

For such a time as this



The Strategic Plan Meets Your Congregation

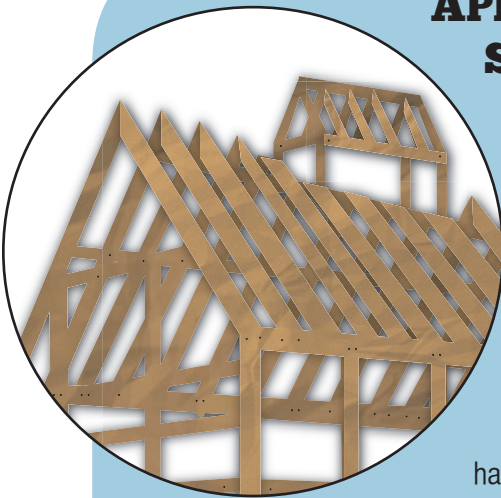
At the 2012 Synod Assembly, our synod voted to adopt a strategic plan, designed to allow our synod to strategize fresh, Spirit-filled ways to respond to the movement of the Spirit in a changing time.

The committees for each part of the plan, Claimed, Gathered, and Sent, are helping us communicate and connect to the world around us, sustain and create vital ministries for the future, and work for a more just world.

Together, our synod has made tremendous strides with initiatives that make possible a renewed way of living as God's people in the world. These new initiatives are designed to impact your congregation, equipping and freeing you to do God's work in this time.

Here's how you and your congregation can connect to this plan:

APPLY FOR A CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT CHALLENGE GRANT



- **to Improve Your Building**

Our synod is devoting \$1 million over five years to help congregations make upgrades to their properties. For successful applicants, our Congregational Capital Improvement Challenge Grants will give you up to \$2 for every \$1 your congregation raises.

- **to Sharpen Your Skills**

We're putting \$50,000 every year into Leadership Development Grants for you to gain new skills for ministry in our changing world. Which conferences have you wished you could attend, but the budget seemed just a little too tight? Apply for a challenge grant and you're on your way.

- **to Develop a Congregational Strategic Plan**

We've seen how our synod's strategic plan has unleashed energy and progress, so we're offering your congregation assistance in getting your own strategic plan off the ground.

Apply for any of these Challenge Grants at www.mnys.org/grants



HELP START SOMETHING NEW

- **through the Sower's Project**

We're investing funds over the next five years to seed new ministries in new ways. Wondering where these new ministries will be and what they will look like? It's up to you! If you know a neighborhood where a new ministry would thrive, a leader who would be great at starting a ministry, or have an idea for a new ministry yourself, get online and tell us! Our Innovation Team will review nominations and applications, and award "seed grants" of \$5,000-\$10,000 to promising new, grassroots ministries.

**Nominate a Neighborhood or Leader
or submit a Project Proposal at www.sowersproject.mnys.org**

SAVE TIME AND MONEY WITH CONGREGATIONAL SAVINGS PLANS

One church is a small client, but 50 churches is a big client!
Our synod has worked with providers to create package deals.
Your congregation can choose to opt in for savings that will
free up your budget for ministry, not overhead.

- **Save on Heating**

Our synod has a utility provider who will give your church discounted purchasing, and a free-of-charge energy assessment which, in most cases, will give you equipment upgrades that will not require any cash outlay from your congregation.

- **Save on Insurance**

Our synod has negotiated insurance coverage for your congregation at a substantial discount. The more congregations sign up, the cheaper it will be for all of us.

- **Save on Payroll**

Your church can also see savings on payroll processing services from a major national company. Sign up, and your congregation will get about a 30% discount on the provider's standard rates.

- **And Get the Most Out of Your Property**

For congregations and conferences who want to explore new configurations for ministry, we're offering free professional real estate surveys and advice on how your congregation can make the most effective use of your property.



**To apply for Congregational Savings Programs,
go to www.mnys.org/grants**

GET ONLINE

At last year's assembly, we began a discussion about sharing the Lutheran message with the world. A big part of that takes place online, through our churches' websites and Facebook and Twitter pages. But we also heard that many congregations are feeling overwhelmed by the cost and technical know-how it takes to get online. We knew we needed to provide resources!



- **Read “Getting Started with Web Presence”**

We've created a free document for church leaders, designed especially for churches who are just beginning to explore web presence through websites and social media. The booklet is available in hard copy at Synod Assembly, or online on the synod website. This resource also includes online videos that will walk you, step by step, through starting a website, creating a Facebook or Twitter account, or even blogging.

You can find “Getting Started with Web Presence” at www.mnys.org/webpresence

- **Apply for a Challenge Grant for Your Website**

Our synod is offering a \$500 reimbursement grant for improvements to existing websites, website hosting, web design, and related costs. Our synod is also investigating ways to host congregational websites collaboratively.

**You can apply for a challenge grant to build a website
at www.mnys.org/grants**

GROW IN FAITH

Our synod will deepen our faith and our sense of Lutheran identity over the next five years through a five-year synod-wide program called:



Growing Deeply in Faith: Five Years of God's Creative Grace!

Each year, our synod will focus on one of Luther's five means of grace:

2014-2015: Mutual Conversation and Consolation

2015-2016: Preaching and Proclamation

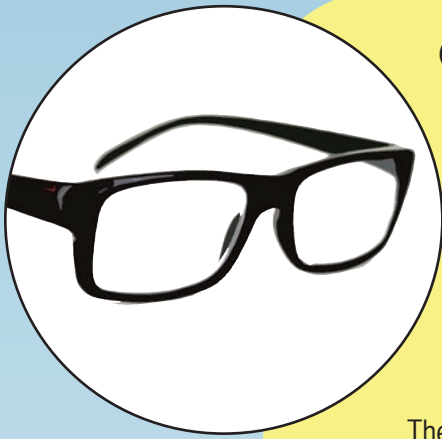
2016-2017: Confession, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation

2017-2018: Baptism and Baptismal Living

2018-2019: Eucharist and Eucharistic Living

This five-year exploration will kick off this Pentecost with a synod-wide celebration of the Vigil of Pentecost. And we've already heard that Dr. Gordon Lathrop will be joining us at the Bishop's Retreat this fall to speak about the first means of grace we'll explore: Mutual Conversation and Consolation.

To find out more about “Growing Deeply in Faith” and the kick-off event on the Vigil of Pentecost, visit www.mnys.org/growinginfaith



GET 20/20 VISION FOR OUTREACH

We've selected five "lenses" for outreach in our synod: Family, Education, Health, Employment, and Immigration. Your church may choose to join the efforts of the wider church in making an impact in these key areas.

- **Connect to Others Through the 20/20 Vision Booklet**

The goal behind the 20/20 Vision Booklet is to allow congregants in our synod to connect to and learn from the ways our synod's congregations are already serving our neighbors. Want to start a soup kitchen? Or a school? Or an immigration center? The booklet will show you who's already serving in this way so you can contact them and learn from their experience. We also focus on some unique ministries that will inspire and motivate you to try your own variations in your setting.

**You can find the 20/20 Vision Booklet here at assembly
and at www.mnys.org/sent**

STILL TO COME...

**The Strategic Plan is a ten-year plan. Our synod is off to a great start,
but we still have many possibilities to explore in the coming years
as we revitalize our church to meet the world. Join us!**

NOTES



Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.