

2008 Pre-Assembly Report

ADDENDUM

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

April 18-19, 2008

Mayo Civic Center, Rochester

2007 CONGREGATIONAL MISSION SUPPORT AND DESIGNATED GIFTS

Congregation (Baptized/ Confirmed- Average Worship Membership)	ELCA 2006 Mission Support			ELCA 2006 Designated Gifts	ELCA 2007 Mission Support			ELCA 2007 Designated Gifts
	Intent	Actual	%	\$	Intent	Actual	%	\$

Blue Earth River Conference

Albert Lea:								
Ascension (735/606-153)	14,850	14,850	8.1%	13,576	15,600	15,600	8.1%	12,462
Bear Lake Concordia (229/170-65)	2,500	2,500	5.6%	1,787	20,000	2,000	3.9%	2,119
Central Freeborn (275/248-102)	9,800	9,800	8.3%	4,080	9,800	9,845	8.2%	1,250
Concordia Pickerel Lake (320/256-85)	5,000	4,284	4.5%	1,329	4,700	4,370	3.7%	1,594
East Freeborn (324/260-81)	10,320	16,260	18.3%	2,102	11,100	11,100	11.6%	6,445
First (2771/1927-494)	45,750	39,695	5.5%	33,546	34,855	31,855	4.3%	22,585
Grace (2664-1985-431)	31,200	30,515	6.0%	8,883	35,000	34,335	5.7%	5,164
Salem (597/413-220)	6,862	7,684	3.4%	2,920	8,153	9,122	5.1%	9,006
Trinity (1145/919-201)	23,620	22,398	8.3%	4,528	21,600	19,500	7.1%	7,745
Alden:								
Mansfield (282/204-85)	9,325	9,593	11.4%	3,652	10,000	9,795	12.1%	3,032
Redeemer (608/491-145)	10,704	11,090	7.6%	2,971	13,519	11,399	8.0%	4,136
Amboy:								
Jackson Lake (156/127-37)	2,600	2,640	5.9%	50	2,640	2,640	4.5%	119
Austin:								
Trondhjem (64/56-N/A)	2,600	2,167	7.9%	1,220	2,600	2,167	8.3%	908
Blue Earth:								
East Chain (161/138-52)	1,600	0	0%	75	1,600	0	0%	191
Trinity (1526/1191-280)	18,000	31,295	8.2%	9,345	34,445	33,190	7.4%	12,338
Bricelyn:								
Bricelyn (453/352-72)	1,500	1,500	1.7%	3,889	1,600	1,600	1.7%	4,033
N. Blue Earth (139/116-43)	2,500	2,700	5.2%	1,031	2,500	2,610	5.1%	1,081
S. Blue Earth (95/83-39)	1,500	1,500	4.6%	785	1,500	1,500	4.4%	885
Conger:								
St. Paul (119/105-23)	1,500	1,700	7.5%	1,212	1,500	1,500	6.9%	2,477
Delavan:								
Faith (87/79-35)	1,500	1,500	3.5%	959	1,500	1,500	3.1%	916
Elmore:								
Shiloh (215/182-60)	4,700	4,668	9.0%	5,402	4,000	5,341	9.0%	13,299
Emmons:								
Emmons (596/492-144)	7,000	6,435	5.6%	2,285	7,000	6,435	5.5%	1,500
Fairmont:								
Grace (2438/2037-556)	37,500	37,500	6.7%	10,385	39,375	39,375	7.0%	13,880
Frost:								
Bethany (79/72-35)	3,300	3,300	7.6%	2,510	3,300	3,300	7.5%	2,140
United (309/266-47)	2,380	2,900	4.6%	23,662	2,350	1,930	3.1%	22,774
Geneva:								
Community (371/302-72)	500	1,500	1.7%	2,302	1,500	500	.7%	5,251
Glenville:								
Deer Creek Valley (148/122-55)	3,700	4,203	9.0%	1,389	4,100	3,666	7.8%	701
First(744/453-175)	5,250	3,000	2.4%	3,000	3,000	3,000	2.7%	2,962
Round Prairie (243/214-69)	4,000	5,042	7.7%	5,075	4,200	4,349	7.5%	9,507
Hartland:								
Cross of Glory (397/294-72)	4,500	4,875	5.2%	1,424	4,500	4,500	4.9%	1,493
West Freeborn (274/227-55)	2,700	2,700	4.3%	762	2,700	2,761	4.5%	1,383
Hayward:								
Hayward (27/234-67)	7,400	7,400	6.2%	2,531	7,400	7,400	6.8%	3,957
Kiester:								
Our Savior's (532/404-120)	5,000	3,400	2.6%	1,959	3,400	3,400	2.5%	6,793
Trinity (162/132-29)	3,670	4,120	6.8%	3,000	4,000	4,125	7.4%	3,500
Myrtle:								
Bethlehem (292/223-79)	6,700	224	.4%	0	500	1,214	1.8%	0



