

FAITH

South Dakota Synod

FACTS

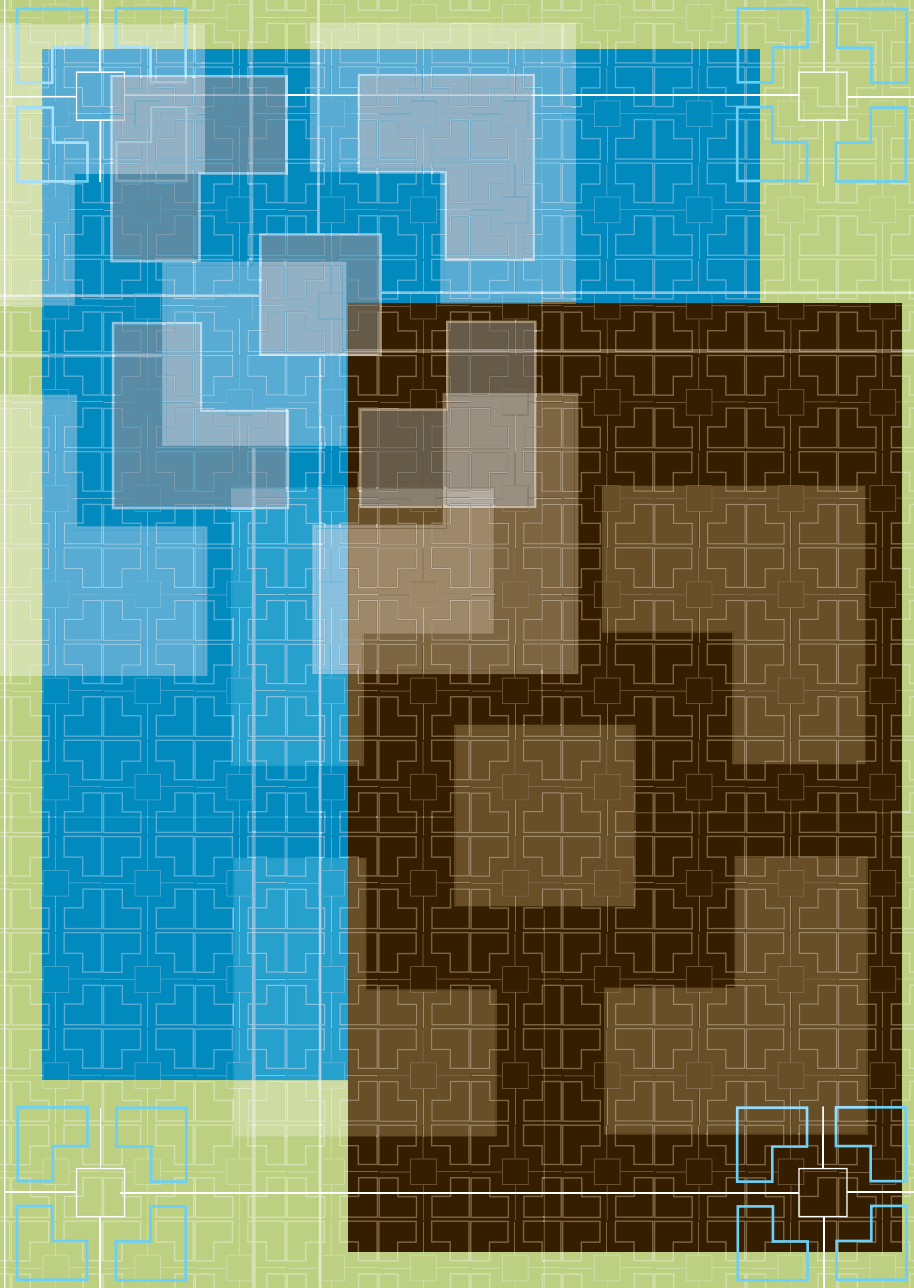
A Decision Was Made.

In August 2009 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to adopt its 10th Social Statement* on the subject of human sexuality. This statement covered important issues including marriage, family, divorce and sexuality outside of marriage. It addressed social issues, including sexual abuse, global sex trade and a strong stand against pornography. We also agreed to find a way for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders.

* Social Statement: social policies adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, addressing significant social issues.



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We Recognize Our Differences.

