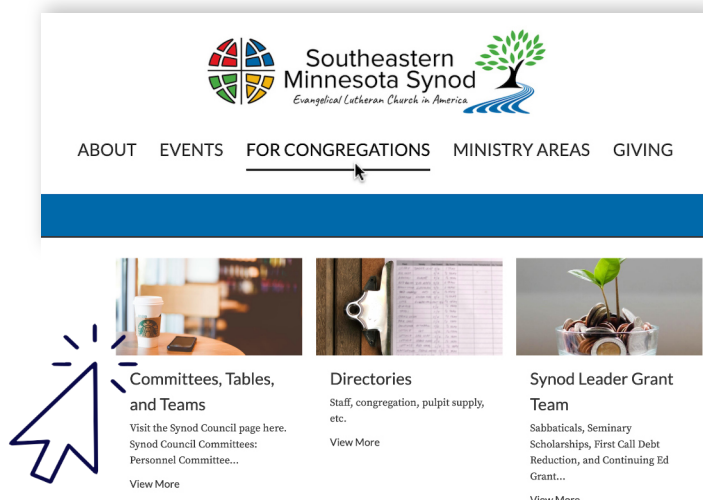


Meet the Synod Tables, Teams, and Committees.

The synod leadership structure includes various tables, teams, and committees that serve in different capacities. Some of them are featured in this section. To learn more about each and to find a complete and current list, go to semnsynod.org and click on “For Congregations.” Then scroll down to “Committees, Tables, and Teams.”



Committee on Reference and Counsel

semnsynod.org/ref-and-co

This committee takes seriously its work of receiving, reviewing, editing, and presenting the resolutions that come before the assembly. In addition, they provide follow up reports to the Synod Council and Synod Assembly on the result of any resolution approved by the Assembly. They enjoyed meeting together in advance of last year's assembly, and look forward to continuing to find ways to highlight the various pathways through which resolutions can be submitted.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel seeks to function in a way that best equips

the Synod Assembly to consider the resolutions put before it. When provided with wise counsel and modeling of best practices, the assembly's voting members are best positioned to live into their responsibilities as relates to voting on resolutions.

Learn more by visiting the website semnsynod.org/ref-and-co. Contact the committee by reaching out to the chairperson Rev. Dr. Scott Olson or synod staff liaison Rev. Emily Carson (carson@semnsynod.org).

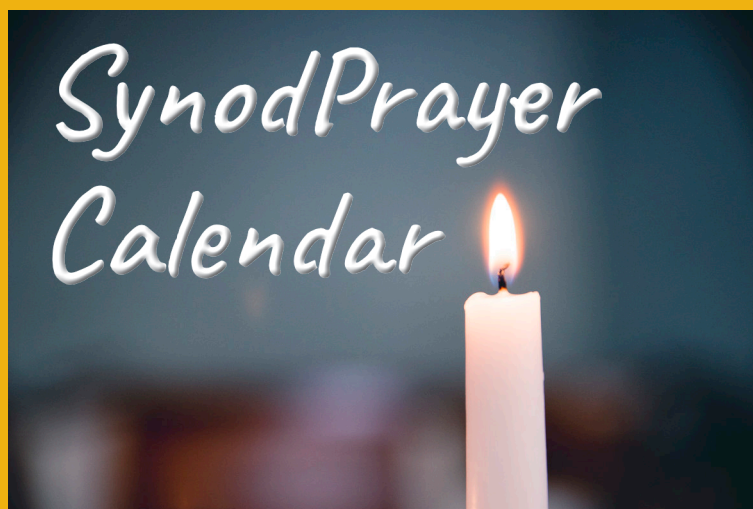
Endowment Committee

The existence of an Endowment Committee is constitutionally mandated by the synod's constitution. In 2023, their focus is to bring awareness to the reality that planned financial gifts, current-year gifts, and one-time gifts of significance positively impact synod ministry! Often via Zoom, the team meets every one to two months. Last year they found inspiration by reading together the book *Kitchen Table Giving* by William Enright.

You can find them at the Synod Assembly, and they hope to be present at more synod events in the future. They are excited to introduce you to the stories of ministry made possible through the restricted and endowed funds of the synod. They are also hopeful that these stories are shared in such a way that leads more people to make such financial gifts.

The Endowment Committee is called to contribute information and ministry stories in ways that spur generosity for the sake of expanded Gospel proclamation. They enjoy working together and collaborating and are honored to be tasked with uplifting the ministry accomplished through the synod's endowed and restricted funds.