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Oakland:								
Moscow (102/80-29)	400	400	1.1%	590	400			
Oakland (347-293-68)	2,750	3,850	5.4%	10,940	2,750	2,760	3.6%	14,126
Scarville, Iowa:								
Bethel (152/117-30)	0	0	0%	400	100	0	0%	200
Twin Lakes:								
Lunder (174/145-39)	1,500	2,179	5.1%	211	1,750	1,719	4.1%	993
Walters:								
United (280/236-91)	5,400	5,209	7.6%	1,747	6,000	5,425	4.6%	1,678
Wells:								
Good Shepherd (1122/832-250)	20,659	22,286	7.6%	26,260	24,000	22,637	7.6%	26,542
Cannon River Conference								
Cannon Falls:								
First English (1001/795-205)	21,000	21,887	7.7%	1,635	21,608	21,000	9.8%	495
St. Ansgar's (1232/1055-236)	26,400	26,400	7.55	9,060	27,000	21,335	6.4%	1,290
Spring Garden (651/437-120)	15,657	16,027	9.9%	5,060	17,747	16,809	9.1%	4,205
Urland (394/266-125)	5,000	3,885	1.7%	1,077	5,000	4,095	3.1%	3,111
Wangen Prairie (71/40-35)	4,400	4,117	11.5%	1,576	4,000	4,345	13.5%	420
Dennison:								
Dennison (159/126-30)	2,400	3,435	8.0%	195	1,200	1,338	3.1%	0
Vang (369/261-75)	9,600	9,600	11.7%	0	9,600	9,600	15.3%	0
Faribault:								
Christ (511/390-169)	5,350	4,707	3.0%	6,024	4,800	4,861	3.1%	2,539
First English (2106/1468-480)	24,000	25,427	5.5%	3,460	19,865	19,076	4.0%	1,821
Our Savior's (2128/1465-520)	6,880	6,876	6.0%	15,579	7,500	7,500	1.2%	33,775
Goodhue:								
Minneola (290/202-60)	4,500	3,504	5.1%	1,030	3,500	3,212	3.7%	2,692
St. Luke's (474/362-120)	12,000	12,000	11.1%	4,854	10,500	10,500	8.3%	6,961
Kenyon:								
Dale (248/182-56)	2,400	2,400	4.4%	908	2,400	2,400	3.8%	4,610
First Evangelical (833/603-141)	15,000	16,586	8.0%	13,880	14,500	14,729	6.9%	17,175
Gol (146/122-40)	1,500	1,375	2.4%	1,455	1,550	1,380	2.3%	1,473
Hege (171/139-33)	1,300	650	1.7%	483	650	153	.3%	6,320
Holden (539/443-119)	13,390	11,593	10.8%	82,389	13,390	9,824	7.4%	2,726
Moland (230/189-43)	300	124	.2%	4383	300	193	.4%	0
Lake City:								
First (879/712-260)	21,415	24,855	5.8%	3,942	3,000	10,483	2.0%	4,046
Lonsdale:								
Trondhjem (500/335-143)	6,500	5,958	3.7%	21,041	7,700	7,200	3.1%	1,680
Nerstrand:								
Grace (168/111-65)	3,200	3,200	5.7%	2,761	4,600	3,400	6.5%	3,972
Northfield:								
Bethel (1061/773-466)	20,000	18,326	2.7%	20,574	21,000	21,000	3.0%	20,577
Rejoice! (191/0-175)	0	1,000	.3%	0	1,200	1,200	.30%	0
St. John's (1997/1514-474)	80,000	82,621	11.4%	39,228	43,987	44,232	4.5%	58,748
St. Olaf Student Cong. (10/10-NA)	0	0	0%	1,589	0	0	0%	1,270
St. Peter's (1455/944-425)	26,000	26,000	5.4%	29,661	26,000	26,000	5.6%	17,228
Pine Island:								
St. Paul's (1400/901-390)	19,000	19,000	4.8%	12,351	20,000	20,000	5.2%	10,279
Red Wing:								
First (1150/859-336)	21,000	25,000	5.0%	10,494	27,500	27,500	6.6%	7,000
St. Paul (1197/778-264)	15,000	15,000	4.7%	8,981	18,000	6,796	4.3%	6,796
United (2508/2029-524)	40,000	43,356	5.3%	24,812	41,200	43,670	6.0	27,523
Wabasha:								
Faith (644/497-175)	13,800	13,800	5.5%	11,769	14,000	14,000	6.7%	11,387