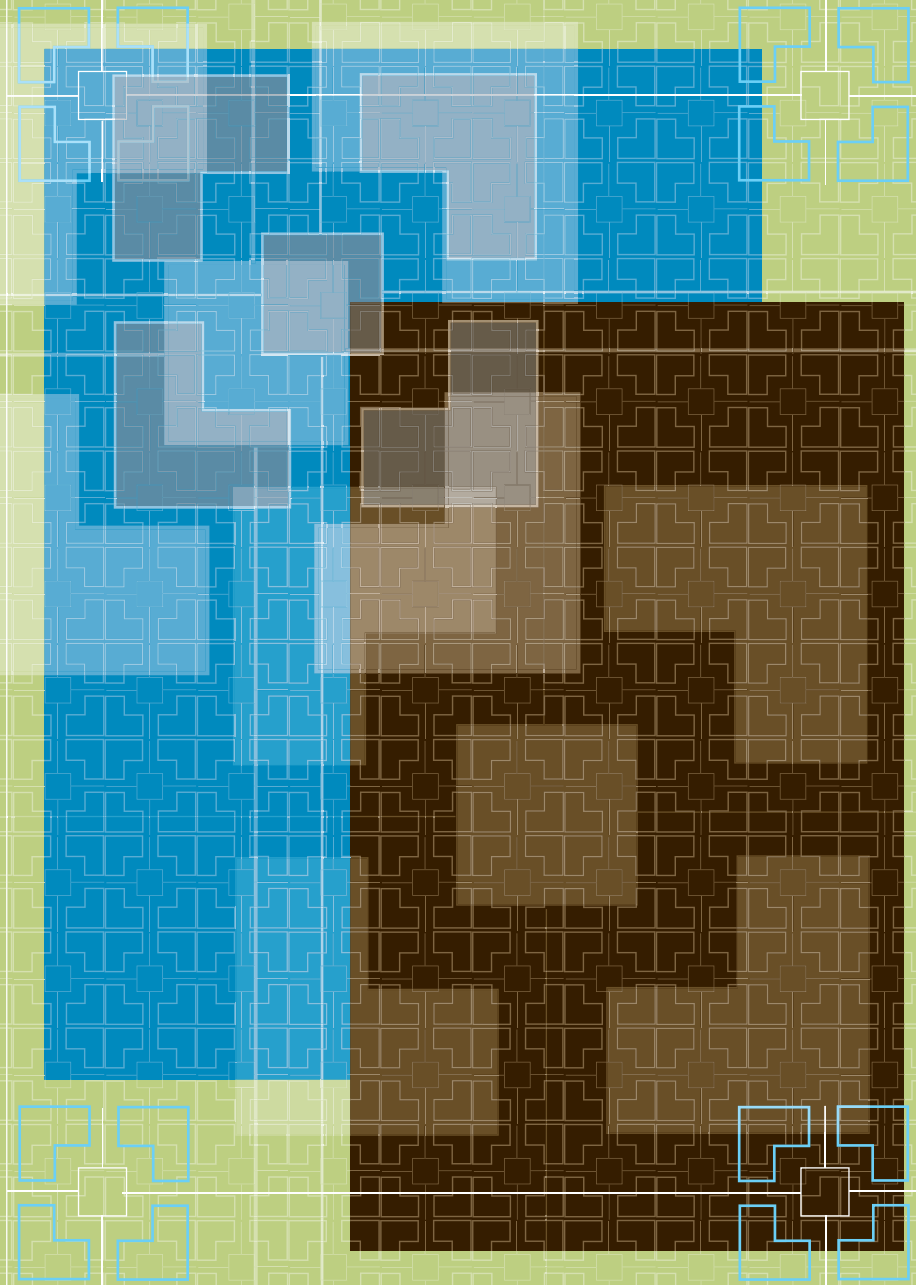
ELCA members have differing opinions on how to regard lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships. At the Churchwide Assembly, we identified and upheld four positions that faithful Lutherans may hold in relation to homosexuality:

- + Same-gender sexual behavior is sinful
- + While homosexuality may not be sinful, it does not follow God's original intention
- + Lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships should be supported but not equated with marriage
- + These relationships should be supported and held to the same status as heterosexual marriage

And we agree to disagree.



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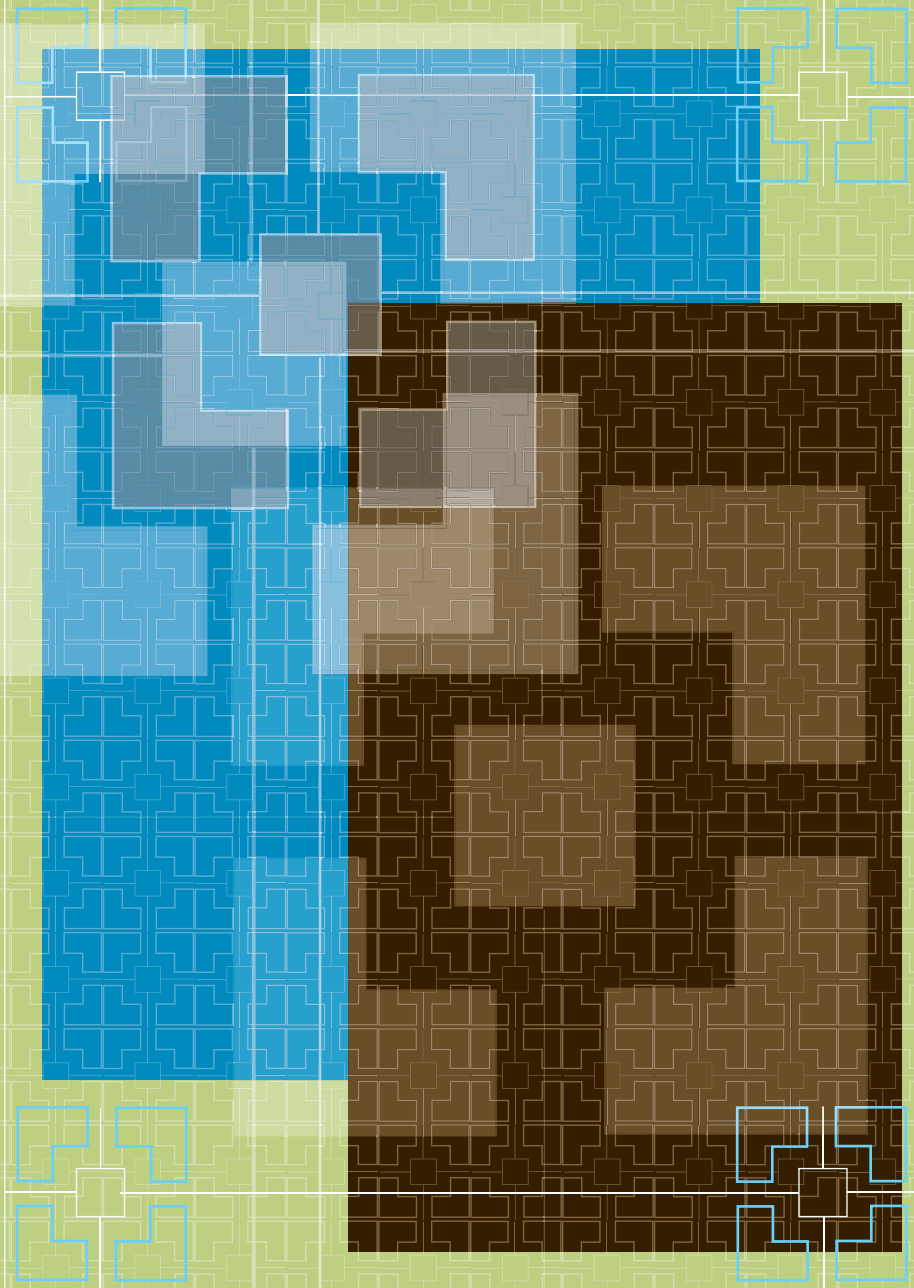
This Isn't Our First Disagreement.

The necessity of circumcision, slavery, civil rights, divorce of church members and divorce of clergy, interfaith and inter-denomination marriage and the ordination of women are just a few of the issues that Christians have disagreed about over the centuries. At various times the church has held positions on these and other issues that were later reversed.

And then, as now, we agreed to disagree.



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Your Congregation Won't Have A Gay Pastor... Unless You Want One.

