

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket,
but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

- Mt 5:15



UNITED AS ONE

COVID-19 SPECIAL APPEAL



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Over the past few weeks, we have found ourselves navigating a new reality as we respond to the need for slowing the spread of Covid-19. We have found ourselves in unprecedented and difficult times as we work to find new and creative ways to reach and support our communities. At the same time, our congregations are seeing new opportunities for outreach, reaching homebound and busy members with virtual worship, and caring for each other in new and various ways. Many people are starting to believe that God is using this to draw new energy into the church and remind the world of the need for faith communities.



Our congregations and ministries are vital in supporting our communities and we are called to take care of the hungry and those at risk. As of now, we have received 15 requests from food pantries around the state requesting funds to help continue to meet the needs of those facing food insecurity. We are projecting that many more food pantries will be requesting additional assistance soon.



Congregations are critical at this time as we have a need for sabbath rest in the midst of busyness, need to remember God is present in our lives, and know that we are not alone in the world today. Our congregations are rising to the challenge as leaders continue to minister to members, to those in need and to those searching for peace. We are finding that more people are turning to our churches to help them through this crisis. Certainly, it is time for us to all join together to support our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many acts of generosity and faith are happening in our communities.

- **Pastor Keith Spencer and Trinity Lutheran in Pembroke Pines distributed food for 4 straight hours for hundreds of families.**
- **Pastor Mark Winkler and Emmaus Lutheran Church in Orange City tithed a large gift to the Synod and are moved to continue providing benevolent giving.**
- **The Synod Council has committed \$100K from The Synod Disaster Fund towards our total goal of \$400K.**



Through faith, we know that God is moving us towards healing and hope during this pandemic. In order to help where critical needs are being experienced and to position the synod to respond to new opportunities becoming known in this time, and to assure that the synod is able to continue to walk with congregations, we have launched this \$400,000 special appeal to Unite us as One.

PLEASE JOIN US IN THESE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES, CONGREGATIONS AND THE SYNOD



UNITED TO SERVE - \$100k

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES WITH HUMANITARIAN AID

Hunger is a serious challenge and a daily reality that our neighbors face. The crisis has increased economic uncertainty and growing concerns of not having enough food or supplies to last a month or even a week. With widespread shutdowns, their vulnerability increases and the need for relief by families is a continued need. With increasing food insecurities, it is vitally important that the flow of charitable food continues. There are those in our communities that rely on our ministries who may have lost employment, do not have reserves and might be forced to stay at home. As we stand, united to serve, we can help to protect this population and in a way that keep our volunteers and staff safe through social distancing and hygiene. Supporting our communities through humanitarian aid as a response to this disaster brings us together, united to serve.

UNITED IN FAITH - \$200k

PROVIDING 100k FOR CONGREGATIONS & 100k FOR TECHNOLOGY

When we are church together, we are stronger together. Keeping our congregations alive and growing during these difficult times will rely on the charity of our partners in faith. As brother and sisters in Christ, we are called to help one another and those in financial trouble. All of us will be affected, but the concern is for those that might not survive. The Florida-Bahamas Synod will be providing grants to congregations facing financial troubles. The synod also plans to assist congregations that require the needed technology and latest innovations to help them reach their members from any distance. This support will keep our congregations strong, ensuring they are able to adapt to this new reality and share the Gospel throughout their communities.



UNITED TOGETHER - \$100k

CARING FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST AT FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD

Connected in partnership, the Florida-Bahamas Synod is part of a large network of companion churches throughout the state. We anticipate that the current crisis will affect us all, and we remain committed to meeting the diverse needs of our churches. The synod office is experiencing reduced mission support funding and expects that it will continue through this crisis. Please join us in making sure we have the funds to maintain our payroll needs and expenses as we are church together. Additionally, the synod is providing new resources and recommendations to help our members learn to utilize new technology, as well as providing regular support to help congregations keep stewardship strong during this time. The synod office is also spending more time supporting our church leadership, walking with leaders who may feel alone during this time, and caring for those who care for God's people.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO GIVE AS CHURCH AND INDIVIDUALS. ALL GIFTS ARE APPRECIATED.

As you prayerfully consider your participation in this appeal, the following table indicates the size and number of gifts needed to reach the goal.

NUMBER OF GIFTS	VALUE OF GIFT	RUNNING TOTAL
1	\$100,000	\$100,000*
1	\$50,000	\$150,000
1	\$25,000	\$175,000
2	\$15,000	\$205,000
6	\$10,000	\$265,000
8	\$6,000	\$313,000
12	\$3,000	\$349,000
20	\$1,200	\$373,000
15	\$600	\$382,000
15	\$300	\$386,500
Misc Gifts	\$13,500	\$400,000
Synod Council Commitment	-\$100,000	\$300,000

*100k already given from Synod Disaster Fund.

LOOK OVER THE CHART AND ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

"How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?"

"How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?"

"Where would I be if I doubled my offering? And can I consider doing that?"

"How much more could I give if I really wanted to?"

Synod Council committed \$100K from The Synod Disaster Fund
NEW GOAL OF \$300K TOTAL GIFTS NEEDED

Your gift can be made through giving to congregation, **online at fbsynod.com** or by check, mailed to 3838 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607. Please earmark your donation for the Covid-19 Appeal.



If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

- Philippians 2:1

The Florida-Bahamas Synod is providing immediate grants to support congregations. The Synod Council has committed \$100k from The Florida Disaster Fund towards our total goal of \$400k. The establish Gift Grant Committee will meet regularly to approve funds. Visit www.fbsynod.com to download application.

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