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	<i>Intent</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>Intent</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>\$</i>	
Wanamingo:									
Trinity (581/474-150)	10,000	14,000	9.4%	5,554	12,000	12,000	8.0%	5,435	
Wanamingo (245/183-47)	2,000	2,000	3.5%	10	2,000	2,000	5.8%	886	
Webster:									
Solor (164/112-50)	2,200	2,200	4.8%	0	2,200	2,300	5.8%	360	
Welch:									
Cannon River (103/72-40)	800	800	1.4%	300	800	800	1.8%	947	
Cross of Christ (324/246/19)	10,708	9,889	7.4%	4,495	11,296	11,304	8.5%	3,882	
Vasa (563/408-164)	10,300	10,300	7.0%	4,982	10,300	10,300	6.4%	7,995	
West Concord:									
Trinity (3198/161-76)	9,457	9,119	9.5%	5,219	9,819	9,577	8.9%	5,749	
Zumbrota:									
Lands (860/605-223)	16,000	16,823	9.0%	4,431	18,640	16,328	8.8%	3,650	
Stordahl (217/179-43)	3,000	500	1.1%	0	1,000	1,000	2.2%	293	
United Redeemer (1197/971-270)	13,000	13,000	4.2%	14,393	14,000	14,000	4.5%	6,267	
Minnesota River Conference									
Blooming Prairie:									
Trinity: (69/61-31)	650	650	3.0%	195	650	625	3.4%	40	
Cleveland:									
Our Savior's (486/365-104)	11,015	12,098	6.5%	1,309	11,814	11,113	10.0%	1,368	
Eagle Lake:									
Epiphany (646/467-171)	1,100	1,143	.8%	0	1,175	1,200	.8%	815	
Ellendale:									
First (725/525-124)	1,000	1,000	1.0%	5,175	1,000	1,000	.7%	6,100	
Pontoppidan (210/170-60)	4,000	2,850	5.9%	100	2,000	3,150	5.1%	1,615	
Good Thunder:									
Redeemer (188/146-42)	4,500	4,514	7.1%	93	4,500	3,704	5.5%	214	
Hope:									
First (123/98-27)	300	300	1.2%	20	300	300	1.1%	390	
Janesville:									
Faith (165/113-49)	2,400	2,400	3.0%	320	2,400	2,400	4.7%	0	
Lake Crystal:									
Zion (865/620-219)	15,600	9,079	5.6%	9,097	14,400	24,057	13.0%	1,550	
LeCenter:									
St. Paul's (791/611-152)	3,300	3,300	2.1%	2,248	3,300	3,000	1.9%	3,907	
Lemond:									
Zion (178/131-38)	3,000	2,138	6.7%	3,156	3,000	2,236	6.1%	970	
LeSueur:									
First (684/542-189)	32,000	36,051	14.5%	9,403	24,000	24,000	9.4%	5,000	
Mankato:									
Bethlehem (1440/1215-290)	22,000	22,000	4.3%	32,406	20,000	20,000	3.5%	24,572	
Christ the King (2601/1828-600)	29,475	36,334	4.0%	20,310	31,437	38,226	4.1%	22,161	
Grace (902/812-196)	9,600	9,640	3.1%	16,421	15,500	15,000	4.5%	14,293	
Mapleton:									
Medo (161/108-52)	1,765	1,765	4.4%	97	1,925	1,000	21%	554	
St. John's (846/668-230)	26,000	26,000	13.1%	12,192	26,000	26,000	14.1%	11,290	
Meriden:									
St. Paul's (435/331-135)	8,000	11,339	9.0%	2,000	12,500	11,000	9.0%	2,698	
Montgomery:									
St. John's (930/649-195)	1,200	1,200	.9%	0	1,200	1,200	.9%	0	
New Richland:									
LeSueur (332/246-95)	10,000	10,000	12.9%	2,743	10,000	10,000	11.4%	1,750	
St. Peter's (446/371-83)	6,000	6,482	9.0%	2,281	6,000	6,383	7.0%	3,568	
Trinity (515/394-125)	2,185	2,210	2.0%	6,147	2,500	2,210	1.8%	4,385	
Vista (64/46-25)	5,500	7,347	20.2%	4,879	5,500	8,139	20.5%	4,351	
North Mankato:									
Messiah (1233/926-366)	25,200	23,100	5.2%	12,763	25,300	25,300	5.6%	11,416	
Otisco:									
St. Peter's (174/144-44)	2,000	1,791	6.8%	122	2,000	2,235	8.1%	940	



