



GO AND...



Be the Light



From the Bishop

"All things are mine since I am his: how can I keep from singing?"

-Pauline T. and Robert Lowry (1868),
How Can I Keep From Singing?

Prayer

O Light Everlasting, your brilliance fills the universe, revealing the gift that is your creation in all its glory. As you illuminate and reveal the splendor of all things, shine also within us and through us, your children. Fill our hearts with your gift of light, that we may be your light, shining in ways that give glory to you, today and always. Amen.

Our life as the Church starts with what God does for us. When our lives are centered in that great and wonderful gift, we live in the great truth from one of my favorite hymns: "All things are mine since I am his: how can I keep from singing?" And since Jesus is yours, all other things are also yours as a gift. The sun which rose this morning is a gift of God to you. The earth that nourishes and sustains us is a gift of God to you. The breath in your lungs which gives oxygen to your body is a gift of God to you. The community in which you live, the family and friends who are closest to you (yes, even the ones who give you trouble), the work to which God has called you: all these things and more are a gift of God to you in Jesus Christ. In turn, the manner in which you encounter and respond to these gifts can be your gift to the world around you: you can be the light in many, many ways each and every day.

I hope you've enjoyed the different perspectives this "Go and..." theme has offered these recent months, but even more than that I hope you've encountered them in the spirit of Jesus' last words from the gospel of Matthew: "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." We don't do any of this without Jesus. Sometimes the best way to be the light of Christ is to simply acknowledge that it really isn't our work, but his work in us, as it always has been and always will be. Thank you for being the gift you are to God's church. Thank you for the many ways you will be the light of Christ to others, in 2024 and beyond.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Scott Alan Johnson

This Little Light of Mine



This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.



How can YOU be a light for others?



Read the lessons at church

Start a bible study

Join the choir



**Help with Sunday School/
Middle School Ministry/
High School Youth**

**Send a card to someone
who's ill or struggling**



**Volunteer for yard work at
church or for an elderly
neighbor**



**Start a prayer shawl
ministry or join your church
quilting group**

**Visit the residents of a
care center**



**Volunteer to read stories
at a daycare or school**

Foster a shelter animal

**Collect food for your local
food pantry**

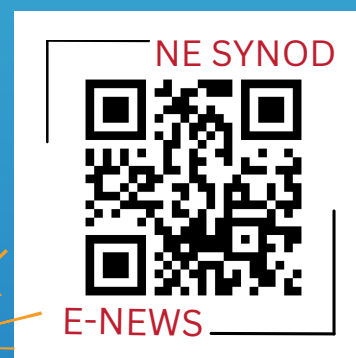


Offer free music lessons

Pray for all in need

Let us light up your day!

Stay up to date with the latest Synod news and events by subscribing to the Nebraska Synod, ELCA E-Newsletter by clicking on the QR code or by visiting nebraskasynod.org.



"Cultivating Love"

SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
JUNE 1-2, 2024

What does it mean to
"Cultivate Love?"

Come discover that
and more at Synod
Assembly 2024! Our
keynote speaker will
be Jeff Chu, Writer,
Reporter, Editor,
Preacher, and Teacher.

YOUR MISSION SHARE IN ACTION

In the Nebraska Synod and the ELCA, we believe that we are the church together. Called and sent to “Go and...” grow disciples, walk together, and serve God’s world. One of the major ways we do this is through sharing resources to support the ministries that no one congregation could do by itself. Your congregation’s undesignated Mission Share offerings to the Nebraska Synod make possible a variety of ministries to which we are called into together. Your Mission Share matters, makes a difference, and changes people’s lives! The more that is shared beyond the congregation with the larger church means the more that ministry like this can happen:

SEE YOUR MISSION SHARE AT WORK IN MINISTRIES SUCH AS...

ELCA PARTNERS



of all Mission Share is used to fund ministries in partnership with ELCA Churchwide. As we “Go and...” together, we join in efforts to combat hunger and poverty, assist people in times of disaster, and accompany global mission partners. This also supports the work of mission

54.1%

development and experimentation across the church, as we learn, serve, grow, and “go and” together.

NEBRASKA SYNOD MINISTRIES & PARTNERS



of all Mission Share is used to support Nebraska Synod Serving Arm Partners for Mission and Ministry and Mission Field Nebraska Ministries. As we “Go and...” together, we accompany and directly support Oaks Indian Center, Lutheran Family Services, Lutheran Campus Ministries,

21.3%

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and so many more.

NEBRASKA SYNOD SERVICES & MINISTRIES



of all Mission Share supports Nebraska Synod specific services and ministries. As we “Go and...” we walk together, assisting congregations with calling pastors, and raising up other leaders like deacons and PMAs; we work through conflict resolution; and provide new opportunities

18.6%

and resources such as the Vitality Initiative for Congregations and Emmaus lifelong learning opportunities.

ADMINISTRATION



Only six cents of every dollar contributed to Mission Share is used for administrative expenses and direct overhead costs in the Nebraska Synod. As we “Go and...” this is an intentional and tremendous stewardship of the resources that God has blessed us to carry out the mission to

6%

which we are all called and sent into together.