



Throughout the SC Synod, at the 2019 Synod Assembly and in Conference Gatherings, SC Lutherans were asked to lift up thoughts, concerns, and hopes for our synod. These comments have been gathered, read carefully, and grouped into themes by members of the Bishop's Election Committee. For those who would like access to the full list of responses, that information is available in a separate document on the SC Synod website.

Our hope is that this document will help guide the conversation and discernment process for our next bishop by highlighting the conversations of God's people. Come, Holy Spirit!

### Diversity and Inclusion

- Many respondents feel strongly about continuing the work of inclusion in the SC Synod.
- SC Lutherans want to reflect the diversity of our communities, including racial, gender, and sexual identities.
- There was a desire to have a Lutheran identity that wasn't centered on any one ethnicity, heritage, culture, or language.
- There are also some who hope that the SC Synod can be a place where we welcome interfaith partners into conversation.
- Frequent comments were along the lines of "growing in inclusion for all people," "becoming more multi-cultural," and "continuing discussion around racism."

JOINING NEIGHBORS  
SERVING BOLDLY  
LOVING ALL  
THROUGH CHRIST

### Social Issues

- Many SC Lutherans were concerned about justice and helping those in need.
- Topics included: poverty, mental health, physical hunger, climate change, and, racism, inequity in the call process for deacons and pastors, and peace.
- Some who addressed this encouraged the church to be unafraid of controversy.
- Comments included phrases like "reaching out to those who need our assistance," "that we will continue to work for justice and racial equality," and, focusing on justice "for all creation."

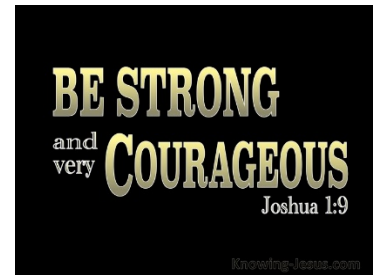
### Women in Ministry

- Several responses lifted up the continued need for support of women in ministry.
- Respondents hoped that the synod would continue to advocate for women to be paid equally and serve in leadership roles.
- There were also notes hoping that SC Synod would attract and retain a greater number of female clergy.



## Formation

- Christian formation informed another cluster of responses.
- Respondents hope to see a church that is better informed about the Bible and about Lutheranism.
- They wanted a spirituality that would lead us to public witness and that would shape the business of the church.
- Suggested topics for faith formation included: prayer, evangelism, teaching children and youth, listening skills, family ministry, liturgy, and openness to others.



## Youth and Young Adults

- Many respondents were particularly energized by the church's work with youth and young adults.
- Suggestions included having more adults more involved in youth ministry and ensuring that youth have roles in leading worship.
- Continuing the support of campus ministries and having other ways to reach out to young adults were also common threads.

## Call Process and Rostered Leaders

- Several comments addressed the relationship of the bishop's office to rostered leaders, the call process, and the candidacy process.
- Commenters felt that it was important for all Lutherans to understand the priesthood of all believers.
- Some commented on the need for rostered leaders to be healthy in multiple ways and to feel supported by the synod.
- Others wanted to see changes to the call process or candidacy process.

