



SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

The Reverend Paul M. Winckler
Assistant to the President

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October 30, 2025

To: District Pastors, Congregational Chairmen, Congregational Treasurers

Subject: 2026 District and Synod Mission Intention
2026 Together in Mission Intention
2026 Lutheran Family Service (LFS) in South Dakota Intention

It is the time of year to consider your church budget and, we humbly ask, to consider your congregation's support of our various ministries together as a District. This year, as usual, we've included the Intention Form covering three categories: District & Synod Offering, Together In Mission Offering, and Lutheran Family Service Offering.

In addition to this, we've also included a special note from 2nd Vice President, Rev. Corey Aker concerning our ministry together with Lutheran Family Service. We ask that you take a moment to read about the role LSF plays in our District and consider how your congregation may be able to support this work

Since our District Convention in February a lot has changed in the area of Together In Mission. Rev. Samuel Bobby and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli have returned from the mission field to serve congregations stateside. We thank them for their faithful service and pray God bless their new ministries. Rev. Dan Jastram (Southeast Asia) and Rev. Jordon Andreasen (Romania) continue to serve and receive support from the South Dakota, along with a new entry to mission work. Ms. Makia Adler, recent graduate of the University of South Dakota, is entering mission work in Belize. The District Board of Directors agreed to adopt Ms. Adler as a Together In Mission recipient in September, 2025. Enclosed is Ms. Adler's most recent newsletter, documenting her preparation for mission work.

We ask that you send your response to the District Office by **January 2, 2026**. Please take a moment to review this information and prayerfully consider how you may be able to support the ministry of the Gospel through these important partnerships as, together, we make the love and grace of Christ known in our communities and to the ends of the earth.

In Christ,

Rev. Paul Winckler
Assistant to the District President

To the Pastors and Chairmen of our SD District Congregations,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lutheran Family Service has been a tremendous partner to our SD District of the LCMS. I hope and pray that you have taken occasions to utilize this amazing resource for yourself, your family, and for your congregation. No longer do we need to wonder if the counselor to whom we pastors refer a parishioner will counsel in the ways of Christ – LFS does! No longer do we have to wade through the hundreds of counselors across our state to find a good fit for our members in need – LFS does. No longer do you have to fight through the struggles of ministry alone – LFS is there to support us. Lutheran Family Service is a true partner in our ministries in South Dakota! And that does not even mention the excellent work they do in wrapping the love of Jesus around children through adopting them into loving, Christian homes and congregations. The only way we could be more excited with the work of our partner is by seeing them expand into more locations within our state. Incidentally, in addition to our original Sioux Falls office, we also have one in the Black Hills and a brand new one in Aberdeen! Thanks be to Jesus!

The challenges we and our people face are opportunities the devil tries to exploit by making us feel defeated. We are not defeated. We will never be defeated! The Lord provides us with full care – healing for the Soul in His Word and Sacrament ministries of our congregations; healing for the Body through the hands of doctors and nurses that He provides for our good; healing for the Mind through the counseling services of Lutheran Family Service.

If you have utilized the services of LFS, you know why I am singing their praises with such a tune! If you have been on the fence about utilizing their services, I pray this endorsement nudges you to give them a try; I believe you will be well satisfied. Call them if you need advice in a ministry situation. Schedule a time for personal counseling to help you through a challenge in your life. Refer your members to LFS for counseling services. Utilize their child-centered, Christ-focused adoption services. On all counts, you will find LFS to be of excellent caliber.

As you can tell, I am all in for Lutheran Family Service! Like many in our SD District, I am so thankful to the Lord for our LFS partnership. In addition to bringing LFS to South Dakota and utilizing their services as an extension of our ministries, our conventions have consistently affirmed our partnership through official resolutions, even committing to ongoing financial support. The SD District loves LFS!

