

August 26, 2019

**To: District Pastors and Congregational Chairmen**

**Subject: 2020 District and Synod Mission Intention  
2020 Together In Mission Intention**

***Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Isaiah 40:9***

Dear Christian Friends,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The South Dakota District has chosen as its theme and focus for the current triennium (2018-2021) "Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!" based on Isaiah 40:9 quoted above. In Isaiah 40:9 God directs His messenger to get up on a high mountain, so that all people can see him, to lift up his voice with strength, so that all people can hear him, and to not be afraid as he declares the good news that God has come to save and rescue His people from sin and death. The congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in The South Dakota District boldly proclaim God's salvation in and through Jesus Christ to their communities through Word and Sacrament ministry and through works of mercy and service.

The South Dakota District values the partnership it has with congregations as we work together to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in South Dakota and around the world through various missions and ministries. We thank God that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, your congregation has been committed to partnering with The South Dakota District and supporting, through your prayers and mission commitments, the mission and ministry of The South Dakota District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As the result of the generosity of the congregations in our District and through the intentional stewardship of the offerings the District has received from congregations, the District will end the 2019 fiscal year in a stable financial position.

An example of our District congregations working together to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world is our Together In Mission partnership. Delegates to the 2018 District Convention adopted Resolution 3-07, "To Support the Ministries of Reverend David Warner and Reverend Daniel Jastram Through Together In Mission." The District is requesting that congregational financial support of Together in Mission be **in addition to and over and above** what congregations remit to support the work of The South Dakota District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Moreover, Resolution 3-07 directs that all offerings made to Together In Mission by District congregations be evenly divided between Rev. David Warner and Rev. Daniel Jastram. Many District congregations have been providing financial support to either Rev.

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Warner or Rev. Jastram prior to the District Convention's adoption of Resolution 3-07. **Congregations are reminded that they cannot designate their Together In Mission offering to only support either Rev. Jastram or Rev. Warner.** All offerings that are received by the District for Together In Mission will be equally divided between Rev. Warner and Rev. Jastram.

Please allow me to remind you that, at the 2009 District Convention, the delegates adopted Resolution 1-02 encouraging congregations to *annually* increase their District and Synod Mission Intention *equal to the cost of living increase*. For 2020 it appears that the cost of living increase will be approximately 1.5%. I graciously request, then, that as your voters' assembly considers your congregation's commitment, it would also consider this increase. That will enable the District to maintain the missions and ministries we have agreed to do together in partnership.

In addition, 2009 District Convention Resolution 1-02 also directs our congregations to work together so that "congregations that God has blessed with greater membership and with greater financial resources welcome and prioritize the opportunity to help 'make up the difference' in the District Work Program where partner congregations with small membership and financial resources have been limited in their giving."

**Enclosed is your District and Synod Mission Intention and Together In Mission Intention form for 2020. Because our 2020 fiscal year begins on January 15, 2020, please return this form to the South Dakota District Office no later than January 3, 2020. The District Office, however, would appreciate it if your congregation could return these forms earlier. Your Intention Form not only assists the District in its budgeting and financial planning, but is information required by our auditors to show the level of income the District can reasonably expect to receive.**

The District Work Program for 2020 has not yet been finalized. Enclosed, however, is a graph displaying the District's Estimated Income and Expenses for 2019. This will inform your congregation of how your financial offerings to the District are being utilized.

Again, thank you for partnering with The South Dakota District and the other congregations of our District as your pastor(s) and congregation proclaim to your communities, "Behold your God!" pointing people to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as their only source of help and hope.

God's richest blessings be upon your congregation!

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Darren R. Olson, Executive Secretary  
The South Dakota District, LCMS

Encl. 2019 District and Synod Mission Intention/Together In Mission Intention Forms  
2018 District Work Program Summary Sheet