

Our Vision as a Synod

We ask God to:

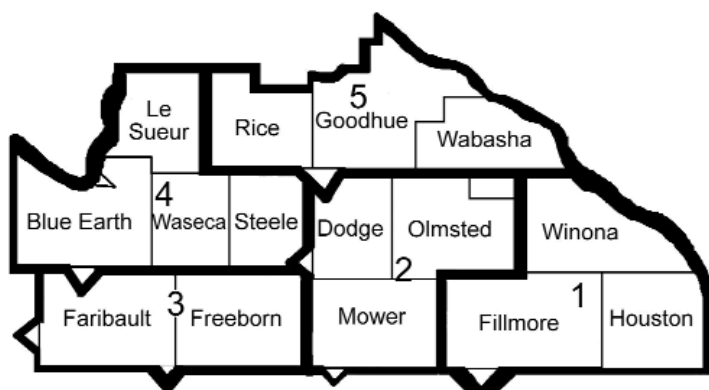
Gather the hopes and dreams of all,
Unite them with the prayers we offer,
Grace us with God's presence, and
Send us in mission to

MAKE CHRIST KNOWN!

Who We Are

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 123,000 baptized people in 183 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is one of 65 synods that make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota. The synod is divided into five conferences, each one named after rivers in the area.



- 1 - Root River Conference
- 2 - Zumbro River Conference
- 3 - Blue Earth River Conference
- 4 - Minnesota River Conference
- 5 - Cannon River Conference

Your Synod Office

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod office is located in Assisi Heights, the congregational center for the order of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Rochester, Minnesota. Stop and visit this beautiful place. You are welcome anytime.

If you have any questions about the 2005 Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Assembly, visit our web site: www.semnsynod.org. You are also welcome to call us Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at (800) 426-6376 (MN only) or (507) 280-9457. Feel free to leave a message after hours. You may also e-mail the communications director at lynsen@semnsynod.org anytime.





We Are Called into God's Marvelous Light

In the fall of 2003, Bishop Harold Usgaard asked all congregations to distribute a yellow questionnaire to those in worship the second Sunday in Advent. The questionnaire, which was developed by the strategic plan task force, contained three questions:

1. What does my congregation do to make my faith meaningful and compelling?
2. What more can my congregation do to make this happen?
3. What can the ELCA congregations of Southeastern Minnesota do together to make this happen for me and our community?

The 5,000-plus responses received by the synod office revealed many different opinions from the members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. On Feb. 9, 2004, a group of over 40 people from around the synod came to help evaluate and compile the responses.

The results from that day are the basis for what is now the synod's strategic plan, which was unanimously approved by the 2004 Synod Assembly.

The strategic plan, "Called into God's Marvelous Light," will be carried out in the years 2005, 2006, and 2007, and it features three overarching visions:

To Be Joyful Witnesses
To Be Christ-Centered Disciples
To Be Strong Leaders

Within each vision are several goals and objectives. You can find the complete list of goals and objectives, along with a

timeline for when everything is going to happen, on the synod web site.

Among the objectives are three yearly emphases:

2005: A Synod Joined in Prayer
2006: A Synod Joined in Bible Study
2007: A Synod Joined in Sharing the Faith

Since 2005 is the year in which we are a synod joined in prayer, a prayer calendar has been developed with congregations to pray for each month, and this assembly features many prayer-related activities.

To learn more about the synod strategic plan, visit the synod's web site, www.semnsynod.org, and click the "Strategic Plan" link on the left.

Featured Web Links

www.elca.org – the web site of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

www.semnsynod.org – the web site of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA (to learn more about the strategic plan, click the "Strategic Plan" link on the left)

www.elca.org/prayer/ – the ELCA site devoted to prayer, with daily devotions and more

www.semnsynod.org/prayerbible.html – Updated every single day, this web site features a daily prayer, Bible reading, and Bible verse.

www.semnsynod.org/prayercalendar.html – Use this calendar to pray for synod congregations and ministries throughout this church year.

