



**Southeastern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



Dear Faith Formation Leader,

We hope that you are already aware and engaged with the Southeastern Minnesota Faith Formation Network. If not, this letter will serve as the first step of your introduction!

Our mission is to equip and mentor the faith formation leaders of this synod. We do this through monthly gatherings where we explore methods and ideas for creating educational, experiential, and relational faith formation opportunities in our settings. We do this by communicating in a Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/semnsynodfamilyministry/](https://facebook.com/groups/semnsynodfamilyministry/)), setting aside time for relationship building at the monthly gathering, suggestions in the synod's weekly newsletter, and through all the various ways to communicate. Perhaps the most powerful event is an annual retreat each January where we grow our skills, learn to reach beyond our tried and true systems and share face-to-face with each other; not only our ideas but our dreams and our struggles.

We recognize that the faith formation leaders look different in each setting. Some of us are pastors or deacons. Some of us have responsibility for only children or youth. We are full-time, part-time, and volunteer leaders. We have Sunday and Wednesday and summer programs to develop and implement. We are busy people and we care deeply for children, youth and families. We believe that wherever you serve, you need a network and support.

You will find our calendar of events for the coming school year on the synod website. Please come to a network meeting and get acquainted. If you are a rostered minister or congregational office manager - please share this information with the person in your organization who would benefit the most from the support and training we offer.

Questions about the network can be directed to Mary Kay DuChene, Assistant to the Bishop, at [duchene@semnsynod.org](mailto:duchene@semnsynod.org). She will provide information and connect you with a member of the Network to help you get started.

We look forward to getting acquainted with you!

The Faith Formation Table and Network