

Transcript of video available at <https://youtu.be/3t4Fvllsyi4>

Hi! I'm Jeff Chestnut, and I serve as the treasurer for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. I'm a member of First Lutheran Church in Lake City.

As we head toward the 2023 Synod Assembly, the Synod Council wants to increase informed engagement in the budget process. The proposed spending plan for 2024-2025 will come before the assembly's voting members on Saturday, May 6, and here's our plan for giving you - *the people of the synod* - clear ways of being part of the process.

The Synod Council always does the initial work of creating and approving a draft spending plan. This year, we've moved the timeline up in order to create more on-ramps for engagement. We'll approve the draft spending plan at our February 25 meeting. We will then make that draft budget available to you, the people of the synod. It will be available for you by March 1 on the synod's website. From that date through March 20, you are invited to give feedback and ask questions. Please direct those questions to me at treasurer@semnsynod.org.

The week of March 26, the synod vice president, Lisa Dierks, and I will be hosting a budget caucus via Zoom. This will be a space for Lisa and me to outline the spending plan for 2024-2025 and highlight the mission and ministry we hope will be accomplished through those dollars. Those who will be voting in the Synod Assembly as voting members are invited to participate. Specific information about the date and time of the budget caucus will be shared in the weeks to come through the synod's newsletter, RCWeekly, and the website.

All of the input shared by the people of the synod will be reviewed by the Synod Council at their April 15 meeting, and the Synod Council will then approve the proposed spending plan that will come forward to the assembly on May 6. This version of the proposed spending plan will be available as part of the Pre-Assembly report to all voting members.

I invite the people of the synod to join me in using the process I've described in this video. Together, we can work to ensure that by the time we gather on May 6, everyone has had the opportunity to engage thoroughly and wisely in the budget process.

Please email me anytime for further conversation on the budget process that will be used in advance of the 2023 Synod Assembly. I look forward to connecting with you as we step forward together!