



TO ALL
GENERATIONS

Minnesota South District



*“One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.” Psalm 145:4*

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD
MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT

We have an old oak tree in our back yard that is well over a hundred years old. More than once I've sat in the swing we have under its branches and wondered who all has been there beneath its strength and beauty generations before me.

One of the amazing things about the sending of Jesus Christ to be our Savior is the lasting impact of His sacrifice. For 2000 years Christians have lived in the shadow of His cross, believing by grace that His sacrifice at Calvary is powerful and lasting enough to take us into heaven. As the inspired writer to the Hebrews puts it, "He did this once for all when he offered up himself" (Hebrews 7:27). The power of His loving sacrifice extends to all generations!

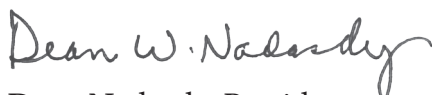
Just as Christ's love extends to all generations, so does His command to "make disciples of all nations," (Matthew 28:19) baptizing and teaching them. That mission has been picked up by every generation of Christians. The Great Commission of our Savior uses the language of education. Disciples are learners. Since the earliest days of the church, Christians have taught and learned from the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). The mission of Jesus Christ is a teaching mission, a disciple-making mission to all generations!

So The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, from its very beginning, has always been a teaching church. Christian schools, Sunday schools, confirmation classes, youth and adult Bible studies, universities and seminaries are in our DNA. In our corner of the kingdom it can truly be said that the mission of Christ is a teaching mission.

To strengthen our participation in the teaching mission of Christ, the Minnesota South District through its 2015 convention and Board of Directors has authorized the "To All Generations" campaign. Its theme verse says it so well: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts (Psalm 145:4). The saving gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people of all generations, and in every generation teaching from the Word of God had led to faith and life for eternity.

So get acquainted with the exciting initiatives of the *To All Generations* campaign. As God blesses this special appeal, we in the Minnesota South District will better reach the hearts of those inside the church and out as we share Jesus' love and forgiveness. Susie and I can't wait to participate. We know that a gift to this campaign is a gift to all generations! We invite you to join us.

In Christ,



Dean Nadasdy, President
Minnesota South District – LCMS



**"THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST IS A
TEACHING MISSION, A DISCIPLE-MAKING
MISSION TO ALL GENERATIONS!"**

THE MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT: A SHARED VISION



In The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, our churches and schools have always been places of learning. From Sunday school classes for the youngest among us to adult Bible studies, from our early childhood centers to our high schools and universities, from the Small Catechism in our homes to catechesis in the language of immigrants, we cherish Christian education.

Today, so many forces in our culture threaten these treasures. Churches with schools often struggle to make ends meet. Tuition costs can hinder parents from enrolling their child in a Lutheran school. Fewer and fewer churches have vibrant Sunday schools and Bible studies for all ages. Schools close, and very few new schools are launched.

The result? Many churches in the LCMS, a tradition within American Christianity recognized for generations as a teaching church, are simply not teaching much anymore. We need to address the above now!

The purpose of the *To All Generations* campaign is to generate funds for Christian education at all levels and ages for the local congregational ministry. Overall goals are to:

- Strengthen existing schools and plant new ones
- Identify marketing and advancement strategies for Christian education
- Increase Biblical literacy among children and adults
- Strengthen leaders for the effort
- Promote a voice for parental choice in education in the state legislature
- Offer assistance in establishing day cares and preschool ministries
- Strategize ways to become more intentional in reaching young families

Under God's grace, we must become more intentional in reaching everyone with the Good News of Christ. As the above goals are addressed, we pray that our efforts will be blessed with even more contact in sharing Jesus' saving message.



“WE WILL NOT HIDE THEM FROM THEIR CHILDREN; WE WILL TELL THE NEXT GENERATION THE PRAISEWORTHY DEEDS OF THE LORD,
HIS POWER, AND THE WONDERS HE HAS DONE.”

PSALM 78:4



INITIATIVES IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The mission imperative of Jesus Christ, to “make disciples of all nations,” includes the challenge, “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). This education arm of the Great Commission has, for many generations, defined who we are in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We are a teaching church. Many of our churches began with a school ministry. Inwardly, we teach and learn, and, by God’s grace, we grow. Outwardly, we reach new people for Christ as we teach the Scriptures and share the saving message of salvation.

These are challenging days for our churches and schools. To cultivate a stronger commitment in Christian education, the Minnesota South District is embarking on a special appeal with specific Christian education initiatives in mind. The *To All Generations* campaign offers a bold plan which can touch every congregation, member, and friend from early childhood to adult. New funds will become available for new and enhanced educational ministries. Rooted in the Scriptures and in our history as a Synod, these initiatives view the future confidently. Rejoice with us and pray as we move forward with these initiatives, seeking to strengthen Christian education across our District and “to all generations.”