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Owatonna:								
Aurora (404/268-56)	3,000	4,000	6.3%	768	3,000	0	0%	25,500
Our Savior's (892/679-276)	11,000	11,000	3.4%	1,656	12,000	12,426	3.7%	2,102
St. John (1476/1155-352)	2,600	5,010	1.2%	3,205	6,000	7,303	1.6%	3,581
Trinity (4132/3088-871)	75,000	75,000	6.1%	26,500	75,000	75,000	5.5%	30,426
Rapidan:								
Calvary (311/244-89)	1,350	1,111	1.5%	1,479	1,000	1,051	1.4%	1,513
Waseca:								
Grace (1682/996-405)	17,970	17,970	4.3%	37,571	18,868	18,868	4.3%	21,262
North Waseca (235/194-925)	9,300	9,300	14.2%	1,168	9,300	9,300	15.5%	550
St. John American (1139/878-240)	22,500	14,487	5.2%	12,554	22,500	21,000	6.3%	5,383
Waterville:								
St. Paul's (288/233-N/A)	5,020	5,000	5.1%	8,425	5,000	5,000	6.0%	4,490
Root River Conference								
Canton:								
Henrytown (198/151-45)	2,640	2,600	10.7%	32	2,600	2,600	14.4%	0
Chatfield:								
Chatfield (1118/681-300)	20,946	21,428	7.1%	0	14,970	14,970	5.7%	10,410
Pilot Mound (140/106-24)	1,200	1,200	4.3%	0	1,000	1,000	4.4%	0
Chester, Iowa:								
Saetersdal ()	2,100	1,762	4.8%	500	1,800			
Fountain:								
Fountain (231/198-55)	4,000	4,000	8.0%	300	4,000	4,000	6.9%	800
Root Prairie (171/143-50)	4,600	4,600	7.4%	945	4,600	4,600	7.3%	360
Granger:								
St. Matthew's (134/94-43)	3,600	3,218	8.0%	800	3,200	3,200	5.8%	2,346
Harmony:								
Greenfield (821/633-135)	4500	5,000	2.7%	1,800	5,500	550	3.1%	2,535
St. Paul (85/66-14)	400	400	1.8%	0	420	440	2.2%	723
Houston:								
Cedar Valley (183/133-61)	1,080	1,080	2.4%	687	1,080	1,080	2.4%	185
Cross of Christ (684/584-179)	18,424	15,711	6.7%	10,511	18,424	15,687	5.9%	10,687
Looney Valley (201/141-62)	3,000	3,150	6.2%	983	3,150	3,150	5.9%	1,505
Lanesboro:								
Bethlehem (570/455-125)	6,435	8,225	7.5%	1,365	7,000	8,133	7.0%	1,674
North Prairie(263/216-56)	6,000	6,015	11.2%	0	6,000	5,680	10.0%	0
Union Prairie(187/153-39)	1,900	0	0%	500	1,200	1,100	2.3%	680
Lewiston:								
St. Paul ELCA/UCC (177/131-87)	2,000	4,500	3.2%	950	4,500	4,500	3.7%	105
Mabel:								
Garness Trinity (113/101-26)	600	600	2.4%	667	500	500	1.9%	567
Mabel First (529/428-114)	10,800	9,978	8.9%	2,020	10,800	13,835	13.2%	2,524
Scheic (296/243-63)	900	900	1.9%	1,225	950	950	1.9%	2,379
Peterson:								
Arendahl (58/50-39)	1,400	1,709	4.7%	250	1,500	1,090	2.6%	314
Elstad (228/185-65)	8,500	8,500	13.9%	2,532	8,750	8,750	13.8%	3,416
Grace (232/193-56)	2,300	2,134	3.8%	0	2,000	2,450	2.9%	0
Highland Prairie (520/392-108)	6,350	5,459	7.9%	1,342	6,000	5,958	9.0%	1,538
Preston:								
Christ (1042/833-163)	12,000	12,000	5.9%	13,250	12,000	12,000	4.7%	14,460
Rushford:								
Rushford Evangelical (1015/788-171)	18,500	16,132	5.5%	3,281	19,500	14,220	5.3%	5,157
St. Charles:								
Faith (595/461-185)	12,500	12,500	6.1%	3,825	12,500	12,500	6.2%	2,427





