



Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 17, 2016

Dear Congregations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

This is your official invitation to participate in *Ministry Partners for Me* (abbreviated by the hashtag #MP4ME)—a special offering for the ten regional Partners in Ministry that our synod supports with prayer and funding through the annual synod budget.

#MP4ME will help us sustain these vital ministry partners by means of a “Second Mile” offering. Meeting our *minimum goal* of \$35,000 will maintain our synod’s current level of funding for these partners. Raising our *challenge goal* of \$70,000 will help our partners expand their ways of serving God’s mission in the world.

Some particulars:

- *Ministry Partners for Me* (#MP4ME) is a theme that encourages members of the synod to proclaim their deep sense of partnership with these ten treasured ministry partners. These truly are “my” partners in ministry, serving God’s mission in the world!
- #MP4ME was **authorized by Resolution #2** passed by the 2015 Synod Assembly and **reaffirmed** by the 2016 Synod Assembly.
- #MP4ME seeks funds that the synod will **divide up among ALL TEN of our synod’s ministry partners**. “*Ala carte*” giving to only one or more of the ten partners isn’t possible via #MP4ME.
- #MP4ME offerings for the 2016 fiscal year can be received any time—in any way the congregation chooses—between now and **January 31, 2017**.
- All gifts to #MP4ME should be made using the **Synod Financial Services (SFS) monthly synod remittance form**. This remittance form is available for download at www.nwmnsynod.org/mp4me.

To assist in being part of #MP4ME, three resources are included in this mailing: an information sheet about our ten Partners in Ministry, a resource sheet with creative ideas for raising funds for #MP4ME, and a sample bulletin insert you can use (or adapt the bulletin insert available on www.nwmnsynod.org).

Congregations that make an offering to #MP4ME will be recognized at the 2017 Synod Assembly—June 9-10 at Concordia College in Moorhead. In addition, the following special recognitions will take place:

- The congregation that offers the **most** money to #MP4ME.
- The congregation that has the highest **per-capita giving** to #MP4ME.
- The congregation that showed the most **creativity in raising awareness** about our Partners in Ministry.
- The **Golden Hotdish Award** will be given to the conference whose congregations give the most to #MP4ME.

Questions? Please contact John Bell, Communications and Events Coordinator of the NWMN Synod, 218-299-3019 or jbellsynod@cord.edu.

Thanks for sharing this mailing with your congregation council and consider a way to participate in *Ministry Partners for Me* (#MP4ME).

In Christ,

Bishop Lawrence R. Wohlrabe
Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Partners in Ministry



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Companion Synod Relationship

The Northwestern Minnesota Synod sets aside modest funding each year to help maintain our companion synod relationship with the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India. Annual contributions are escrowed in a synod restricted fund for administering the companion synod relationship, including some travel costs associated with periodic exchange visits between the U.S and India. By walking hand in hand with our companion synod, we are practicing accompaniment – a way of seeing the world and engaging one another in global mission that places mutual relationship at its core. In this relationship, we experience the persistence and resilience of our brothers and sisters in Andhra Pradesh.

Website: <http://nwmnsynod.org/ministry/our-companion-synod/>



ELCA Colleges

Support is given to the ELCA-related colleges of our region, to bolster their campus ministries and other faith-related campus activities. At ELCA colleges and universities, students are educated for a sense of calling or vocation, opening the path toward a meaningful life of contribution to the common good through whatever career they choose. Our regional ELCA colleges include Concordia College, Moorhead.

Website: www.concordiacollege.edu/

Luther Seminary

Luther Seminary of St. Paul, MN, educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world. Most of the rostered leaders serving in our synod are graduates of Luther Seminary, one of the eight seminaries of the ELCA.

Website: www.luthersem.edu/

NW MN Synod Outreach Ministries

Assists new ELCA outreach ministries on the territory of (or adjacent to) the synod, in partnership with the ELCA churchwide organization.

These ministries are reaching out to serve Native Americans in the Cass Lake/Bemidji area; helping create worship communities in Hawley and Frazee, and at the lake in Alexandria; walking with people in recovery in Crookston. Our synod's outreach ministries include: Waters of Grace, Frazee; Living Grace Lutheran Church, Hawley; People's Church, Cass Lake; Calvary at the Lake, Alexandria; The Wandering Vine, Crookston; and Recovery Worship a Journey in Grace.

Website: <http://nwmnsynod.org/ministry-type/regional-ministry/>

Contact: Rev. Keith Zeh, Director of Evangelical Mission in Northwestern MN and Eastern ND

Phone: 218-299-3019; Email: keith.zeh@elca.org

Lutheran Advocacy—Minnesota

Formerly the Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in MN, Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota is one of eleven state public policy offices of the ELCA, in partnership with the six ELCA synods of Minnesota. The organization addresses biblical values such as concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease, hospitality to strangers, and care for creation.

Contact: Tammy Walhoff, tammy@lcppm.org Phone: 651-224-5499

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Advocacy-Minnesota

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota

Helps support ELCA campus ministries at state colleges and universities in Bemidji, Duluth, Mankato, Marshall, Twin Cities, Moorhead, Morris, St. Cloud, and Winona. Campus Ministry is a Lutheran ministry on campus, not just a ministry to Lutherans. Through worship, study, fellowship, and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God's grace. As expansive as Christ's love, Campus Ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus on the Way.

