



Suggestions for Congregations

Equipping Christian Witnesses is a celebration of God's goodness to our synod not only through 25 years of MLC ministry, but really recognizing over 150 years of the unconditional gospel in our midst. Pray boldly that we use this celebration to recruit with rigor countless Christian witnesses. Pray boldly that we do all we can to give every student who seeks to train for Gospel ministry the opportunity and financial support to do so. Pray boldly that we strengthen our ability to improve our campus facilities to provide an environment that enhances recruitment, learning, and retention.

Some suggestions for participation for congregations to consider:

- **ECW Sunday** – The campaign “toolbox” on MLC’s website has all ECW promotional materials, campaign updates, graphics, and videos. Churches have permission to download the ECW Sunday files (sermons / prayers / worship suggestions.)
- **Challenge Match** – One church council pledged to match up to \$25,000 for ECW from the congregation’s budget for every dollar given by member with the hope of reaching \$50,000. Of course, they had an ECW Sunday and a 6-week time frame to gather the gifts from members of the congregation.
- **Campaign Match** – One congregation that was raising \$500,000 for a building expansion added 10% to their campaign total to be designated for ECW. They felt that this gift of \$50,000 was an appropriate “thank offering” for the blessings they were enjoying at their local ministry.
- **Annual Mission Project** – Many congregations and schools adopt an annual “mission project” where they direct funds to a ministry outside of their area of ministry. Some have chosen to make ECW their project during the campaign. The campaign “toolbox” on MLC’s website provides promotional materials, graphics, and videos. Congregations can also submit a request for a guest preacher through the website.
- **Annual “Synod Sunday”** – Some congregations designate one Sunday every year to focus on the work we do together a synod. They may rotate their focus each year from world missions, to home missions, and to worker training. ECW provides an opportunity to focus on worker training and our College of Ministry in particular. A door offering might be received or an encouragement for members to give individual gifts.
- **Called Worker Celebration / Recruitment Sunday** – One congregation used ECW as a way of saying thank you to the Lord of the Church for all of the called workers that served them over the years. They also made a display for the entryway of the church featuring the “sons and daughters” from their congregation that studied for the public ministry.
- **Stewardship Month** – Some congregations have an annual “stewardship month” where each worship service for a month deals with the broad topic of Christian stewardship. ECW provides an opportunity to focus on worker training and our college of ministry in particular. A door offering might be received or an encouragement for members to give individual gifts.