



North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

North/West Lower Michigan Synod Connect Grants

The Connect Grant is an effort to support mission in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Modelled after the ELCA's Open Door Grants, the Connect Grants are to be used to help congregations develop new ideas and build stronger connections with their communities as they emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Connect Grants are designed to help congregations develop new ideas and ways to meet new people, reconnect with people, and move those met online into greater relationship with Jesus and the church. Congregations should choose an idea that connects people to the life and mission of Jesus and to the congregation as assembled followers of Jesus. These ideas should be actionable and help the congregation meet people where they are.

Congregations considering applying for a Connect Grant might want to consider time for missional listening:

- Listening to God through bible study, prayer, and personal devotion
- Listening to each other in the congregation
- Listening to the community

Congregations might also consider using the 90-Day Micro Strategy Resource Guide and Map as a planning tool:

- 90-Day Micro Strategy Guide: <https://mittensynod.org/docs/REVIVE90Day.pdf>
- 90-Day Map: <https://mittensynod.org/docs/REVIVE90DayPlan.pdf>

Connect Grants will be distributed in the \$1,000 - \$2,000 range. The grants will be one-time gifts with a report due in six months.

To apply for a Connect Grant, congregations must:

- Be current with yearly parochial and pastors reports with the ELCA
- Be working toward or beyond 10% mission support
- Consult with the Bishop or DEM throughout the process

Applicants must submit a written grant application along with a proposed budget for the project. Application questions and instructions are available at: <https://bit.ly/3vrw8TH>

Grant applications must be submitted to Pastor David Sprang at davidsprang@mittensynod.org. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until the funds are allocated or the deadline of September 2022.

Funding for these grants comes from the following sources. We thank them for their generosity!

- Grand Traverse Conference , Sunrise Conference, and northern portions of the Bay Conference – The Trapp Fund Endowment
- Stony Lake Conference – Muskegon Cooperative Ministry Fund
- Bay Conference – St. John ELCA Legacy Foundation of Saginaw
- Capital Conference – Gift from Calvary, Lansing
- Grand Rapids Conference – Outreach Fund
- Kalamazoo Conference – REVIVE Congregational Vitality Fund