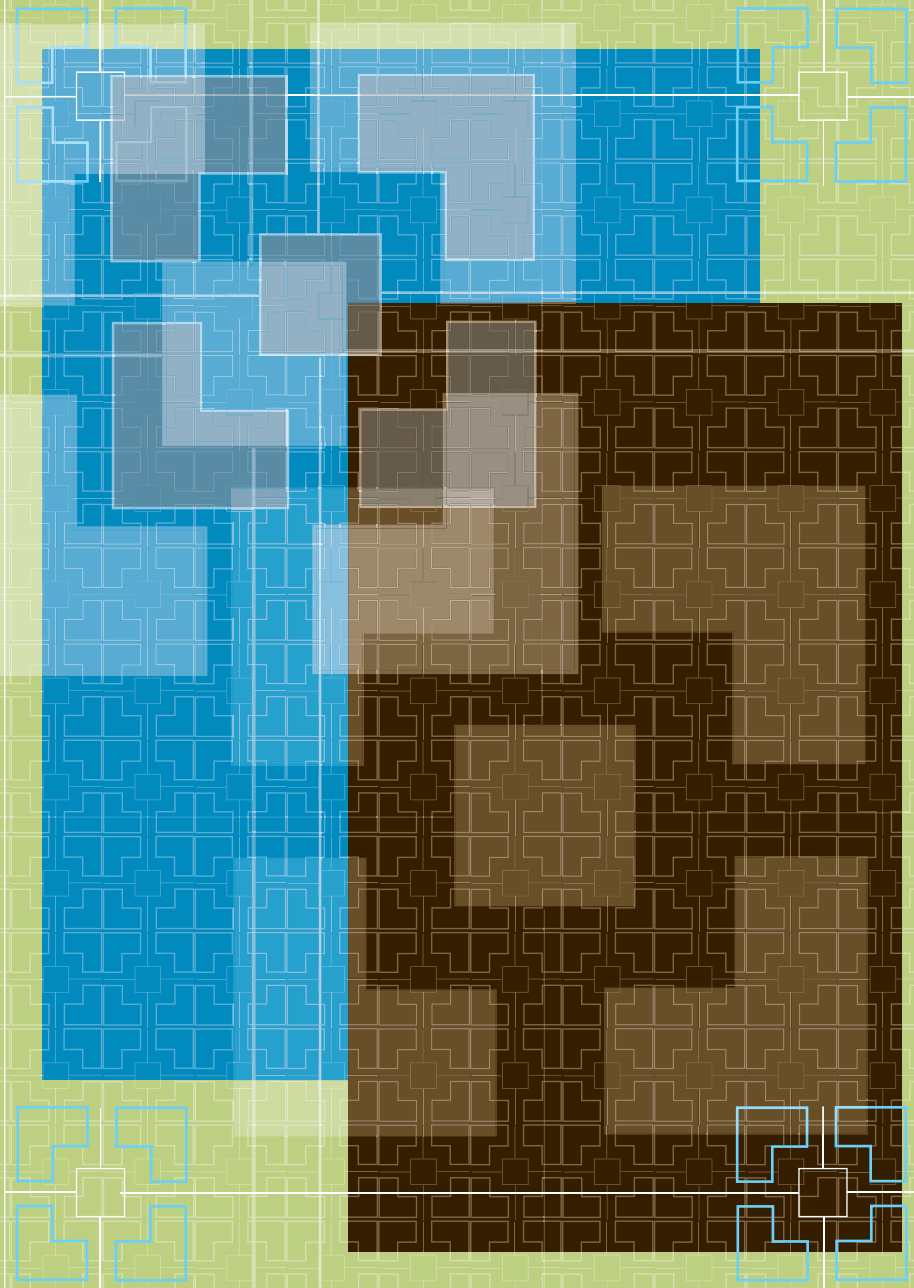
As in the past, congregations are free to ask questions of potential pastors whom they may call to serve them.

Questions about the pastor's own sexuality as well as questions about his or her beliefs and how he or she intends to preach and teach on these and other issues are fair and valid questions to ask pastoral candidates.

Congregations have always called and will continue to call the pastor who will best serve them.



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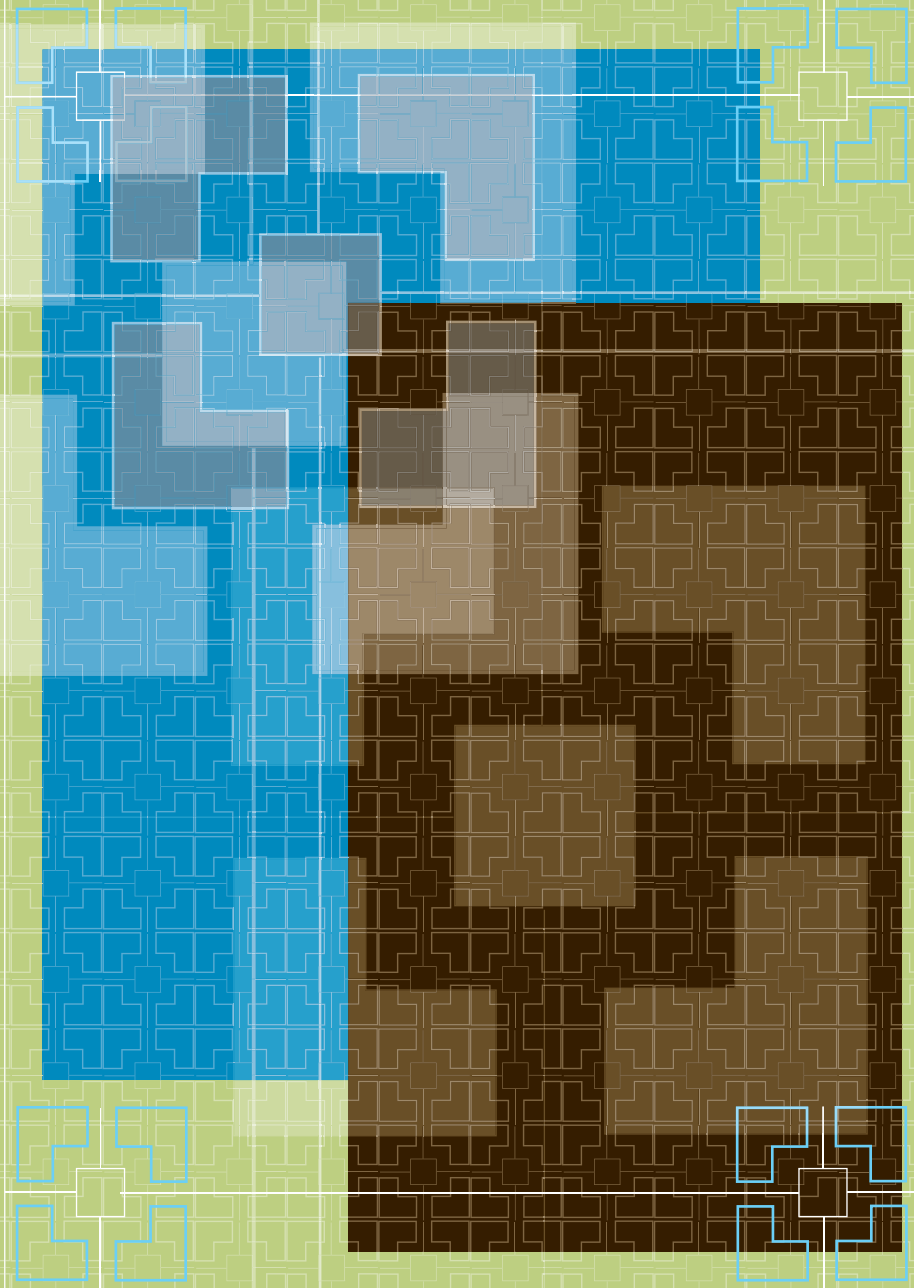
What It Means To Be Part Of The South Dakota Synod.