We know it is likely that time of year when your congregational leadership considers your budget and spending plan for the upcoming year. As you look through your numbers and the many important ministries you do and support, please also remember our partners in ministry at

Lutheran Family Service in SD. Our convention delegates overwhelmingly approved annual financial support of LFS with the understanding that all our congregations would pitch in. We believe one of the easiest ways for you and your congregation to financially support our LFS partnership is by including them as a line-item in your annual budget. Pastors and congregational chairmen, will you please lead your church council in prayerful consideration of what level financial support makes sense for you in helping ensure this phenomenal ministry partnership continues? As a starting point, I would encourage everyone to consider an annual budgeted contribution of \$500-\$1,000. You may find this ask to be a stretch. Please pray the Lord guide you to an amount that is in line with your giving ability. Others of you may find this ask too little; please also pray the Lord guides you to an appropriate giving amount. As we work together across the District, each of our congregations walking hand-in-hand, we will continue making a significant impact in the spiritual and mental health of our pastors and parishioners while also placing children in loving homes with Jesus at the center.

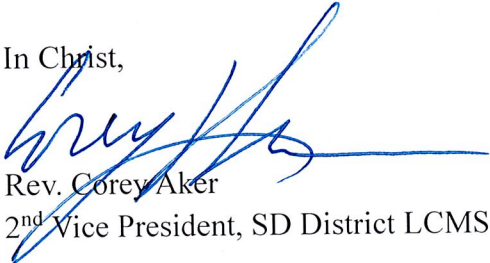
Looking at the remittances for giving from our congregations to Lutheran Family Service so far in 2025, I would also like to request you consider giving a financial contribution before the end of this year. Support this year, next year, and for many years to come will be vitally important.

One more thing. Can you also help make the resources of Lutheran Family Service well known in your congregation? The good people of LFS work hard to join our congregations in serving and meeting the needs of God's people. An annual Lutheran Family Service Sunday that gives informative brochures, references their work in your announcements or sermons, collects a special offering, or even hosts a representative from LFS as part of your Divine Service and/or Bible Study will go a long way in helping get the LFS resources to the people in our congregations who need them.

Thank you sincerely for your support of the LFS/SD District partnership at our recent District Convention. Thank you for the support you have given or will give in utilizing their services. And thank you for your consideration of financial support from your congregation. If you would like more information about Lutheran Family Service for yourself or your congregation, please contact them at 605-271-1081. I would also love to talk more about this with you, so feel free to call me at 605-332-3401.

God bless you and your congregation as you bring the amazing gifts of Jesus to your people!

In Christ,



Rev. Corey Aker

2nd Vice President, SD District LCMS

"God's Gospel, Salvation Power"
South Dakota District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
2026 District & Synod Mission Intention

2026 District & Synod Mission Intention

Out of thankfulness to God for His mercies and generous gifts to us and to our congregation, and with the desire to be faithful stewards of what He has entrusted to us for our lives, for our congregation, and for the work of His Kingdom throughout our beloved South Dakota District and to the ends of the earth, **our District & Synod Mission Intention for 2026 is the following amount:**

\$ _____

2026 Together In Mission Intention

The 2025 South Dakota District in Convention adopted Resolution 2-01, which directs Together In Mission (TIM) offerings, **over and above** regular District and Synod giving, to be divided equally between Rev. Daniel Jastram, LCMS missionary to Southeast Asia, as well as Rev. Jordon Andreasen(Romania), Rev. Samuel Bobby (Latvia), and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli, LCMS missionaries to Eurasia, for the next triennium (2025-2028), with adjustments to be made by the District Board of Directors should any changes (entering or returning from missionary service) occur. At the September 2025 Board of Directors Meeting, adjustments were approved as Rev. Bobby and Rev. Domenichelli have returned from mission service and Ms. Makia Adler (Belize) has entered mission service. Offerings are now designated to Rev. Jastram, Rev. Andreasen, and Ms. Adler.