To contact, reach out to the Chairperson, Dianna Parks (dianna@goodearthvillage.org), or the synod staff liaison, Rev. Emily Carson (carson@semnsynod.org).



The annual prayer calendar includes all of the congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod as well as all of the Lutheran congregations of our global partners in Colombia, Tanzania, and South Sudan.

Bishop Regina Hassanally invites the people and congregations of the synod to make a commitment to praying each week for the identified communities of faith in this calendar.

View and download at:
semnsynod.org/prayercal



Faith Formation Table

semnsynod.org/ffn

The synod's Faith Formation Network is led by the Faith Formation Table. The table consists of representatives from the five synod conferences, a chairperson, and a representative from Good Earth Village. The network is open to all who minister with and care about children, youth, and family ministry in their congregation. The network meets monthly, from August through May, and uses this time to share questions, support, and the ups and downs of ministry. All are welcome! (Rostered leaders, lay staff, volunteers, parents, grandparents, family, and godparents!)

In the past year, the network was able to meet in person again! Which was a tremendous change from the Zoom meetings. One of the challenges the table has faced is that many have had life changes that impacted their participation, so they are looking for some new representatives! You can find them on Facebook or join them for monthly meetings.

If you have ministry leaders working with families in your congregation, you might have already experienced the impacts of their work. If your leaders are unfamiliar, point them to the website or contact the table and let them know. The table exists to serve ministry leaders, but they can only do that if they know the leaders are there.

The network is a supportive place where anyone can feel welcomed, heard, and equipped. And the friendships and support that grow in this space are what keep many people going. "We are better when we work together!"

Find more information at semnsynod.org/ffn, join them in the Facebook group called "Southeastern Minnesota Synod Faith Formation," or reach out to the table chair, Lindsay Colwell (lindsay@stjohnskasson.org or 507-319-4930).



Synod Leader Grant Team

semnsynod.org/slgt

The Synod Leader Grant Team meets four times per year to allocate grants through an application process for synod leaders and future leaders of the church. They focus on four areas of clergy/church life: Seminary Scholarships, First Call Debt Reduction, Continuing Education, and Sabbaticals. Generally upporting the health and wellness of church leaders through grants and scholarships is a top priority.

In the last year, they received a generous \$15,000 grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation making it possible to relaunch sabbatical grants for the first time in three years! Six leaders and four congregations received funds through this grant.

They were also able to provide two debt-relief grants to leaders in their first calls, 10 continuing education grants, one rural ministry scholarship, and three Synod Fund for Leaders scholarships to seminarians!

It is important to this team to continue to find ways that expand access to sabbaticals, especially among our smaller, rural and multipoint congregations. They are striving to get a deeper understanding of the barriers in order to better support leaders and congregations.

They look forward to continuing to build awareness of the various granting pathways that exist for seminarians and actively serving rostered ministers. There are also dreams of identifying a long-term funding stream to support the ministry of sabbaticals in the life of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

To contact, reach out to the Chairperson, Rev. Anjanette Bandel (bandel@bethellutheran.com), or the synod staff liaison, Rev. Emily Carson (carson@semnsynod.org).

Find more!

Go to semnsynod.org and click on “For Congregations” then “Committees, Tables, and Teams.”

Here you will find a complete list of all synod groups and links to any additional information available.



The screenshot shows the website for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The navigation bar includes links for ABOUT, EVENTS, FOR CONGREGATIONS (which is highlighted with a cursor), and MINISTRY AREA. The main heading is 'Resources for Congregation Leaders'. Below this, there are two columns of links. The left column, titled 'Committees, Tables, and Teams', is pointed to by a large cursor icon. The right column is titled 'Directories' and includes a link for 'Staff, congregation, supply, etc.' and a 'View More' link.

Global Ministries Table

semnsynod.org/global

The Global Ministry Table serves to lead our synod in walking with our siblings in Christ throughout the world. Together with the Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry, the Table provides:

- the vision of the global (international and local) ministries of the SEMN Synod
- accompaniment connections between synod congregations and global companions (Colombia, Central Diocese of Tanzania, South Sudan) and global/local ministries (AMMPARO, Hunger)
- coordination of the five global teams: AMMPARO, Colombia Accompaniment, Hunger, Medical Ministry, Tanzania Accompaniment
- oversight of GM Table budget
- communication with synod congregations and individuals on ministry opportunities, including upcoming synod border immersion experiences and visits to global companions. Watch for these in RC Weekly, the SEMN Synod's weekly digital newsletter!

