



Eastern North Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Date

Dear FRIEND

Bonnie heard the words, **“It is time,”** while praying outdoors at a women’s retreat.

The very next weekend, she asked her pastor to lunch. Before Bonnie could say a word, her pastor smiled and said, “You’re going to seminary, aren’t you?”

At 46, Bonnie had built a good life with a successful career in project management and a close-knit community in Maryland. But when she shared this calling with her husband, he simply said, “What took you so long?”

When her internship was finalized after seminary, she turned to her husband and asked, “Do you prefer silk or wool long johns? We’re headed to North Dakota!”

At Tri-County Ministry, Bonnie fell in love with rural ministry and the people of North Dakota. She quickly decided to pursue her first call in rural North Dakota too. And just like that, everything changed.

In the rural communities of Cando and Bisbee, Pastor Bonnie didn’t just serve a congregation. She found a true sense of belonging. Over 18 years, she baptized children she would later confirm and even marry. She found joy in the youth group, where a spirit of abundance took root. Whenever they saw a need, they would say, “We can do that.”

Together, they innovatively extended the service of the local food pantry to the school. They supported neighbors. They showed up, again and again, for one another.



This is what faithful leadership looks like in Eastern North Dakota.

And it’s possible because of givers like you.

Your generosity helps identify, train, and sustain leaders like Pastor Bonnie. You help congregations feel less alone, and faith communities grow and serve their neighbors.

Will you make a gift today to support more leaders like Pastor Bonnie through the work of the Eastern North Dakota Synod?

Years later, Pastor Bonnie heard those words again, "It is time."

This time, it came with difficult news. Her health no longer allowed her to serve in full-time ministry.

In prayer and conversation with Synod leadership, Pastor Bonnie discerned a new path forward. In October 2025, she started in a part-time, ecumenical call serving a Lutheran congregation, a United Church of Christ congregation and a nursing home. It was a season marked by grief, gratitude, and hope.

And once again, she answered the call.

Today, those congregations are exploring how they can continue to adapt in faithful and creative ways, share ministry, and serve their neighbors.

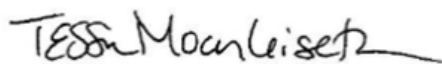
And you are part of it.

I invite you to make your gift today to the Eastern North Dakota Synod. Because when leaders and congregations hear, "It is time," they need a strong Synod team ready to support them.

And when communities are ready to grow or change, they need leaders in both traditional and innovative ways ready to serve. **Your generosity makes both possible.**

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and partnership in this shared mission.

In gratitude,



Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth



P.S. A generous donor has offered a \$500 challenge match! If 5 givers make a gift of \$500 or more by June 1, we will unlock an additional \$500 from this anonymous giver. Please consider your gift today and contact Lacey at lacey@eandsynod.org or 701-232-3381 with questions.

P.P.S. If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a tax-wise gift directly from your IRA to support the Eastern North Dakota Synod. This type of gift, often called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If you've already planned an RMD this year, this is a powerful way to put those funds to work. Consult your tax or financial advisor before making your gift.

Yes, it is time. I/We will support leaders and congregations across Eastern North Dakota.

My/Our gift:

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- Other: \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Make this a monthly gift of \$_____



Scan to give online.

- My/Our gift is enclosed.
- I made my gift online at www.eandsynod.org/give
- Please call me to complete my gift with credit card.
- I made my gift through my IRA, stock, or donor-advised fund.

The Eastern North Dakota Synod's tax ID number is 36-3512773