As a member of your congregation you are a part of the South Dakota Synod.

You are joined with 123,000 other Christians in 250 congregations throughout South Dakota. The South Dakota Synod helps prepare pastors; helps churches find pastors; assists congregations struggling through times of financial hardship, conflict or transition; and helps congregations improve their youth and education ministries, to name a few.



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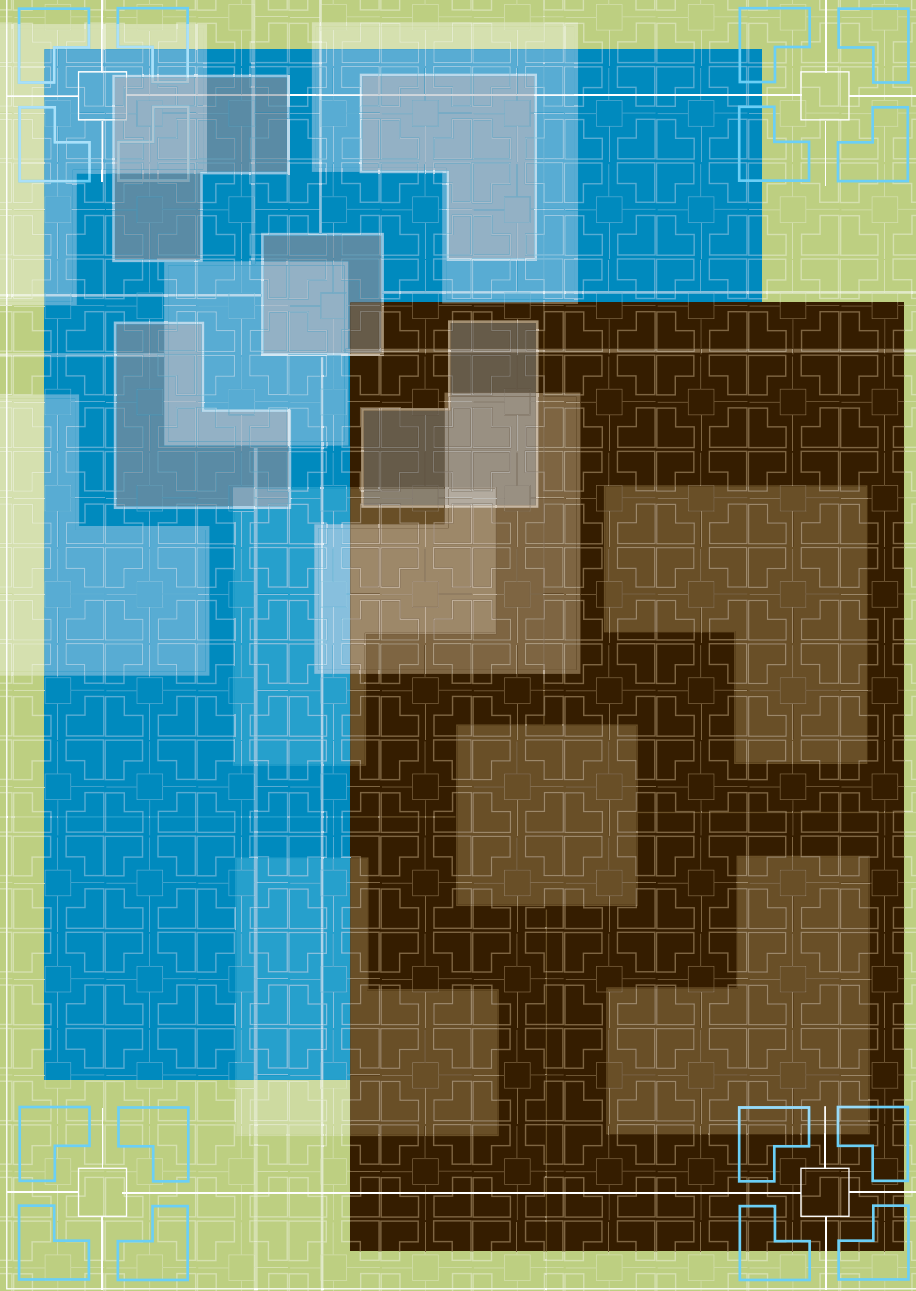
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What We Of The South Dakota Synod Do Together.