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Spring Grove: Trinity (1201/796-254)	13,500	15,785	5.4%	8,748	14,660	15,047	5.3%	11,624
Spring Valley: Our Savior's (1031/778-265)	27,000	25,530	8.4%	18,667	27,000	28,160	10.3%	16,512
Whalen: First of Highland (139/133-25)	2,275	2,365	5.8%	571	2,300	2,300	6.9%	300
Whalan (131/119-40)	2,089	2,320	5.6%	527	2,400	1,253	3.2%	0
Winona: Central (3248/2363-430)	52,509	46,551	6.8%	5,795	46,500	48,112	6.7%	22,392
Faith (757/531-N/A)	6,000	6,000	3.3%	2,077	4,000	5,000	3.0%	3,597
Wykoff: Immanuel (233/197-42)	2,680	2,580	4.7%	100	2,580	2,580	4.7%	137
Zumbro River Conference								
Adams: Little Cedar (656/466-125)	15,444	15,444	9.6%	11,250	15,444	16,000	9.9%	12,500
Marshall (187/143-60)	3,500	3,500	7.9%	5,500	3,500	3,500	7.2%	2,000
Austin: Grace (628/487-N/A)	4,500	12,629	6.7%	7,871	15,350	10,828	6.1%	5,699
Our Savior's (2509/1866-476)	89,750	62,477	10.0%	18,700	70,405	70,405	10.2%	22,026
Red Oak Grove (555/411-89)	2,000	4,500	6.8%	2,065	2,000	0	0%	4,110
St. Olaf (3088/2337-692)	44,000	45,734	6.2%	9,604	45,000	45,676	6.2%	17,109
Blooming Prairie: First (1195/991-307)	7,828	6,446	2.1%	7,118	6,430	6,024	2.0%	17,509
Byron: Christ (1352/993-321)	14,400	16,395	4.8%	4,094	20,000	18,190	5.2%	2,909
East St. Olaf (270/246-65)	3,000	3,000	2.9%	736	3,000	3,000	3.8%	1,001
West St. Olaf (320/282-88)	7,000	7,000	7.9%	5,622	7,000	7,000	7.1%	4,491
Dodge Center: Faith (630/402-217)	13,900	12,500	8.2%	1,268	14,000	13,600	7.4%	3,860
Elkton: St. John's (224/175-61)	2100	1,059	1.7%	2,358	1,100	1,065	1.6%	2,154
Eyota: Peace (229/142-90)	10,200	6,800	9.6%	0	8,700	8,700	9.8%	0
Grand Meadow: Bear Creek(412/335-90)	3,000	3,000	4.5%	0	3,000	3,000	3.6%	600
Grand Meadow (543/444-N/A)	2,600	2,450	3.2	0	2,700	2,600	3.0%	0
Hayfield: Trinity (859/655-220)	22,344	29,761	12.2%	5,902	23,013	23,962	9.9%	9,167
Kasson: St. John's (3120/1670-501)	31,308	21,411	4.1%	7,998	21,753	21,753	3.8%	13,582
South Zumbro (672/433-154)	1,000	1,155	1.0%	5696	2,040	1,020	.6%	4,522
LeRoy: LeRoy (332/265-96)	9,721	7,682	6.1%	5,102	9,000	8062	5.2%	7,852
Lyle: Mona (98/66-26)	1,000	1,000	6.3%	26	1,000	1,000	6.7%	192
Our Savior's (451/295-140)	6,000	6,000	4.9%	1,354	6,000	6,000	5.6%	2,261
Six Mile Grove (177/148-N/A)	2,100	1,925	4.5%	3,620	2,100	2,100	5.8%	3,746
Ostrander: Trinity (375/298-73)	6,500	7,514	6.3%	4,985	6,500	8,440	7.9%	5,293
Plainview: Good Shepherd (517/131-87)	6,000	6,000	3.4%	741	6,600	6,600	3.4%	1,891
Rochester: Bethel (4136/3291-929)	52,250	80,012	4.6%	11,849	56,810	56,810	3.7%	15,080
Gloria Dei (3044/2242-790)	61,000	61,000	6.6%	23,677	61,000	61,000	6.7%	20,578



2007 CONGREGATIONAL MISSION SUPPORT AND DESIGNATED GIFTS								
Congregation (Baptized/ Confirmed- Average Worship Membership)	ELCA 2006 Mission Support			ELCA 2006 Designated Gifts	ELCA 2007 Mission Support			ELCA 2007 Designated Gifts
	Intent	Actual	%	\$	Intent	Actual	%	\$
Rochester:								
Good Shepherd (1140/800-348)	50,900	42,352	10.4%	33,671	47,500	42,835	8.4%	26,741
Hosanna (817/661-214)	16,200	16,200	4.2%	3,465	16,200	16,200	4.0%	5,788
Mount Olive (968/709-392)	54,615	53,352	8.9%	11,581	54,615	53,618	8.8%	30,299
Our Savior's (685/554-241)	21,000	26,250	6.4%	21,666	27,500	28,200	6.8%	4,000
People of Hope (621/398-271)	20,000	22,104	6.0%	4,350	21,600	24,645	9.1%	11,920
Zumbro (3612/2616-880)	109,000	109,000	8.6%	49,753	109,000	108,899	8.6%	37,058
Surgeant:								
Evanger (416/325-72)	3,150	2,888	2.6%	1,438	3,150	3,050	3.2%	160
Stewartville:								
Zion (2086/1531-382)	43,831	42,668	7.9%	23,638	46,636	40,497	8.1%	9,218
Waltham:								
St. Michel (193/121-40)	3,000	2,644	5.6%	200	2,500	2,644	5.1%	500
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 2,229,096	\$ 2,241,585	-	\$ 1,197,431	\$ 2,195,146	\$ 2,171,450	-	\$ 1,171,672

This report of congregational giving only reflects the Mission Support to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the designated gifts that were given through the synod office. We wish to express our thanks to you for those gifts your share in Christ's name.