In addition to our corporate and individual prayers for the Together In Mission project, **our Together In Mission Intention for 2026 is the following amount:**

\$ _____

Continued on back



2026 Lutheran Family Service Intention

The 2025 South Dakota District in Convention adopted Resolution 2-03, which encourages the 105 congregations in the District to share in the financial cost of maintaining the ministry agreement between our District and Lutheran Family Service (LFS) with offerings **over and above** regular District and Synod giving. Such an agreement allows us to bring Christ-centered, hope-filled workshops and individual and family counseling to the church workers and church members in The South Dakota District LCMS.

In addition to our corporate and individual prayers for the ministry of Lutheran Family Service, **our Financial Intention for the District's ministry agreement with LFS for 2026 is the following amount:**

\$ _____

These intentions are made recognizing that we are in partnership with the other congregations of The South Dakota District in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in South Dakota and to the ends of the earth.

_____,
(Name of Congregation)

Location: _____

_____, Pastor

Date: _____

_____, Chairman

Date: _____

Please return in the enclosed envelope no later than January 2, 2026

**HAPPY D-DAYS!**

This month, I had the joy of returning to my alma mater, the University of South Dakota, for homecoming, better known as Dakota Days!

It was a blessing to be back on campus, reconnecting with old friends and fellow Coyotes and reflecting on how much God shaped my life during my college years. From my first days as a freshman to graduation, the Lord used that season of growth to prepare me in incredible ways.

At USD, I was constantly surrounded by encouragement and prayerful support from the campus ministry and Concordia Lutheran Church, a blessing that continues to bear fruit today. I am so thankful for that foundation and for the ways that God continues to lead me forward.

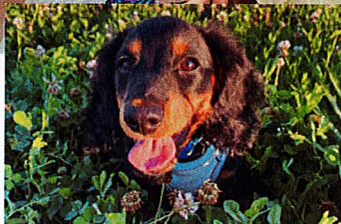
As always, **HAPPY D-DAYS** and **GO YOTES!**



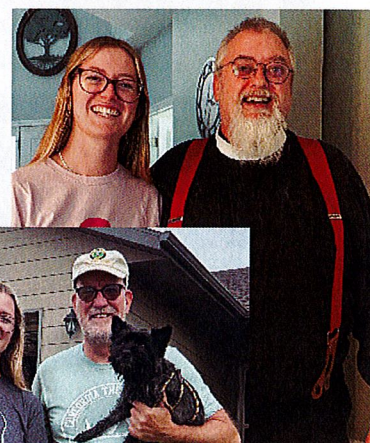
THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to makia.adler@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

makia.adler@lcms.org

Luke 10, but Make it Travel-Size

Just a few of the friends I have had the pleasure of staying with

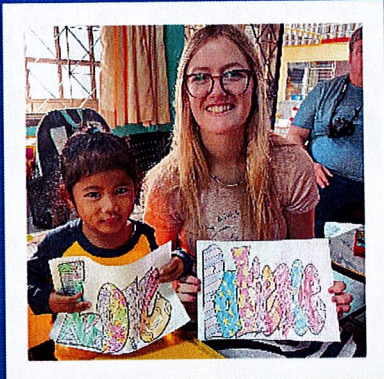


These past few months, I have found myself on the move traveling from city to city, catching up with family, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. I have slept in hotels, guest rooms, on couches, and even the ground, all while gaining a deep and renewed appreciation for home-cooked meals. Through it all, I have been reminded of a powerful truth: the Church isn't just a building we visit on Sundays, it is the people who open their homes and lives to one another.

Honestly, after enough time traveling, I can't help but feel like the person left on the side of the road in

the Good Samaritan parable from Luke 10: sleep deprived, definitely hungry, and probably more than a little bit lost. And along comes a "Good Samaritan" with a warm meal, clean blankets, maybe a dog I can pet or kids who are more than happy to show me their latest LEGO masterpiece. These friends and families bandaged me up (figuratively, I promise) and reminded me that it is okay to receive help.