Through your mission support to the South Dakota Synod, you are part of Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries where every day 50 to 60 children receive a meal and after-school care at the retreat center on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Last year over 1000 men and women came to the retreat center for a word of hope, food, a blanket or help negotiating the pitfalls of poverty, unemployment and public assistance in the poorest county in the United States.



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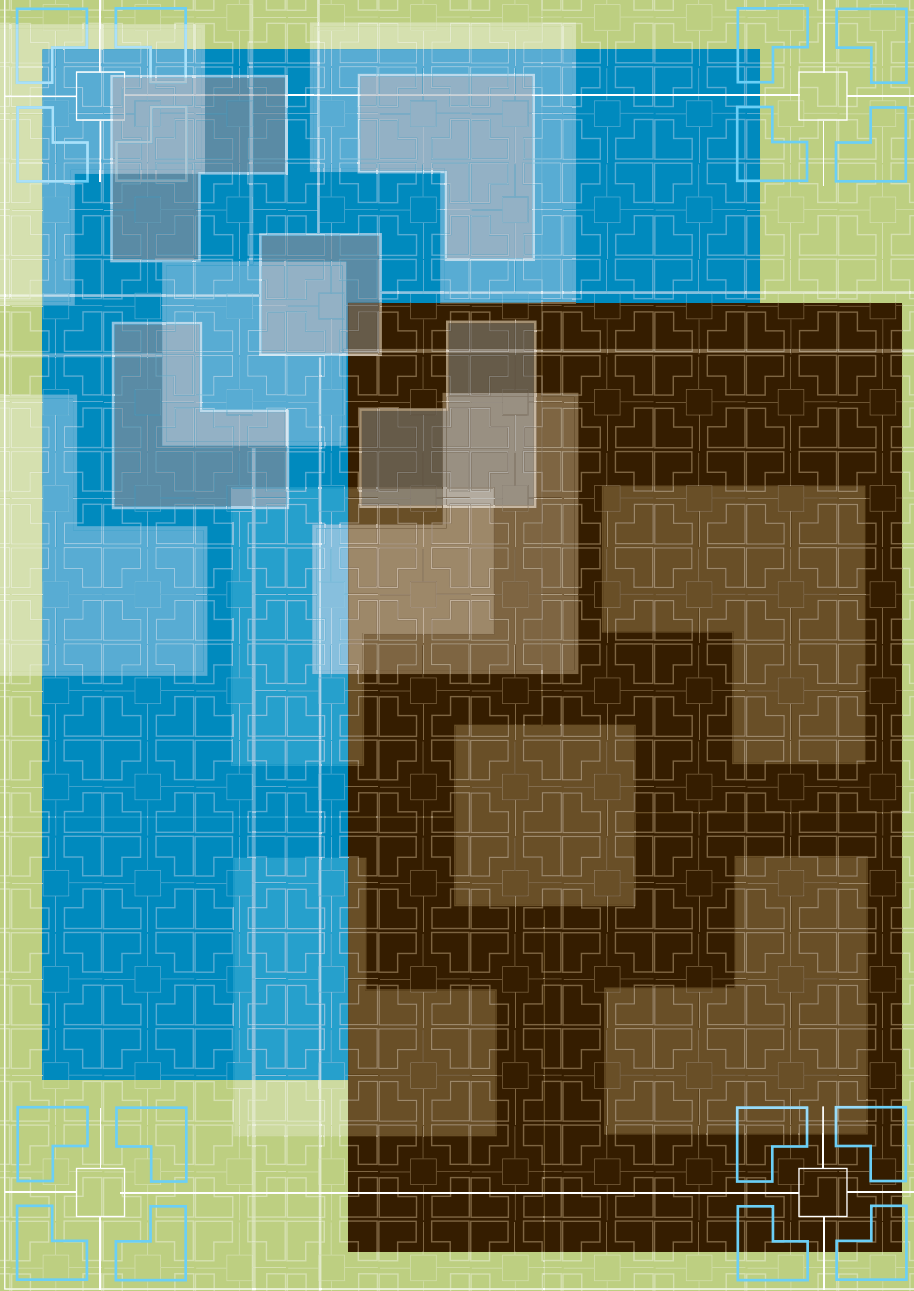
What You Do Through The South Dakota Synod.

