



South Dakota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Mission Support Conversations with your Council or Board

Before using this resource we suggest that you make use of one or more of the story telling resources to set the context of the conversation about Mission Support such as “Stories to Tell, Gifts to Share” or the “South Dakota Synod Cookbook”.

Distribute copies of the Mission Support Trend report.

PRAY: *Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THANK THEM on behalf of Bishop Zellmer and the whole South Dakota Synod for their Mission Support that empowers our hands for God's Work.

ASK: Are these figures accurate?

ASK: What local ministries are supported by our church?

ASK: What synodical or churchwide ministries are we most pleased to see supported through our Mission Support?

ASK: Does your giving beyond our congregation accurately reflect our commitment to reach beyond ourselves with the love of Christ?

ASK: Are we ready, with God's help, to prayerfully accept the Bishop's challenge to begin (or continue) growing towards a 15% tithe in undesignated Mission Support? If not, what % of giving would accurately reflect what we feel called by God to give as part of God's work with our hands? What % would accurately reflect how we value our partnership with our sister congregations of the SD Synod and the whole ELCA?

THANK: Thank all for their prayerful deliberation and for their service and ministry.

PRAY: *God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*