

FUNDING OUR MISSION SUMMARY

A budget is more than just a balanced checkbook; it's a statement of values.

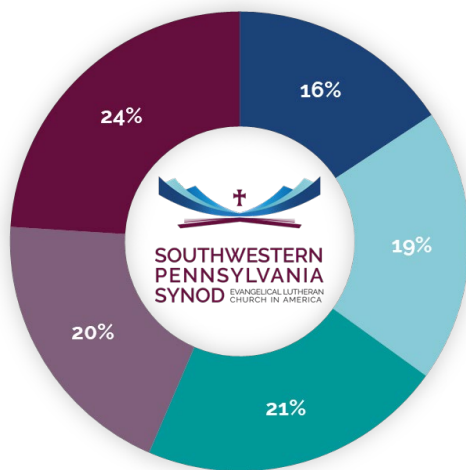
The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod strives to allocate its fiscal & human resources in ways that serve our mission prioritizing faith, discipleship & centering in Christ. The Synod's \$1,544,972 annual budget begins with sharing a percentage of Mission Support received with our Churchwide expression. The remainder serves leaders & congregations in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

\$370,650

COLLABORATION & VITALITY

"Several members of my congregations had the opportunity to participate in the Congregational Vitality training offered by the ELCA and were inspired to create a Vital Congregations Taskforce. The training has invited us to listen and reflect, ask questions and think creatively about how to be more present in the community."

— *Pastor Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes*
Holy Trinity, Beaver and Hope, Brighton Township



MISSION:

To serve, connect, and equip ELCA congregations in southwestern Pennsylvania to tell the story of Jesus.

\$243,030

CONSTITUTION & CALL

"Our church has had its share of ups and downs. With the determination of our members and our synod, our interim pastor and an assistant to the bishop were able to bring us out of our sad times into looking to call a new pastor. Our congregation is now growing with our new exciting pastor and a message of inclusion and growth."

— *Judy Weber*
Perry Highway Lutheran Church

\$296,851

LEADERSHIP FORMATION

"As a lay worship Leader and life-long learner, I am continually looking for educational opportunities. Bishop Kusserow recently invited lay worship leaders to take part in a two-part class, alongside the clergy of our synod, in which we studied *Preaching and Teaching "With Love and Respect for the Jewish People."* I gained valuable insight and practical ideas for preaching and teaching the two congregations I currently serve."

— *P. J. Carte, Lay Worship Leader*
St John, Connellsville

\$202,405

MISSION & SERVICE

"The Authentic Diversity and Justice team is a synod working group focused on building 'authentic' inclusion and diversity in our congregations and fighting all forms of oppression in our organization and in our region. The Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration is organized annually as a means of creating greater opportunities for individual and congregational engagement in this ongoing work."

— *Rev. Dr. Martin Rafanan*
Authentic Diversity & Justice Working Group

\$302,035 **ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATION**

"When I got on the call with the staff of this synod, this group of thoughtful folks spent an hour reflecting deeply with me. They very caringly laid out what they thought would be useful and why, in their deliberations, they thought I would be the person to lead it. The meeting was not perfunctory; it was mindful and intentional. And it made my experience of working with the ministerium all the more robust as a result."

— *Michelle Snyder*
Center for Healthy Churches

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Collaboration & Vitality

We're better together; it's the very definition of "synod": on the journey together. When creative energy & collaboration meet ministry, the results are vibrant Christian communities.

- Congregational ministry support for stewardship, evangelism, missional leadership, discipleship, & faith formation
- Guidance for new parish & collaborative models
- Support for new & renewing ministries
- Ecumenical Affairs Committee & ecumenical/interfaith partnerships
- Care & Leadership of Congregations Committee

Constitution & Call

Whether in the joy of welcoming a new candidate to the ministry, uncertainty of pastoral transitions, or trauma of congregational crises, the Synod supports members during the biggest changes & needs.

- Prepare & approve candidates for ministry
- Support rostered ministers & congregations throughout the call process
- Train & place interim calls
- Provide pulpit supply to congregations
- Synod council & conferences expenses
- Support/counseling fund
- Guide congregations during conflict & uncertainty
- Adjudicate ethical & constitutional offenses

Leadership Formation

Healthy & growing leaders are needed for healthy & growing congregations, which is why the Synod is constantly offering training & formative experiences for rostered and lay leaders.

- The Resource Ministry
- First-call theological education
- Care & Leadership of All Generations Committee
- Care & Leadership of Rostered Ministers Committee, & continuing education
- Mentorship during times of discernment
- Train lay worship leaders
- Leadership support, lay education
- Thiel College & United Lutheran Seminary
- Student grants

Mission & Service

Because Christ dwells in us, we are sent into the world to be his hands & feet. The Synod commissions & supports ministries in our local congregations & throughout the world.

- Camping ministry at Lutherlyn & Camp Agape
- Youth ministry & campus ministry
- Social ministry partners: Lutheran SeniorLife, Glade Run, Bethesda Lutheran Services, Lutheran Service Society
- Advocacy through LAMPa
- Outreach, Stewardship, Church in Society, & Church Throughout the World Committees
- Support missionaries & companion synod
- Provide relief with disaster response
- Address the root causes of hunger & poverty

Organization & Administration

The Synod provides additional infrastructure, resources, & coordination for Lutherans throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. More ministry & service is possible because of our shared work.

- Congregational support for reporting, governance, & administrative best practices
- Synod-wide communications
- Coordination of Synod Assembly
- Administrative support, financial management, data/history keeping, legal support
- Churchwide participation & connections