

MISSION SUPPORT CHALLENGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is no surprise that Jesus spoke so frequently about money. Wealth and resources are a critical means of expressing faith and priorities. Stewardship strengthens your relationship with Jesus through the resources God entrusted into your management. The annual fall mission support conversations prayerfully look at the allocation of resources to strengthen our faith and Church. Jesus calls us into a future filled with missionary opportunities. God beckons for us to walk with courage and commitment for the sake of the Gospel and the world. This is an exciting time to be Christ's Church in mission!

I write to you today as I do every year concerning your financial commitment to strengthen our work through this Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The enclosed congregational resource folder includes information specific to your congregation. This folder, when supplemented by materials posted at www.njsynod.org the New Jersey Synod web site, provide you with ample resources to strengthen your stewardship ministry and expand your partnership in the call to follow Jesus for the sake of the world.

The Bishop's Mission Support Challenge Goal for your congregation is included in this packet. Calculation sheets, intent forms, graphs and charts are also included to help you interpret these goals and vision for our future work. I invite each congregation to support the continuance of ministries beyond your congregation by 0.5% of your total income, moving toward and beyond the 10-10-80 challenge. This challenge is based on two basic principles of stewardship ministry: first fruits and proportionate giving.

I hope that you find these materials useful in your congregation mission support discussions.

With thanks to you and to our gracious God for our partnership in Christ,

Rev. Scott C. Schantzenbach.

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