We also wish to acknowledge that other ministry that is done by the individuals and congregations through your financial gifts in missionary work, local outreach, special causes and all other generosity done in God's name that is not reflected in our records.

The following Congregations were the first three to file their reports completed :

- 1st: Trondhjem of Austin-Rev. John Malm
 2nd: St. Paul of LeCenter- Rev. David Aaker
 3rd: Our Savior of Faribault- Rev. Steve Delzer & Rev. Joanna Mitchell

These figures were calculated using information received on the 2007 Congregational Report Form.

Mission Support Formula: $\frac{25.d.}{20.a.+20.c.} = \%$ } $\frac{25.d.(Mission\ Support)}{20.a.(Regular\ giving\ by\ members) + 20.c.(Earned\ income,\ unrestricted)}$

Mission Support (regular synod benevolence) is the Undesignated contribution to the Synod for Synodical and Churchwide Mission and Ministry Support.

Thank you to all of you that help your congregations with getting your Congregational Report completed! It is greatly appreciated!

May we continue to
Grow in Faith, Hope, and Love...

Respectively Submitted,
Cheryse Brenno-Sloan
Synod Statistician

Budget Task Force Report - 2008

Task Force Members: Mark Bradley, Shirley Gangstad, Deborah Ann Norrie, John Petersburg, Jeff Setterlund, Harold Usgaard

The task force met four times through the summer and fall of 2007.

The stimulus for the task force rose out of the reality that giving to the synod has not grown, that needs continue to rise, that priorities will have to be identified in making future budget decisions. Synod Constitution 5.01.i "As a steward of the resources that God has provided, this church shall organize itself to make the most effective use of its resources to accomplish its mission."

Discussion included the present practice of budget formation. At present those involved are:

- Bishop - provides for preparation of the budget
- Synod Minister - gathers intents and forecasts
- Executive Assistant - develops template
- Treasurer - presents to synod council and synod assembly
- Synod Council - approves and recommends to synod assembly
- Synod Assembly - approves final budget

There is the realization that future planning will have to take into account the "stakeholders" of the synod - the congregations. Especially if staff needs expand in the synod, the budgeting process will need to include forums around the synod where congregations may be invited into discussions and decision making. This should be considered in 2009.

Encouragement was voiced for an intentional effort involving ELCA mission interpretation in the synod. The story needs to be told of what our giving accomplishes in the greater church.

Encouragement was voiced and shared with ELCA churchwide for the redevelopment of the annual parochial reports, to recognize mission efforts of the congregation outside of synodical giving and ministries.

Encouragement was offered for conversation with the pastors of our synod, and they with their congregations, about the importance of stewardship awareness.

Staffing for congregational renewal, with a special focus in rural areas, was supported.

The primary focus of study involved the criteria that might serve as the synod evaluates partner ministries, and the monies allocated. It was determined that the following receive highest priority:

Ministries which...

- Are an obligation fixed by law, contract, or the Southeastern Minnesota Synod constitution
- Maintain official lists assigned to they synod and preserves essential records of this synod
- Support the strategic plan of the synod
- Enable the synod council and synod assembly to perform their roles in governance.
- Offer management, supervision, training and support for the synod staff.
- Cultivate and provide for communication and mission funding of this church's ministries, including those of the churchwide organization.



Ministries whose purpose is to...

- Offer a distinct and valued contribution to the mission, ministries, and /or theological identity of the church.
- Represent an important contribution of the synod to our interdependent relationship with congregations.
- Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
- Do not have other primary support initiatives.

These priorities are certainly not exhaustive and can be open to interpretation. They also assume a new strategic plan, and do not address the issue of our interdependence with the churchwide expression of the ELCA.

Addendum: The budget is a symbol of the degree of trust and expectations placed in and on the synod organization by the rest of the church. May it be used wisely and faithfully for the doing of God's mission in God's world.



Report of the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Task Force

History

At the 2007 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly resolution 2007-01 was passed, creating a task force to develop a vision and strategy for Children, Youth and Family (CYF) ministry in the synod. The task force was formed in August 2007, consisting of representatives from BLOC Heads (Building Lives on Christ - youth ministry support group), Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE), Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO), Youth Servant Leadership Institute (YSLI - based at Good Earth Village) and Good Earth Village. Task Force members also represent various sized congregations, four of the five conferences, lay leadership and clergy.