To those of you who prayed with me and opened your home to me: thank you. You are a living reminder that being a missionary is never a solo journey. It is sustained by the Body of Christ who live out the Gospel not just on Sundays, but in everyday acts of love.



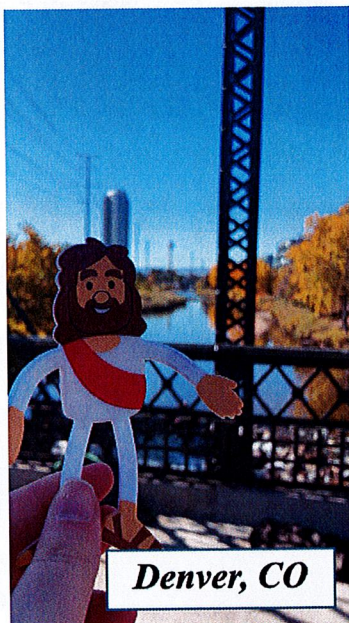
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- **SAFE TRAVELS** as I travel to visit churches and congregation members
- **SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAMS** as they prepare to serve the Lord
- **CALVARY LUTHERAN MISSION TEAM'S HOSTS** in Thailand as they prepare to serve together
- **PATIENCE** as I continue to work on my Spanish skills
- **GOD'S GUIDANCE** for those who are considering serving the Lord through His church

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- **THE SUPPORT** of many congregations and individuals who pray for and encourage me
- **JESUS' SACRIFICE** that freed us from the bondage of sin
- **NEW FRIENDSHIPS** and relationships built through shared faith
- **OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP** with so many Christians

Picture This



Denver, CO



Mt. Vernon, IA

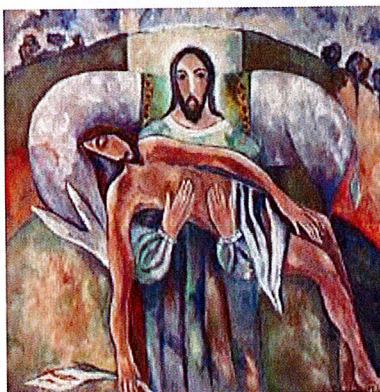


Cape Girardeau, MO

Southeast Missouri State University



Greeley, CO



"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

The expert in law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

~Luke 10:36-37



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Makia Adler. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include Adler - Belize

