

“Answer the Call Sunday” is May 7th

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Congregations of our Synod:

It is an exciting time! This spring I invite your congregation to make an opportunity to receive an offering for “Answer the Call.” At our 2008 Synod Assembly we adopted a resolution calling on our people to endow our synod’s seminary student scholarship funds to benefit seminarians seeking to serve Jesus Christ as pastors of this Church. **We are committed as a synod to the goal of full tuition scholarships for our students studying for the pastoral ministry.**

Over the last nine years significant progress has been made as many have stepped forward and “answered the call” with gifts and pledges. Well over a half-million dollars has been raised as we move in the right direction assisting our synod seminarians with their education. This year every full-time seminarian in our synod will receive \$12,000 to support their education. Part-time students receive \$6,000 a year. We lead the ELCA in synod support of our future pastors! Let us receive an offering to support this work. This year **“Answer the Call Sunday” is May 7th**. Just a week before Mother’s Day, it’s a great time to talk about our responsibilities to the next generation. If May 7 does not work for your congregation, look for a Sunday that fits your schedule.

What Should Your Congregation Do to “Answer the Call?”

1. **Plan “Answer the Call Sunday.”** Ask your Congregation Council to endorse Sunday May 7 as “Answer the Call Sunday at _____ Lutheran Church.”
2. **Ask a lay leader in the congregation to give a temple talk.** Use any information you find on the websites of our seminaries, our synod or the ELCA to tell the story of the necessity of theological education for our pastors.
3. **Invite a seminarian** to share the story of their call to ministry on “Answer the Call” Sunday.
4. **Use the enclosed bulletin.** An electronic version is now available for you on the synod website.
5. **After “Answer the Call” Sunday, celebrate your offering.** Tell the congregation by bulletin and newsletter what the total gifts received was and invite others to consider this ministry of financial support. Remit the completed offering to “Northern Great Lakes Synod-Answer the Call” at the synod office.

Please call upon me for more information. I want to help you “Answer the Call!” God bless our work together!

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop