



Oregon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

To the Congregation:

Spring 2025

Please consider applying for a **Creative Ministry grant** and/or a **Delk Fund grant** from the Synod Endowment Board for Spring 2025.

How is your congregation turning current challenges into faith in the promise of hope? What new, creative ministries are emerging for your congregation? How do these new ministries help us live out Christ's hope through the Oregon Synod values of mutual accompaniment, agency and inherent dignity of all, integrity, wisdom from the edges, and honesty and humility? Please tell us about your congregation's project, and how it is doing something completely new to be a source of God's love and hope in your community.

CREATIVE MINISTRY GRANT

- **Creative Ministry** grants are available for ministry projects that will help your congregation move into a new future and be a source of God's hope in your community.
- In 2025, individual **Creative Ministry** grants will be \$350 to \$5,000.
- Creative Ministry grants may not be used to offset staffing costs.

DELK FUND GRANT (CHILDREN & YOUTH)

- **Delk Fund** grants are available for **child- or youth-focused projects**.
- In 2025, individual Delk Fund grants will be \$500-\$2,500.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- How the Board decides: Grants are made based on the merits of each proposal in alignment with the Oregon Synod values*:
 - **Mutual Accompaniment** (vs. top-down charity work),
 - **Agency and Inherent Dignity of all** (vs. making decisions without and for others),
 - **Integrity** (vs. shortcuts or posturing to look good),
 - **Wisdom from the edges** (vs. doing what is comfortable, known, and already lifted up general culture),
 - **Honesty and Humility** (vs. denying limits, areas of ignorance, past stumblings, ongoing learnings).
- **No more than one request of each type of grant per congregation, per year, please.**
- Tell the story of your project: Share the story of your call to address a local need.



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- Priority is given to projects that are collaborative (with other congregations, non-profits, schools, etc.) and that align with Oregon Synod values.
- Demonstrate basic financial sense in your application: Provide project estimates and outline the costs of main elements. Show that a successful project might be ongoing. These grants should not be the sole financing for your project.
- Observe grant writing basics: Answer all questions to the best of your ability. Avoid negative descriptions (this is different than describing a need).
- In cases where we (Endowment Board) know of peers or mentor congregations, we will encourage you to be in touch with them, so that you can learn from each other.
- Accountability: Report back on your project (stories, pictures, etc.) preferably within 2 months of the completion of your project, but no later than **January 2027**.
- **Application Deadline: Friday, September 5, 2025**. You are encouraged to ask questions about the process in advance of the deadline.

Submit your application email to the Oregon Synod Endowment Board Chair at
Endowment@OregonSynod.org.

In Christ,

Your Synod Endowment Board:

Margaret Armstrong, Lori Blake, Tim Rupp, Christina Core, Mark Dickman, Pablo Ramirez, Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar, Lori McDonald