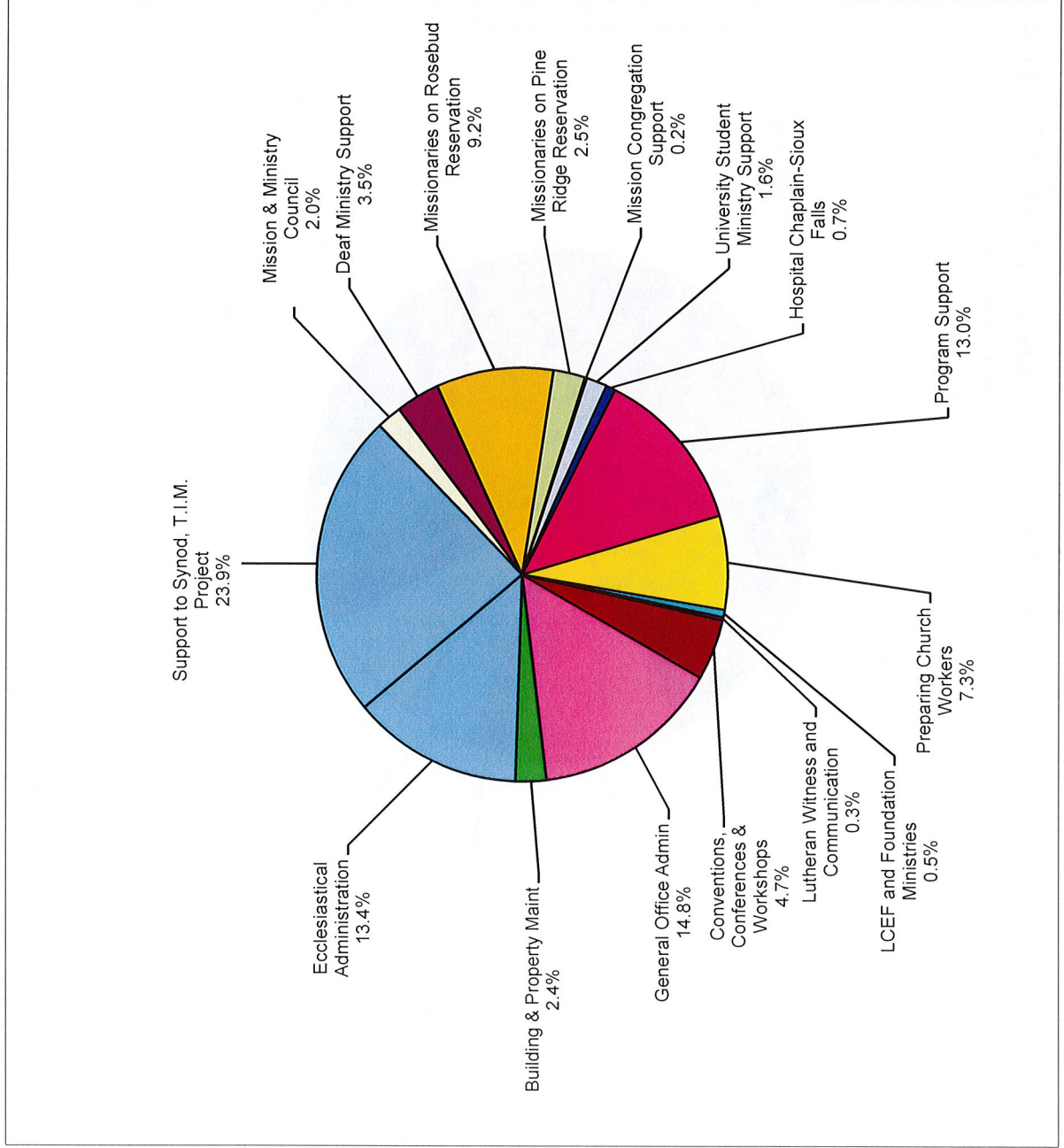
Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/adler

Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS

UNRESTRICTED BUDGET OF EXPENSES

For the Fiscal Year 2025

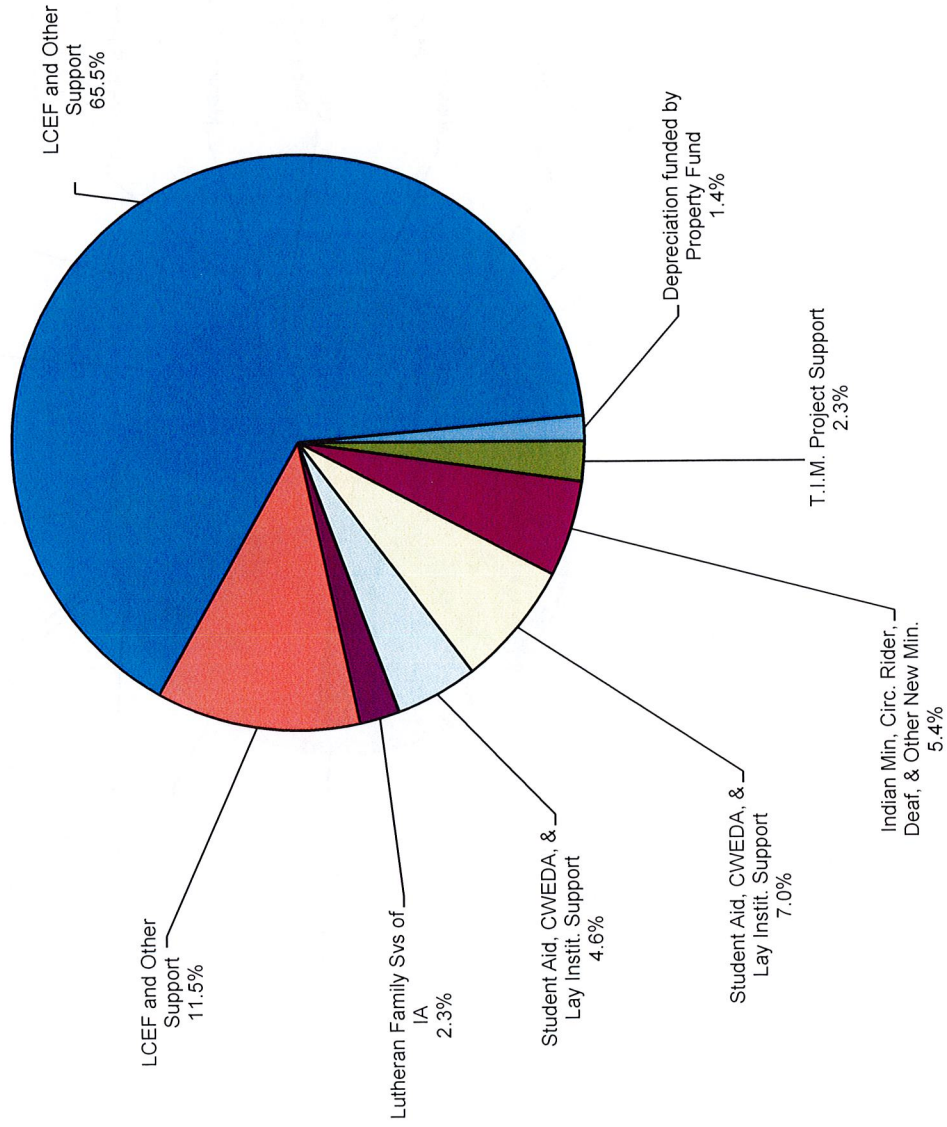


Expenses	
Mission/Outreach:	
Support to Synod, T.L.M. Project, Other Missior	423,130
Mission Congregation Support	3,000
Missionaries on Rosebud Reservation	163,220
Missionaries on Pine Ridge Reservation	44,516
Deaf Ministry Support	61,468
Mission & Ministry Council	35,000
Preparing Church Workers	130,050
University Student Ministry Support	28,000
	50.1%
Congregational Services:	
Lutheran Witness and Communication	4,607
Program Support	229,970
LCEF and Foundation Ministries	10,200
Conventions, Conferences & Workshops	83,850
Hospital Chaplain-Sioux Falls	13,275
	19.3%
Administration:	
Ecclesiastical Administration	237,810
General Office Admin	262,733
Building & Property Maint	42,566
	30.6%
Grand Total	\$ 1,773,395

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS

PROJECTED SUPPORT AND INCOME - UNRESTRICTED BUDGET

For the Fiscal Year 2025



Projected Funding Needed for Budget	
2025 Projected Expenses	\$1,773,395
Less: Restricted Gifts and Income	
Student Aid, CWEDA, & Lay Instit. Support	125,050
Lutheran Family Svs of IA	40,000
LCEF and Other Support	204,495
Indian Min, Circ. Rider, Deaf, & Other New Min.	95,500
T.I.M. Project Support	40,000
Conv. & Conf. Registration	82,350
Depreciation funded by Property Fund	25,000
Balance Needed From Congregations	\$1,161,000
Anticipated Congregations Mission Support	\$ 1,161,000
Balanced Budget	\$ -

Funding Support Needed From Congregations	
Number of Communicants	20,415
Average Number of Worshipers/Wkly	7,430
Per Communicant Member/Yearly	\$56.87
Per Communicant Member/Weekly	\$1.09
Per Avg. Worshipper/Yearly	\$156.26
Per Avg. Worshipper/Weekly	\$3.01