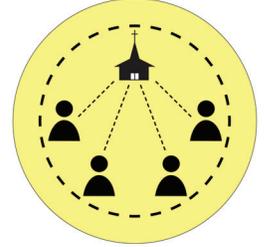
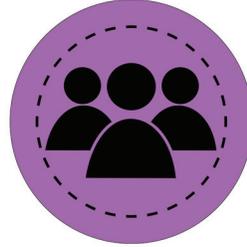
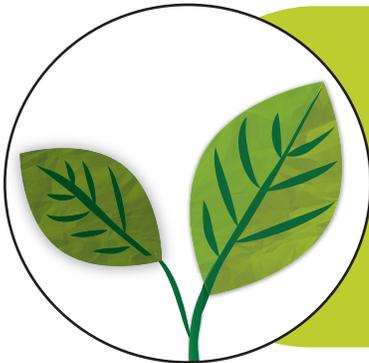


For such a time as this



AN UPDATE ON OUR STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

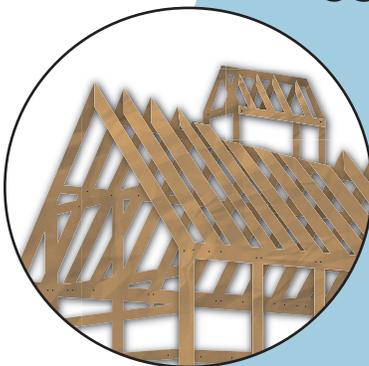
At the 2014 Synod Assembly, our synod voted to approve funding for bold new initiatives and grants. Our strategic plan helps us to envision congregations less burdened by the financial cost of maintaining a building, better equipped to communicate online, working together to reduce costs for everyone, and vocal about justice issues. Learn more about any of these grants and initiatives at www.mnys.org/grants. Here's what's been happening:



START SOMETHING NEW

- **The Sower's Project**

In early 2015, the Innovation Team approved three seed grants totaling nearly \$30,000: advancing mission in the Latino community of Wyandanch and Deer Park; creating a healthy community for young children and teens to engage in ministry in Uniondale; and exploring community organizing as an area ministry strategy in Kingston.



CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT GRANTS

- **Improve Your Building**

In November 2014, our synod gave Capital Improvement Challenge Grants totaling \$200,000 to 21 congregations. The matching grants are helping parishes with roof work, new windows, parking lots, repointing, masonry, boilers, bathroom renovations, kitchen renovations, and chair lifts.

- **Develop a Congregational Strategic Plan**

At the quadrant meetings across the synod in spring of 2015, strategic plan experts are offering your congregation assistance in getting your own strategic plan off the ground.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- **Sharpen Your Skills**

Five Leadership Development Grants totaling \$11,000 were distributed in late fall 2014, enabling individuals and groups to attend continuing education events focused on adult faith formation, stewardship, school management, and mutual conversation and consolation in the parish.

CONGREGATIONAL SAVINGS PLANS



- **Insurance**

The Hudson Conference worked together on a pilot project to have all of their insurance policies reviewed and audited. Additionally, in November 2014, a “Risk Management & Insurance 101” workshop was offered free to every congregation in the synod.

- **Payroll**

A handful of congregations have already signed up for 30% savings on payroll processing services from a major national company.



GROW IN FAITH

- **Growing Deeply in Faith: Five Years of God’s Creative Grace!**

Throughout this program year, our synod is using Mutual Conversation and Consolation to learn together how to have more as grace-filled conversations. This theme has been the focus for leaders retreats, quadrant visits, and more.



GET ONLINE

- **Website Assistance Grant**

So far, one congregation has applied for a \$500 reimbursement grant for improvements to existing websites, and related costs. Maybe your congregation could be next!



SENT TO SERVE

- **Congregation-based Community Organizer**

The Sent Committee is currently looking for an experienced community organizer who can help our congregations learn community organizing as we try new ways of advocating for the betterment of our towns, villages, and urban neighborhoods.

- **Service for Justice & Reconciliation**

On Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend in 2015, our synod hosted an ecumenical and interfaith gathering where over 250 people of faith and civic leaders could pray, sing, and stand together against injustice and for peace and reconciliation.

There’s more in the works! If you have questions, please contact Pastor Marc Herbst, Assistant to the Bishop for Strategic Plan Implementation, at mherbst@mny.org or 212-870-2378.



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