



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Members of the South Dakota Synod,

First, please know that we hold you in prayer in these days of Advent, knowing fully that in this season of waiting for the North Star to point once again to the birth of the Christ child, there is much to be done.

Second, this packet is ready for you now, not to add one more thing on a to-do-list, but in order to be available when you need it. We know that it is a short time between the New Year and when many congregations hold annual meetings. Included in this package are several important documents:

- **Annual Report from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the ELCA**
- **Annual Report from Bishop Constanze Hagmaier**
- **2024 Ministry Celebrations**
- **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 2025 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 2025 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** allows us to know your congregation’s leadership information 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. Please contact the synod office at 605-274-4011 or synod@sdsynod.org with any questions.

May God’s blessing and presence be felt ever-so-near to you as you reach out into the world with the Word that has always been and comes to us again.

Grace abounds!

Pastor Jonathan Vehar
Associate to the Bishop and
Director for Evangelical Mission