1. Strengthen Education Ministries

Funds will provide seed money in the form of grants enhancing the quality of education ministries in the Minnesota South District through innovative processes, leadership development, and collaborative efforts. We want to support ideas utilizing new technology and online networks focused on Christian education. Specifically, grants will be allocated in the following areas:

- **Enhancing the Quality of Lutheran schools (birth–high school)**

Individually and cooperatively, schools can apply for grants that inspire transformative education innovation. Proposals may include, but are not limited to, ideas that expand services, utilize new technologies, or systemically change the way schools operate.



“LUTHERAN EDUCATION HAS BLESSED MANY FAMILIES LIKE OURS OVER THE GENERATIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

-Rev. Dr. Bob and Dr. Lynn Gehrke, Campaign Co-Chairs





“IF AUTHOR G.K. CHESTERTON IS CORRECT AND ‘EDUCATION IS SIMPLY THE SOUL OF A SOCIETY AS IT PASSES FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER,’ THEN IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE PASS ON AN EDUCATION IMBUED WITH JESUS’ LOVE.”

**-Sean Martens,
Assistant to the
President for
Education, MNS
District**

- **Encouraging Opportunities in Parish Education**
Congregations can create and expand educational opportunities focused on Biblical literacy, catechesis, family ministry, young adults, immigrant populations, home school families, vacation Bible school, or tutoring. We invite all other creative options!

- **Planting New Schools and Early Childhood Centers**
A special funding appeal will provide start-up funds across the district for launching new educational ministries or significantly expanding those which already exist. Just as the Synod rejoices in new school starts in Shanghai and Vietnam, the MN South District will find shared joy in every launch or expansion of a new school or early childhood ministry.

- **Supporting Educational Leadership**
Often a pastor or educator will see an intriguing conference or course of study and not enroll due to lack of funds. Here we will assist in tuition scholarships for our educational leaders seeking continuing education.

2. Develop Unified Marketing Strategies

We believe that our Lutheran schools and educational ministries in the LCMS are still some of the best-kept secrets in many communities. Our hope is to fund a collaborative marketing strategy for school, early childhood, and congregational education ministries across our district, presenting LCMS Christian education in brief, “Hallmark-style” vignettes for use as ads on radio, television, and online.

3. Increase Efforts toward Parental Choice in Education

In order to stabilize the finances of our schools and the congregations supporting them, we must actively engage in the public square to secure equal treatment by the state of Minnesota for those parents who choose a Lutheran education for their children. Funds here will encourage our members in pressing for such equality through the exercise of their own citizenship. We will engage our legislators through advocacy organizations such as OAK (Opportunity for All Kids).

QUESTIONS ABOUT GOALS & FUNDING



WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL GOALS?

Our goals are to:

- Continue to increase our support for the ongoing ministries in our church and District
- Present gifts of \$3,000,000 in initial cash gifts and/or three-year commitments toward the Christian education initiatives

We have received strong indication for support of the *To All Generations* capital campaign. Based on recommendations, the following goals are possible, all with the Lord's blessings.

Recommended Goal: \$1,500,000

Challenge Goal: \$2,250,000

Celebration Goal: \$3,000,000

HOW ARE GIFTS GENERATED?

We rely on the power of God's Word to motivate God's people in giving through the *To All Generations* capital campaign. Resources will be shared with the local congregation during the effort. Leaders will have options on how best to distribute material with members of their congregations.

HOW WILL TO ALL GENERATIONS CAMPAIGN UNFOLD AT THE CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL?

Congregational members are asked to pray and consider a 3-year promise gift or a one-time gift to the *To All Generations* campaign in the following ways:

CONGREGATIONAL GIFTS

Our campaign consultants, Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry, will offer assistance to District congregations for the purpose of generating financial gifts for the *To All Generations* campaign and the local church ministry. This will be a wonderful opportunity for congregations to increase overall first-fruit giving for local ministries.

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

For those who wish, gifts may be made to the *To All Generations* campaign on an individual basis along with our current and past supporters. Gifts given to the MNS District will be applied directly toward the Christian education initiatives.

"EACH MAN SHOULD GIVE WHAT HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TO YOU, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-8

MY JOYFUL, GENEROUS GIFT: WHAT IS IT?