Individuals and congregations throughout the synod have been impacted by the work of this dynamic Table! Perhaps you participated in an adult education presentation about the synod's global ministries. Your congregation may have received one of nine SEMN Synod Food Ministry Grants. Your congregation might have recently welcomed a new immigrant to your community. Or someone came to your church and shared about their synod-sponsored visit to the U.S./Mexico borderlands. Perhaps Pastor Deborah Lyanga preached or presented on a Sunday morning. If you used any of the 40 Together Lenten materials, provided or accessed food donations at a local food shelf, engaged in *The God Who Sees* book study, or experienced *A Migrant Journey*, you have seen what this table is up to!

In 2022, visits to our global companions resumed with Bishop Hassanally and Kathy Chatelaine (Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry) participating in the installation of the new bishop of the Central Diocese of Tanzania – and then visited education and health care ministries throughout the diocese. In early 2023, 24 people representing 12 congregations

throughout the synod engaged in a border immersion visit hosted by a borderland ministry partner. In August, the Table hosted Rev. Wal Reat, an ELCA missionary to South Sudan.

The Global Ministry Table consists of rostered and lay leaders who are passionate about forming accompaniment relationships with all people. They strive to live out the idea that each person is created in the image of God and is a child of God and, following Jesus' command to love your neighbor, i.e. each child of God, as you love yourself. As awareness grows about the unique relationships we share with local and international communities, the hope is that more and more people will become a part of this transformational ministry! The exponential growth in the ministries called "global," including the growing relationships between synods, congregations, and individuals, and the new relationships created as awareness spreads inspire this table to continue to flesh out Jesus' words of "Feed the hungry. Welcome the stranger." (Matthew 25)

To learn more about the synod's global ministries, contact chairperson Mike Walerius (mikewalerius@yahoo.com) or Assistant to the Bishop Kathy Chatelaine (chatelaine@semnsynod.org).



Meet our Synod Partners.

These partner organizations are financially supported by the synod through mission support dollars:

- Continuous Growth Pathway
- Crossroads Campus Ministry, Mankato
- Good Earth Village
- Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota
- Lutheran Campus Center, Winona
- Luther Seminary
- Minnesota Council of Churches
- ELCA Region 3 Archives

**Find reports from partners on the website.*



Continuous Growth Pathway (CGP)

cgpmn.org

Continuous Growth Pathway (CGP) is a unique partnership of the Southeastern and Southwestern Minnesota ELCA Synods and Gustavus Adolphus College. Its purpose is to support and equip rostered leaders across southern MN. Continuing education is part of what they do, and connecting colleagues is the heartbeat. Providing pathways for pastors and deacons to remember they are human, and find others experiencing similar ups and downs to share that with, is vital.

“Career saving.” This is what one pastor shared about their participation in a colleague group. Members are sharing that they feel more connected and engaged in their work through involvement with CGP. The challenges in ministry, especially in light of the pandemic, leave questions and worry about the church looming, and sometimes it is pastors and deacons who receive the brunt of it. Which is why their work is so important. (See some statistics on the next page.)

The partnerships between the two synods and Gustavus and the membership fees are crucial to the financial stability of CGP. (Of course, the Holy Spirit is moving in there, too.) Their work all comes back to the Good News. They exist to remind members that the Good News is not just for teaching others, but themselves, too. That ministering from a faith that is alive in their hearts and minds, is an absolute gift to the body of Christ.

To find out how you can get involved, contact the staff members listed below. To make a financial gift, give online or mail a check (payable to Gustavus with CGP in the memo) to Gustavus Adolphus College.

CGP STAFF:

Laura Aase, Program Coordinator and Pastor
aase@gustavus.edu or 507-933-7221

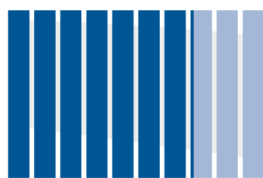
Grady St. Dennis, Director and Pastor
stdennis@gustavus.edu



say CGP is **giving**
them what they need

Themes:

- Community & Connection
- Skills & Knowledge
- Variety of Options



71%

Participation Rate

66 out of 93 members

SWMN = 62% SEMN = 35%

**Most Valuable
Experience**

Colleague Groups
Spiritual Practices
Anti-Racism Retreat

ELCA Region 3 Archives

luthersem.edu/archives

Its purpose is to collect, organize, and make available the permanently valuable records of the synods and ministries of Region 3 (the synods of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota). Ultimately, they exist to collect and tell the stories of ministry relevant to the ELCA. Additionally, they will work with congregations to create their own archives, teach how to celebrate anniversaries, write an effective history, and more.

