

2025 South Carolina Synod Video **Mission Moment - “Our Heritage, Our Hope”**

I. Introduction

We are 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. This devotion is a gift from the South Carolina Synod Office of the Bishop. We hope each of our congregational councils will take time during the third quarter of 2025 at your Council meetings to share in this devotion together. You are also invited to share any part or all of this video and devotions with any groups within your congregation.

We are very interested in what our congregations are experiencing and would like to know how we can pray for or support the ministry of your congregation. Please send us your specific prayer requests and feedback from your devotion time using the contact information provided. May God bless all that we do together in the name of Jesus.

“Our Heritage, Our Hope”

This year our Scripture Reference comes from Psalm 100

¹*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.*

²*Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.*

³*Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

⁴*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

⁵*For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all.”*

During the 200th Anniversary of the South Carolina Synod we are gathered under the theme, “Our Heritage, Our Hope”. Our guiding scripture from the 100th Psalm reminds us that the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithful endures to all generations. These attributes grew out of Israel’s faith experience. This is the God who we praise, we worship and to whom we give thanks. There is so much going on in the world that causes people to grumble, but as followers of Christ Jesus we have an opportunity to sing God’s praises and make a joyful noise of thanksgiving for all that God does for us.

In the 2025 Mission Video you will hear stories about our past, our current ministry and our hopes for the future. We begin with a look at a couple of history moments that continue to have impact today. This video is filled with stories of the ways God’s mission has been supported in this church since the beginnings. We are thankful that from the very beginning there were people who taught us to be generous. We celebrate this legacy of giving. In our first story of supporting mission yesterday we hear the stories of the Ladies Sewing Society in 1825 and the Woman’s Home and Foreign Missionary Society in 1891 at St. John Lutheran Church, Charleston which has supported countless seminarians across the centuries. You will also hear the strong historical connection the South Carolina Synod shares with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In our second story you will hear the voices of sisters in Christ from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, as well as leaders from our Synod, and we will learn about the unique relationship that has been forged since the beginning of the Pandemic in 2020 using Zoom, and which continues today. You will hear about partnerships with Synods across North and South America that strengthen our bonds in Christ Jesus and bless our ministries in many places.

The video stories will also include ways the South Carolina Synod Lifeline Fund is blessings our Pastors and Deacons and in turn blessing the ministry of congregations and families. And we will learn from our ELCA Partners who serve from the Chicago offices about the Fund for Leaders and the ways this ministry has blessed seminarians over the years and continues to bless the church.

Thank you....

We are sincerely grateful for your faithful partnership in ministry that makes these things and so much more happen in our midst as we walk together to give thanks to the Lord and to sing God’s praises in all that we do. Thank you for your Mission Support and for your prayers on behalf of your sisters and brothers in the church.

We ask that you show the video in segments and discuss each story individually, or if you wish, feel free to take the time to show the whole video and then have discussion. Please feel free to share these videos broadly with your congregation through groups that meet or your website.

After showing the video to your council we invite you to ask the following questions:

- *Which of these stories inspires you enough that you would want to share it with others? With whom will you share it?*
- *Where do you see the the goodness or faithfulness of God in your own life or in the life of your congregation?*
- *In the video the council is asked to share a tithe of congregational giving received or to take a step toward tithing by increasing your congregational Mission Support by 10% of what you gave last year? Please take the time to share with one another which of these ways applies best to your context at this time.*

(A) Give 10% of Regular Giving by Members or

(B) Taking a step toward tithing by adding 10% to the dollars given last year.

II. Technical Information

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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QOFO7QmVr0>

III. Prayer Requests

Please have one person summarize your requests for prayer and support.

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

What are some of the ways the SC Synod can support the ministry of your congregation this year?

Please email this to:

Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer
Email: ginny@scsynod.com

or

Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Director for Stewardship
Email: ovherlong@aol.com