

**Mission Moment**  
**Congregation Council Devotions**  
“To Boldly Go . . . To Proclaim” Acts 4:29.  
2021 South Carolina Synod Video

This devotion is a gift from the South Carolina Synod Office of the Bishop for you and your council leaders. We are asking each of our congregational councils to take 20 minutes in an upcoming Congregation Council meeting to share in this devotion together. We are very interested in what our partner churches are experiencing and would like to know how to pray for the ministry of your congregation. Please send us a summary of your prayer requests in section IV, so that we can hold in our prayers the specific things happening in your ministry setting right now. If your congregation would like to name a Synod Communicator as requested in section III, please send the name of the person, and contact information. We feel truly blessed by the partnership we share with you and our brothers and sisters across the synod as, together, we live out the gospel of Jesus Christ in our various locations. May God bless all that we do together in the name of Jesus.

### **I. Scripture Reflection**

“Lord... grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

In this part of Acts we find the arrest of Peter and John for proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead, and by the power of the Holy Spirit Peter’s bold proclamation of faith in Jesus and the healing that people have experienced in Christ is shared in front of all the rulers and the people gathered. The leaders become angrier by this bold proclamation. The people turn to prayer and ask for even more boldness in their own proclamation. And they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Boldness lived out each day comes through faith in Christ Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit with us. It takes trust to step out in boldness with one another to speak the truth of the gospel; to make the time to continue our explorations together of the scriptures and not only rely on what we learned in the past. The Word remains steadfast, but the proclamation of the God’s Living Word is always calling on us to consider applications for our new time. This Mission video will present stories of bold ministry of our congregations, the synod, rostered ministers and the churchwide organization that are made possible because of our partnerships across the church. We are able to do bold ministry because we partner together.

*In groups of 3-4 people or as a total group pick 2 of the questions below to discuss*

- Discuss the ways you have experienced your congregation stepping out boldly to proclaim the good news of Jesus in your community.
- Where have you seen partnerships that have helped you spread the good news?
- Share what you feel called to speak boldly about the love and saving grace of Jesus in your life.
- Share a time when it was difficult for you to trust and speak boldly.

## **II. South Carolina Synod video: “To Boldly Go . . . To Proclaim” Acts 4:29.**

Preparation: Test the video link or flash drive well in advance of your meeting. Secure a laptop computer to show the video. Make sure sound, projector or TV are working well in advance. The video is available on YouTube:

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9hM7gVDa5Q>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnsAHib7ZVU>

After showing the video ask the group the following questions:

- Is there one story in the video that gives you encouragement and hope for the future?
- In the video Bishop Virginia Aebischer talked about several ways a congregation can take a step toward tithing or increasing their Mission Support.

Which of these ways applies best to your context in ministry and your congregation?

- a) Give 10% of Regular Giving by Members or
- b) Taking a step toward tithing by adding 10% to the dollars given last year.

## **III. Synod Communicator**

Would you consider sending the name of a person who serves or would serve as a Synod Communicator and help facilitate better communication between your congregation and the South Carolina Synod? If so, please send the name of the person along with email address and telephone number. If your congregation has already appointed a Synod Communicator, would you please send the name of the person along with contact information listed above? This will enable us to update the records. Thank you.

## **IV. Prayer Requests**

What are some of the prayer requests that the bishop and the synod staff can be praying for your congregation? Please list.

Please have one person summarize your questions in Section II, send the name of the Synod Communicator in Section II, and your prayer requests in Section IV and mail or email to either Bishop Aebischer or Rev. Herlong. Thank you.

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