The following represent just a few of the partnership ministries you are part of through your mission support in the South Dakota Synod:

- + Part of the largest private, nonprofit social service agency in the state – Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota – touching the lives of South Dakotans 45,000 times each year
- + Part of Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota
- + On the cutting edge of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through 7 new churches being formed in South Dakota



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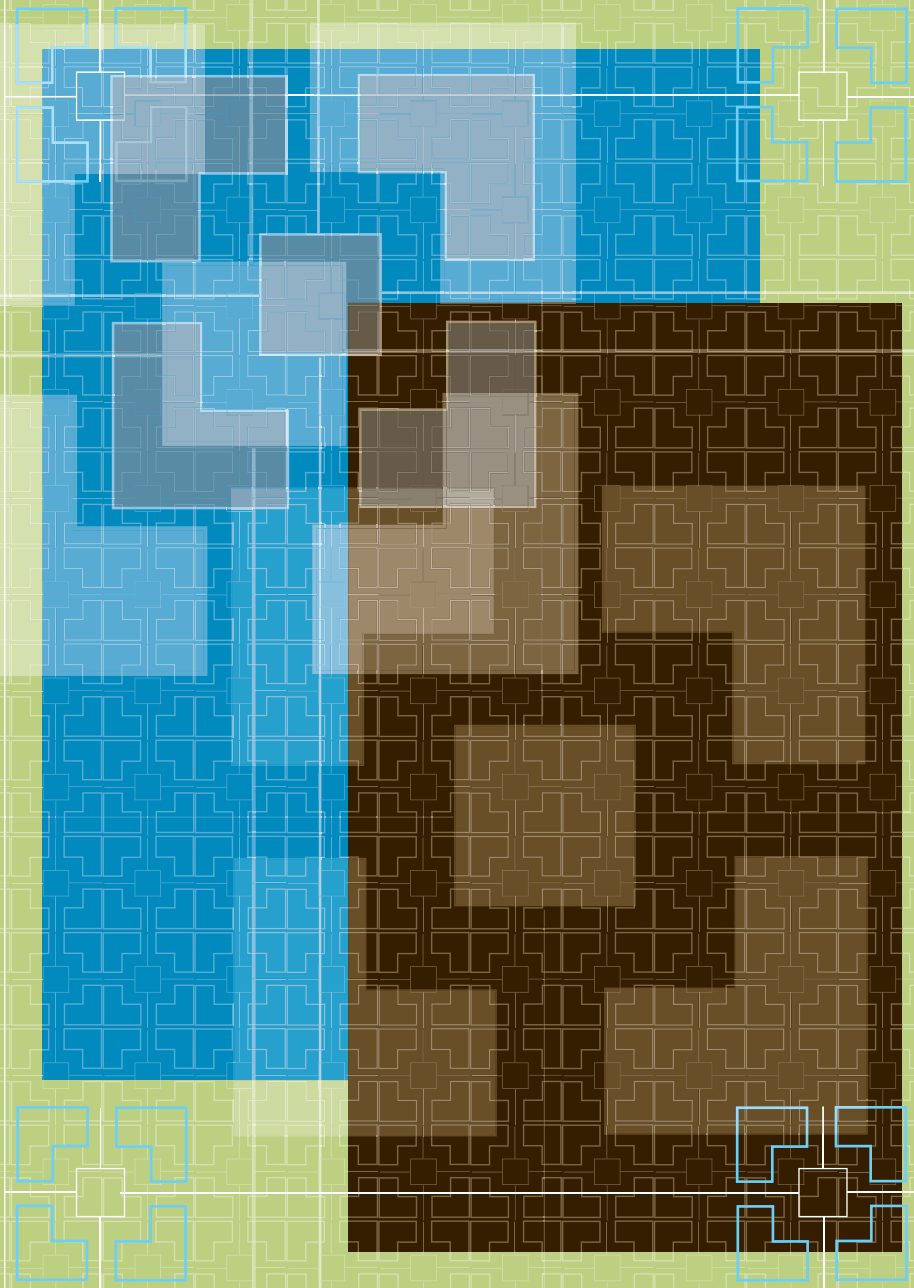
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What It Means To Be Part Of The ELCA.

Through your membership in an ELCA congregation, you are part of the ELCA Churchwide Organization, which includes 4.5 million members in 10,500 congregations around the United States. Together as congregations, synods and the ELCA, we do God's work in ways that no individual congregation could do alone.



