



THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR
CONGREGATIONS OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA

CONNECTING THE
CONGREGATIONAL, SYNODICAL, AND
CHURCHWIDE EXPRESSIONS OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA.



WHY THE SYNOD? - PART 3: SYNOD TEAMS & PROGRAMS

What do you know about the Southeastern Minnesota Synod? Do you know what it does or what the money your congregation designates for it is used for? This issue is the third in a series designed to help answer those questions for you.

What does this include?

Part of your congregation's offering goes to the synod. From the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, approximately 3% goes to support various synod teams and programs. This includes new mission starts, the synod council and leadership teams, Lay School of Theology, Candidacy Committee (responsible for the process of approving candidates for seminary), conference deans, and synod communications (which includes this very publication!).

Lay School of Theology

One of the synod programs, the Lay School of Theology, has recently undergone a few changes to better serve the lay population of the synod. The Lay School program offers several courses throughout the year targeted at lay (non-ordained) adults who have a desire to grow in their personal faith and in their knowledge and understanding of scripture.

The program offers courses in the Old and New Testaments, Lutheran doctrine and theology (confessions and catechism), church history, skills for ministry, spirituality and faith development, and the church and the world.

Participants have shared that the experience of attending one class or many classes has fulfilled the need for more in-depth Bible study. The program has also helped them grow in faith and better serve their congregations.

Visit the synod website to find out more information about the Lay School of Theology and view the upcoming courses.

What Does This Mean?

The "Teams and Programs" category is one part of the synod's ministry that is directly executed by people within the synod. It reaches a wide variety of people from the unchurched in the area of a new mission start to life-long pastors. If you have not been involved with programs like the Lay School or as a volunteer for the other teams and programs, consider this the invitation to be personally involved in the ministries your financial offerings already support.

FEATURED RESOURCES

Visit these web sites to learn more.

- Lay School of Theology - www.semnsynod.org/events/lay_school.html
- Southeastern Minnesota Synod - www.semnsynod.org

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

We are a synod joined in Bible study. This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.



"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord..."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-5

ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 130,000 baptized people in 184 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

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