Located on the Luther Seminary campus in Gullixson Hall, the office is where you might find Paul Daniels, the archivist for Region 3. In the last year, they have handled over 840 individual, congregation, and synod reference requests. Over 150 congregation historical and 410 biographical items were added last year. Once processed and organized, these items are available for research. Daniels hopes to have more articles for his "Ask the Archivist" column soon, which started in this synod's newsletter.

Benevolence funds from all nine synods keep the work going. And the collection only grows when people like you send helpful materials their way. The more pieces of the puzzle they have, the clearer the picture of the church becomes. Daniels hopes that this archives ministry will help inform, challenge, and build the body of Christ in Region 3 and beyond.

To find out how your congregation is already represented or what might be missing, reach out to Paul Daniels. (Email: pdaniels@luthersem.edu. Call or text: 612.875.2112.)

Find complete infographic on synod website.

Lutheran Campus Center Winona

lccwinona.com



The LCC is an ELCA-based campus ministry serving Winona State and Saint Mary's Universities in Winona. They accompany students during the pivotal crossroads moments of their life as they transition into and out of college. Campus ministry also serves faculty and staff, as well as community members, especially young adults. They exist for more than just Lutherans, while remaining rooted in Lutheran theology. They are also part of the Winona Interfaith Council. The mission statement is: "Working Together. Living Through Faith. Taking Action in Our World."

The stories of the Holy Spirit working through this ministry are deep and many. There are students who have no connection to Christianity that find welcome and nourishment through this space and community. Alumni return to share gifts and messages for students they have never met, because they understand the power of what happens here. The board members who drop in with packages of yogurt and fresh-baked scones, ready to respond to additional needs, find joy there, too. (Join the email list to get more stories as they are realized.)

The pandemic effects continue. When a whole class of students doesn't get to experience college life in person, valuable connection points are lost. Giving from institutions was down, but individuals came through. Through the challenges, the stories continue to flow and the Spirit continues. And the stories of how LCC is carried into the world through alumni are deep. New growth is already visible, as some pre-pandemic pieces fade away. LCC is an amazing example of how church is about

trying new things, listening, pivoting, and then trying again.

You can support this ministry! Prayers for Lutheran campus ministry across the nation is coveted. During the school year weekly meals are provided for students, and you could be part of that. Finally, financial support is how LCC can exist, and currently half of their budget is coming from individuals.

When asked why the LCC should continue to exist, one student said, "The LCC is a place where God's abundant love is not just talked about, but felt. And, it's a community where faith is at your own pace."

In the words of a former student: "You did not seek to change me, or control me. You accepted and loved me for who I was at every moment."



Ways to get connected:

- Pastor Corrine Haulotte
(pastorcorrine@gmail.com)
- Office: 507-452-8316
- PO Box 4, Winona, MN 55987
- Instagram: @lccwinona
- Facebook: /lccwinona
- Join the monthly email list. (Send request to pastorcorrine@gmail.com)
- Receive the print newsletter and mailings. (Send request to: kelleyolsonlcc@gmail.com)

Other organizations...

The organization featured below is a ministry of the ELCA and Tharan Leopold, the employee featured below, is a part of this synod.

ELCA Foundation

elca.org/foundation

The ELCA Foundation exists to support and sustain ELCA ministries by enhancing gifting capacity and stewarding resources. They serve individuals, congregations, synods, churchwide, and other related ELCA organizations.

Tharan Leopold, the Regional Gift Planner serving our synod, gets to meet so many generous and wonderful people in our synod. He is humbled to be invited into homes to hear stories, learn about what inspires you, and what the legacy is that you wish to create.

It is possible that your congregation is the beneficiary of an estate gift established by a regional gift planner. Someone you know may have talked with him about their legacy intent. There are so many ways that you might already be experiencing the work of the ELCA Foundation without realizing it! (Did you know that there is no cost or obligation to utilize a Gift Planner like Tharan? It is their ministry to be of service!)

His hope is that everyone would have a planned gift in place. Instead of leaving it up to chance or a stranger, plan your gifts. A legacy plan is an exclamation point to your faith story!

A message to you, from Tharan:

“Meet with me to have a conversation about your own planned gift! I promise it isn't that difficult and can be a rewarding experience. Once you have met with me and see how easy it is to create a planned gift, encourage others to do so! Advocate for your congregation to have a mission endowment fund to be a beacon of light outside your congregation.”

You can reach Tharan Leopold, Regional Gift Planner – ELCA Foundation, at 507-838-1980 or tharan.leopold@elca.org.



**Additional organization reports for ministries connected to the ELCA or this synod can be found on the synod website.*