

## *What is a Synod, anyway?*

The Synod serves as the aggregate of the congregations and ministries of the Montana Synod, and functions on their behalf, for the sake of the Gospel. The Synod, headed by the Bishop, and served by Synod staff and volunteers is called to:

- ◆ Recruit, equip, train and place leaders, both lay and clergy
- ◆ Assist congregations in growth and mission
- ◆ The work of the wider church to congregations
- ◆ Interpret the work of congregations to the wider church
- ◆ Gather the congregations for an annual assembly
- ◆ Connect with global partners and companion synods
- ◆ Train lay leaders
- ◆ See that the Word is properly preached and the Sacraments properly administered
- ◆ Support financially the mission of the whole church

## *A New House frees us to better partner in ministry!*

We are blessed! We have \$200,000 from current gifts to this endeavor and from existing resources. Additionally, we have equity in our current building and unused lots. With these resources, we need only \$1.2 million in additional gifts from our faithful stewards of this synod. This includes our biblical tithe that 10% of our gifts will go to our Mission Venture Capital Fund, which will be used for grants to new and innovative ministries within our partnering synod congregations.

Thanks be to God!

## *Invitation*

We invite our partners in ministry throughout the Montana Synod to participate. You can do so in many ways:

- ◆ Pray for the mission and ministry of the Montana Synod
- ◆ Participate in your congregation and synod in faith building ministries
- ◆ Discuss with your congregation and family the opportunities this new facility will provide for ministry within our Synod and to the world
- ◆ Share your enthusiasm with your congregation and synod friends
- ◆ Prayerfully discern ways you can financially position yourself to contribute to this effort
- ◆ See what God can do in and through you!

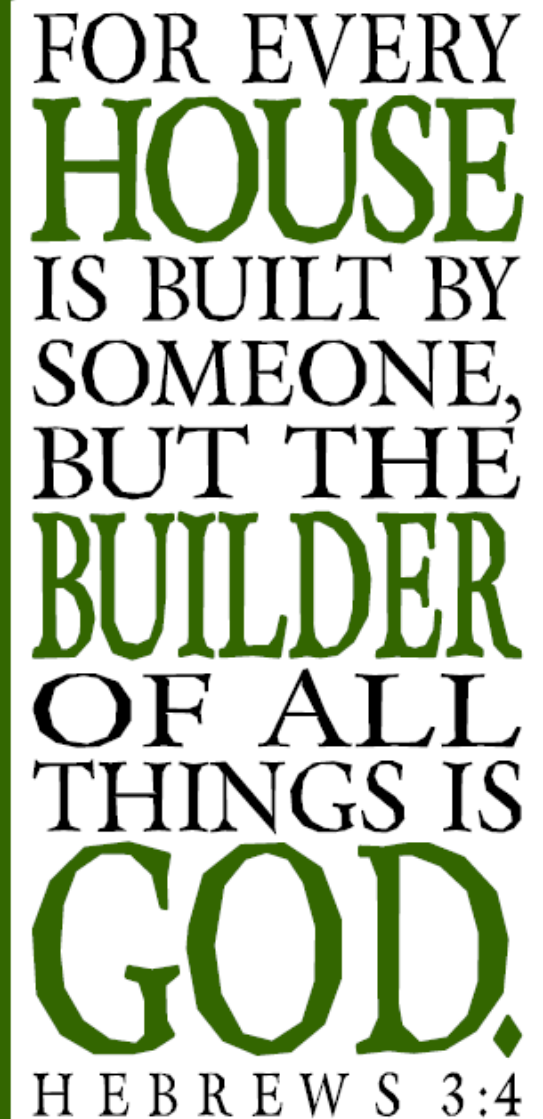
Our ELCA proclaims our calling:  
God's work. Our hands

We proclaim this mission to be:  
God's House. Our hands

We invite you to join us.  
Let's partner together to build the meeting place for the collaborative ministries of the Montana Synod!

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## SYNOD HOUSE CASE STATEMENT



FOR EVERY  
**HOUSE**  
IS BUILT BY  
SOMEONE,  
BUT THE  
**BUILDER**  
OF ALL  
THINGS IS  
**GOD.**  
H E B R E W S 3:4

GOD'S HOUSE  
OUR HANDS

*Building a New House for Our Synod*

# Our Calling

The Montana Synod is a healthy, vibrant, and grace-centered collaboration of Lutheran congregations. We are being called to generate more resources in the form of a new House of God that frees us for expanded service to our Synod, our wider church, and the greater world. We invite you to join us in the stewardship of this exciting endeavor!

The Montana Synod of the ELCA is the congregations, ministries and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Montana and northern Wyoming, working together as church for the sake of the world. What holds us together is the love of God in Jesus Christ. What connects us is the interdependent structure of the ELCA, including a Bishop and synod staff.

The Montana Synod Assembly has voted (in 2009, and in 2013) to build a new Synod House, as a center for mission for the congregations and ministries of the Montana Synod. The current building, built in the 1970's, is no longer adequate for today's and tomorrow's needs. A task force studied options including remodeling, re-locating and building on the other end of the lot that we already own. Their conclusion was to build. The Synod House is not an end in itself. It is a means by which we can do ministry together.



# Our Vision

The Montana Synod Council adopted 5 strategic benchmarks by which to measure our faithfulness as a synod. We measure what we do by these benchmarks, and they provide the framework for our vision for a new Synod house.



## Meet the future boldly.

Our new Synod House is bold. It is not making do with a 40 year-old office building that is cramped and not accessible.



## Serve the world, especially the poor and those who are in need.

We are church for the sake of the world. Our Synod House is a clearing house of information on the world, and how congregations and individuals may serve.



## Deepen faith and witness.

Our Synod House coordinates leadership development, through Candidacy and the LPA program, through NRIT and other education programs. Staff in the Synod House connect congregations with resources and promote lifelong learning.



## Promote unity.

The Synod House is the place where connections are made, especially between ELCA Churchwide and congregations, and also with other denominations and other faith groups.



## Support congregations.

The majority of the work done in the Synod House is in support of congregations: pastoral transitions, congregational resourcing and consulting, information sharing, communications and prayer-sharing.

# Value & Benefits

## Hospitality:

### The Synod House will be a welcoming place for all people.

- ◆ Completely accessible and ADA compliant – No more steps to bathrooms or basements
- ◆ Visitor-friendly – Pleasant and spacious waiting and meeting areas
- ◆ Close to hospital, doctors' offices and bus stop
- ◆ Available to congregations and community groups for meetings

## Earth-Friendly:

### The Synod House will incorporate and demonstrate "green" principles.

- ◆ Local materials and design, when possible
- ◆ Xeriscape or near-xeriscape landscaping
- ◆ Passive solar and ground pump technology
- ◆ LEED-certifiable (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

## Sacred Space:

### This is not just an office. We are building a house of prayer.

- ◆ The chapel will provide a meditative space
- ◆ The library will provide resources for education and enrichment
- ◆ The House will be safe and secure
- ◆ Public space will be public and private space will be private

## Tech-Friendly:

### The Synod House will enable the synod to use up-to date and appropriate technology.

- ◆ High speed internet will enable real-time connections across the synod and the globe
- ◆ Video-conferencing will replace some need for travel, freeing up resources
- ◆ Staff will be able to produce resources for congregations and individuals
- ◆ Congregations will be able to connect with each other, with the Synod House and the ELCA
- ◆ New opportunities for meetings without travel

## Adaptable:

### The Synod House is designed with change in mind.

- ◆ Room for expansion if needed
- ◆ Multi-use rooms
- ◆ Reflecting the interdependence, which is critical to the ELCA