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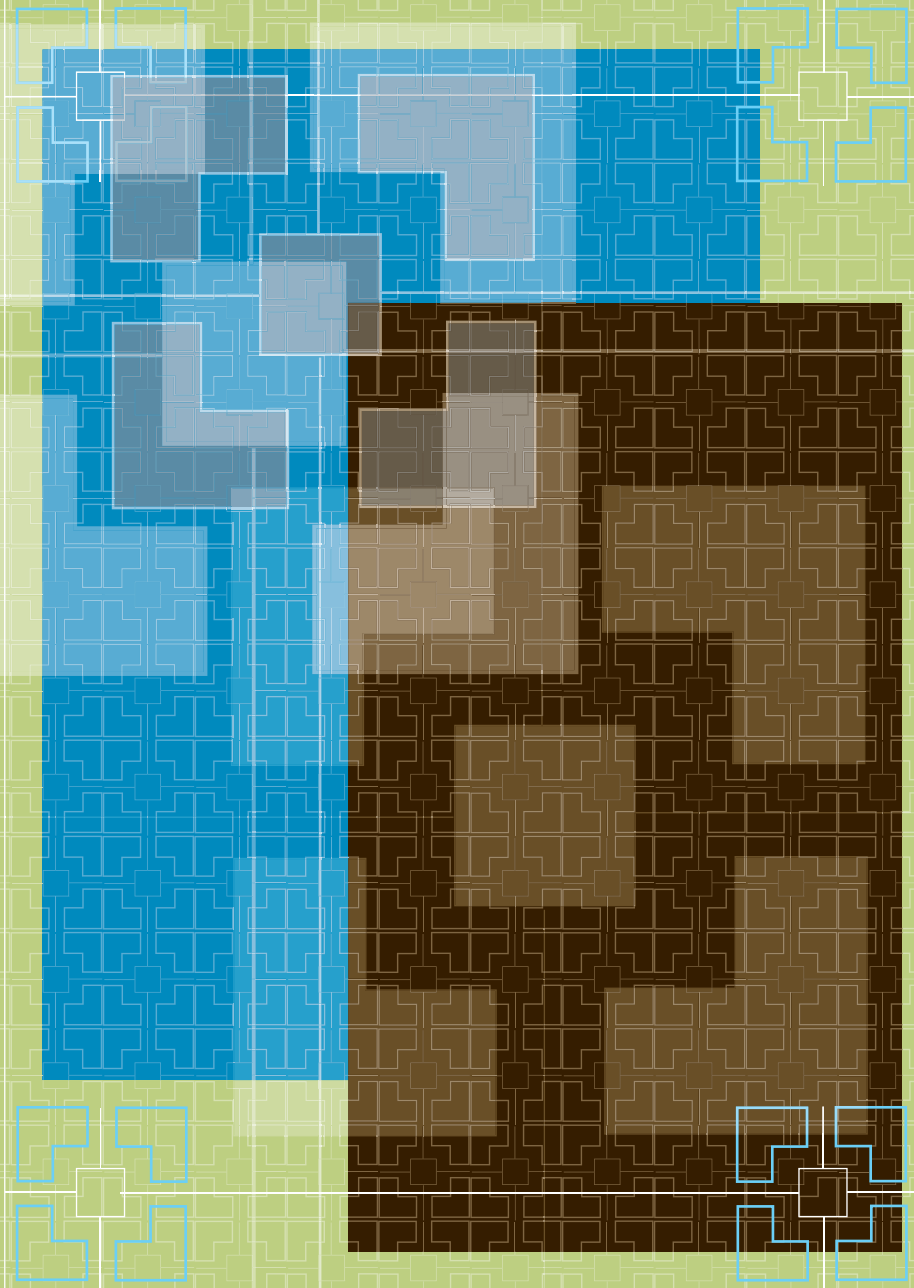
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What You Are Part Of Through The ELCA.

- + Approximately 204 congregations are in development
- + 159 existing congregations intentionally focused on renewal
- + Support of ministry and projects in over 90 countries
- + 8 seminaries, 28 colleges and universities, 187 campus ministries, 1,530 Lutheran early childhood education centers, 267 Lutheran K-8 elementary schools, 147 outdoor ministries
- + Disaster relief projects across the globe
- + Millions of people fed annually through Lutheran World Hunger



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What We Do Together.

Together as your local congregation, Synod and the ELCA, we are doing God's work in Cameroon, West Africa, and Nicaragua, Central America.

- + ELCA Global Mission provides for missionaries in both countries
- + ELCA provides for language training and education of global missionaries
- + The South Dakota Synod provides a shared and cooperative ministry with our brothers and sisters in Cameroon and Nicaragua
- + In 2008 the people and congregations of the South Dakota Synod saved over 30,000 people from starvation by providing \$40,000 of food and seeds after a devastating flood destroyed the crops the northwest part of Nicaragua

God's Work, Our Hands.



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