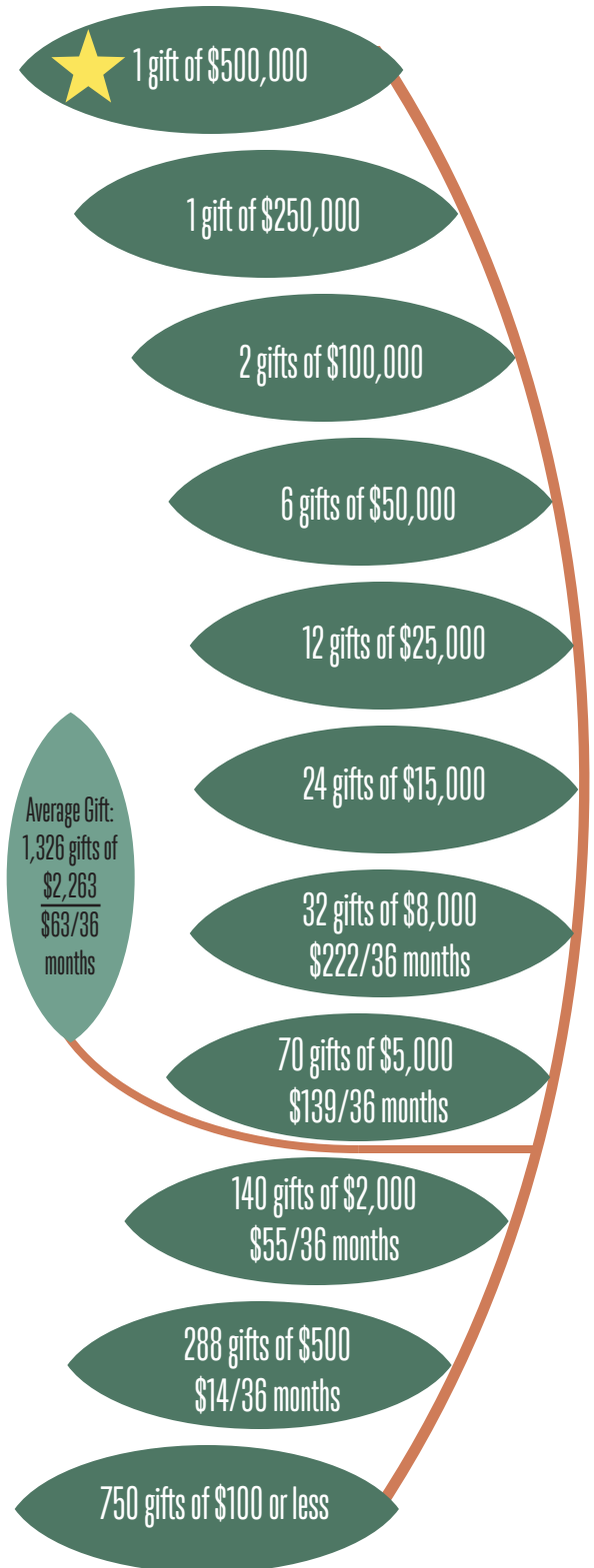
You may ask, “What is it that you would like me to consider giving so we can achieve our goal and proceed with our ministry plans?” The answer is simple ... Your joyful generous gift!


We believe that all of our members have the right and responsibility to make their own decisions. We also know that through His Word, God’s Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, leading us to grow in our faith and generosity. Please give as God blesses and moves you. We pray that all of our gift giving decisions will flow from hearts of faith.

The giving tree represents an example of the number and type of gifts necessary to reach the *To All Generations* goal of \$3 million. It is a guideline for your use. The guidelines may seem challenging, even impossible. However, we ask you to view these guidelines in the context of faith, remembering all the blessings of a faithful God.



“FOR WE ARE GOD’S WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO.”
EPHESIANS 2:10





LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO THROUGH ME TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR WILL FOR THIS MINISTRY?

We have a challenging goal. We trust God will bless our efforts to attain it. After all, without God, we can do nothing. It is also true that God grants his blessings through his people, and that includes you.

All Minnesota South District members are invited to consider a special gift for the *To All Generations* campaign. Before you make a financial decision, we are asking you to consider the following question, “Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for this plan?” We also ask you to use this simple approach:

BEGIN TO PRAY – Talk to God in prayer. List for him all the blessings you have—actually list them! Think about how thankful you are for each and every one of these! Ask him to lead you to thank and praise him. Ask him to give you an extra measure of His grace in your life as you invest in the work of the kingdom.

DECIDE – The Lord Jesus is there to help and guide your decision to give and the amount to invest in Christian education. Our faith helps us believe that it is a privilege to support the work of gospel ministry. Whatever amount you decide to give in faith over the next three years is a gift that pleases God. It is a gift that will reach many through our gospel ministries.

USE THE PROMISE SHEET – The promise sheet is a way to record your promise on paper. The promise sheet is a planning tool. It is an indication of your intent to support this campaign. We ask that the promise sheets be returned to the District office. If there are questions, please contact the *To All Generations* Campaign Co-Directors Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke (651-503-7032) and Dr. Lynn Gehrke (651-503-7036), or the Minnesota South District Assistant to the President for Education Sean Martens (952-435-2550).

GIVING IS A REFLECTION OF GOD’S MANY GIFTS TO US.



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