council plan for the year ahead. Please prayerfully consider with your congregation the ministry to which we are called. The **Congregation Leadership Form** updates your congregation's leader so we can continue to pass along information and resources. **Please return both forms to the synod office following your annual meeting.** Both can be found at [sdsynod.org/yearend](https://sdsynod.org/yearend). Please contact the synod office at 605-274-4011 or [synod@sdsynod.org](mailto:synod@sdsynod.org) with any questions.

We are thankful for the ministry that you are doing in your community. You have been called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. We are thankful to be your partners in that work!

Peace and blessings to you as we Journey Together in Christ.

Rev. Jonathan Vehar  
Associate to the Bishop and  
Director for Evangelical Mission