Process

The Task Force began with a common understanding of CYF ministry. CYF ministry is more than Sunday school and youth group. It is equipping families of various shapes and sizes (including singles and young adults) and congregations to live out the promises of baptism in all areas of congregational life, in the home and in the community. Being grounded in the scriptures was the next step. The group studied Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 19:13-15, 2 Timothy 1:3-7, Ephesians 3:14-19 and Romans 12:2. Then the task force turned to current research (Exemplary Youth Ministry Study and National Study of Youth and Religion) to discover the current state of youth ministry in the United States.

After reflection and study, the task force explored what was happening in the congregations of the synod and held a Summit in October to gather information. Recognizing that CYF ministry is not isolated from other ministries of the church, representatives of various groups were invited.

Representatives from the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, the Synod Council, Conference Deans, Lutheran Campus Ministry and individuals who expressed interest in the work of the task force were invited to attend. Those attending the Summit were engaged in Bible Study and current research before discussing the following questions: 1) How are you currently supporting CYF ministry? In what ways does your congregation foster mature Christian youth? 2) How would you like to develop or expand CYF ministry in your congregation or ministry setting? 3) How do you see the congregations of the synod working together in CYF ministry? How could the faith assets identified by the Exemplar Youth Ministry Study be developed in the local congregation and at the synod-wide level? 5) What do you think CYF ministry throughout the synod will look like in five years? In ten years?

Discoveries

The Task Force discovered the congregations represented at the Summit are actively participating and creating opportunities for CYF Ministry. Congregations, large and small, each have their own unique way of providing these opportunities. Of the congregations represented, it was discovered that CYF ministry is strong within the synod. Programmatically, congregations are active but are still searching for ways to reach more people. The task force also discovered congregations looking for ways to connect with others for support, training and shared programs. There is strong support for congregational paid staff (through BLOC Heads and LACE), but there is a need to create ways for volunteers to connect. It was also discovered that congregations are looking for ways to provide training. One possibility is the identification of teaching congregations to help other congregations develop and strengthen CYF ministry. Another discovery is that we have opportunities for developing student leaders in congregations and at the synod level through LYO and YSLI.

Members of the CYF Task Force attended the Conference Assemblies in February. Information and preliminary recommendations were presented and additional data of congregational activities was gathered.



Future

After discussion and reflection the task force presents the following vision for CYF Ministry in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, strategies for implementation and recommendations to the 2008 Synod Assembly:

Vision for Children Youth and Family (CYF) Ministry in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod: Equip people of God to live out faith in home, congregation, community and the world.

Strategies:

1. Educate
 - Identify teaching parishes
 - Training for Christian leaders both paid and volunteers
 - Theological conference addressing CYF issues
 - Continuing education opportunities
2. Connecting through relationships
 - Utilize existing organizations:
 - Good Earth Village
 - Youth Servant Leadership Institute (YSLI)
 - Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO)
 - Synod Youth Leaders Building Lives On Christ (BLOC Heads)
 - Synod Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE)
 - Lutheran Men in Mission
 - Women of the ELCA
 - Mentoring congregations
 - Utilize conferences
 - Recognize and respond to CYF volunteers

Implications:

1. Synod-wide
 - Creation of a synod advisory team
 - Creation of a synod staff position
 - CYF ministry seen as a key mission of the synod
2. Local congregations
 - Assistance for congregations in the development of leadership of both youth and adults
 - Equipment of families and congregations to live out their baptismal promises
 - Provision of tools to help congregations identify and respond to their CYF ministry strengths and needs.
 - Provision of resources to strengthen and grow CYF ministries
 - Increase of involvement in people of all ages in congregations
 - Growth in financial commitment for both congregational and synod ministries to support both programs and people.

Recommendations:

1. Create a synod staff position
2. Synod task force becomes an advisory board for a two or three year period.
3. Budget funding for the synod staff position



Resolutions 2008-02 and 2008-03 were submitted after the resolution deadline. They will be treated as specified by the synod's constitution, which says the following regarding late resolutions:

S7.34.C05 The Synod Assembly may allow an exception to the submission deadline of S7.34.B05 [resolution deadline] provided...the Synod Assembly, by motion passed by majority vote, specifically orders that such late resolution be placed on the Synod Assembly agenda.