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDI5MipOHNU

Contacts:

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Moorhead: Rev. Jon Olson, Campus Pastor;

Phone Number: 218-233-4720; Website: <https://lcmminnesota.wordpress.com/sites/lcmmsum/>

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Bemidji: Mr. Jake Hertwig, SAM, Campus Minister;

Phone Number: 218-751-5326; Website: www.lcmbemidji.org/

Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC)

Our state's largest ecumenical organization representing 24 denominations and over one million Minnesotans, MCC fosters public worship/prayer events, sponsors caring and advocacy, and reaches out to refugees and interfaith partners.

Website: www.mnchurches.org/

Native American Christian Ministry

This program serves the Fargo-Moorhead Native American population with worship opportunities, pastoral services, and networking with various resources in the community.

Contact: Rev. Keith Zeh, Director of Evangelical Mission in Northwestern MN and Eastern ND

Phone: 218-299-3019; Email: keith.zeh@elca.org

Oak Grove Lutheran School

Oak Grove Lutheran School of Fargo is committed to providing an outstanding academic experience for students in K-12 with a strong grounding in Christian faith. The school has a proven reputation for high-quality academic training in a Christian context, offering a fully accredited, challenging program in a wholesome environment.

Website: www.oakgrovelutheran.com/

Contact: Mr. Mike Slette, President, Phone 701-373-7116.

Parish Nurse Program

Since 1991, the Parish Nurse Program of Concordia College, Moorhead, has prepared over 1,700 nurses to serve in faith communities across the country. Parish nurses are called and committed to the healing ministry of the church, helping meet the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of the members.

Contact: Dr. Jean Bokinski, RN, FCN; Phone: 218-299-3825; Email: bokinski@cord.edu

Website: www.concordiacollege.edu/directories/offices-services/parish-nurse-ministry/

Note: In the 2015 #MP4ME promotional materials **Region 3 ELCA** was also listed as a "Partner in Ministry." For the sake of clarity, the Region 3 office is a cooperative ministry of the ELCA churchwide organization and the nine ELCA synods in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Our synod shoulders its share of the expenses of the regional office not through a voluntary contribution (as is the case with Partners in Ministry) but by means of an annual billing from the region.



#MP4ME - Ministry Partners for Me

Send checks to the NW MN Synod with **"#MP4ME"** in the memo line before **January 31, 2017**. Our goal is to raise at least \$35,000. All 2016 fiscal year gifts for this special offering need to be remitted before January 31, 2017.



How Can We Raise Financial Support for #MP4ME?

Here are some ideas to get you started supporting #MP4ME. Please share your own ideas about lifting up our Partners in Ministry by posting on Facebook or Twitter, using the hashtag #MP4ME!

Here are a few ideas:

- **Second Mile Offering** - This special "Second Mile Offering" goes above and beyond the "First Mile of Generous Giving" to the synod/ELCA mission support. A Second Mile of Giving offering will help sustain these vital ministries. Invite everyone in your congregation to support the work of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through the efforts of our Partners in Ministry.
- **Bake Sale or Bakeless Bake Sale** (*without the work*)
What is a bakeless bake sale? Here's suggested copy for publicizing a Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraiser:

*A bit of news we have today
A Bakeless Bake Sale is on the way.
These busy days, who has the time to bake
Pies, cookies, or even a cake?
We've thought of a plan that's truly grand,
And feel quite sure that you'll understand.
In an envelope please put the price
Of a pie, or cake or something nice.
No fuss or bother, you've done your part,
This is the end of our little tale,
Help make a success of
BAKELESS BAKE SALE!
Place your donation in the "CAKE BOX" found in the sanctuary!!*

- **Mission of the Month** - Make #MP4ME one of your congregation's "Mission of the Month."
- **Temple Talk** – Invite a representative of one of our Partners in Ministry to speak or preach. Ask an ELCA college or seminary student or a parish nurse to share their experiences.
- **Pickle Jar** (Noisy Offering)
- **Dye Job!** Pastor or Council President dyes hair or shaves head or beard when goal is reached.
- **Smoothie Stand** – a healthy and yummy twist on the lemonade stand!
- **Going Once, Going Twice.** Hold a silent or live auction.
- **Sit-a-thon** – Offer babysitting services for a designated Saturday or evening!
- **Change it** – Start a competition between individuals/families by inviting them to collect change and fill a coin jar by a designated time. The ones with the most collected wins a prize!
- **Skip a Meal** – Invite people to commit to give up a meal and give the money to the designated #MP4ME special offering!



Our Congregation is going “The Second Mile”
to support the NW MN Synod Partners in Ministry.

#MP4ME

Ministry Partners for Me, You and Everybody!

The 2015 Synod Assembly passed a resolution urging every congregation of the synod to go above and beyond their “first mile” giving of Mission Support for the NW MN Synod and the ELCA.

Who are our Ministry Partners?

Companion Synod Relationship:

Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India

ELCA Colleges

Luther Seminary

Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota

Lutheran Campus Ministry of MN

Minnesota Council of Churches

Native American Christian Ministry

NW MN Synod Outreach Ministries

Oak Grove Lutheran School

Parish Nurse Program

For more information about these Ministry Partners,

Visit www.NWMNSynod.org/MP4ME.

Share what you do to raise funds by posting photos on Facebook
or Twitter using the hashtag #MP4ME.

***Thank you for helping us support the work of spreading the
Good News of God through our Partners in Ministry today!***



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901 8th St S, Moorhead, MN 56562
Phone: 218-299-3019
Website: www.nwmnsynod.org



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