Resolution 2008-02: Advocating for Peace

1 WHEREAS, Jesus said, "I give you a
2 new commandment, that you love
3 one another. Just as I have loved
4 you, you also should love one
5 another" (John 13:34) and
6 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for
7 they will be called children of
8 God" (Matthew 5:9); and

9 WHEREAS, Jesus said "Love your
10 enemies, do good to those who
11 hate you." (Luke 6:27); and

12 WHEREAS, the Christian Church is to
13 use its prophetic voice to work for
14 justice and peace following the
15 examples of Jesus and his servants
16 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther
17 King, Jr., Oscar Romero, and
18 many others known only to God;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, war, violence, and hatred
21 continue in Iraq, Afghanistan,
22 Kenya, Darfur, between Israel and
23 Palestine, and other nations in the
24 world;

25 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
26 that the 2008 Southeastern
27 Minnesota Synod Assembly pray
28 for peace and encourage
29 congregations to do the same; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
31 the synod and congregations pray
32 for and support those serving in
33 the military and their families; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
35 individuals contact their United
36 States Representatives and
37 Senators to encourage them to
38 work for legislation that
39 encourages justice and peace in
40 our nation and world; and

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
42 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
43 Executive Committee consider a
44 peace and justice theme for the
45 2009 Synod Assembly. This
46 theme would include workshops
47 and strategies on how to discuss
48 such issues in a polarized church
49 and nation.

*Submitted by Pastor Nancy Solomonson,
Pastor David Rossow, and the
undersigned voting members of the 2008
Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly:*

*Glenn J. Monson, Rev. Jason
Bryan-Wagner, Rev. Gary Dreier,
Rev. Ann Siverling, Rev. Lissa Kahl,
Rev. Clark Cary, Rev. Norman W. Wahl,
Rev. David A. Berg, Todd Portinga,
Rev. Justin Boeding, Rev. Paul Hauschild,
Rev. Susan Wallager, Rev. Fred Rengsdorf,
Rev. Peter Rueuss, Rev. Pam
Aandahl-Solberg, Rev. Kristi Koppel,
Rev. Carol A. Solovitz, Rev. Lester
Horntvedt, Rev. Kathi Nycklemoe,
Rev. Gary Benson, Rev. John B. Heille,
Rev. Karen Behling, Rev. Dan Kahl,
Rev. SiriAnna Strommen Campbell,
Rev. Peter Nycklemoe, Rev. Bradley R.
Lindberg, Rev. Marie A. K. Anderson,
Rev. John Friedli, Rev. Tom Kolden,
Merlin Christenson*



Resolution 2008-03: Health Insurance Cost

- 1 WHEREAS, health insurance costs
 2 have continued to escalate faster
 3 than most other costs to
 4 congregations; and
- 5 WHEREAS, ELCA congregations are
 6 tied to the ELCA Board of
 7 Pensions' product offering, with
 8 few exceptions; and
- 9 WHEREAS, cost of that insurance
 10 coverage is often \$5,000 to \$9,000
 11 greater than similar coverage often
 12 available to congregations via the
 13 few exceptions allowed; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the Board of Pensions'
 15 current system of health insurance
 16 is really a prepaid medical expense
 17 system, without any incentive for
 18 the insured to do a cost/benefit
 19 analysis; and
- 20 WHEREAS, individuals have access
 21 to health insurance products that
 22 provide the insured with additional
 23 methods to save for their future;
 24 and
- 25 WHEREAS, the Board of Pensions
 26 uses insurance premiums as a
 27 means to assist congregations that
 28 might need assistance by
 29 classifying congregations and
 30 having larger congregations pay a
 31 higher premium to reduce the cost
 32 of health insurance for smaller
 33 congregations; and
- 34 WHEREAS, the ELCA Church
 35 Council and synods have an
 36 obligation to assist congregations
 37 that have a financial need;
- 38 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
 39 that the ELCA Church Council
 40 request that the Board of Pensions
 41 revise their product mix,
 42 decoupling the pension
 43 participation from the health
 44 insurance coverage and add a
 45 health savings account product,
 46 becoming more competitive with
 47 other health insurance packages
 48 offered; and
- 49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
 50 the Church Council develop a
 51 means to assist congregations that
 52 have financial needs, and fund that
 53 program by some method other
 54 than a health insurance premium
 55 cost structure based solely upon
 56 the size of congregations; and
- 57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
 58 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 59 communicate with all other ELCA
 60 synods to get their input and ask
 61 for their support on this issue; and
- 62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
 63 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 64 Assembly direct the Southeastern
 65 Minnesota Synod Council to
 66 forward this resolution to the
 67 Church Council for consideration
 68 and possible action.
- 69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
 70 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 71 communicate with all other ELCA
 72 synods to get their input and ask
 73 for their support on this issue; and

*Passed and submitted by St. Ansgar's
 Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls*

*The Committee on Reference and Counsel
 recommends this resolution be referred
 back to the authors and that they work
 with the Synod Executive Committee to
 clarify issues.*

- Rev. Mark Boorsma, Chair

