

Missional Storyteller

We say **THANK YOU** and **SHARE MISSION SUPPORT STORIES.**

Did you know?

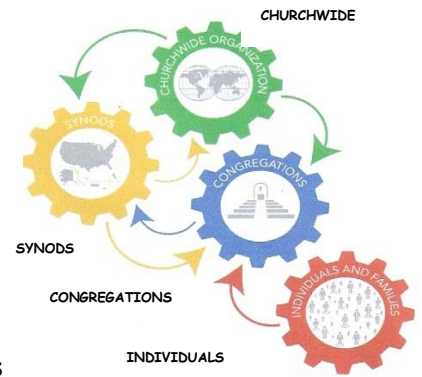
- Missional Storytellers Newsletters are can be found online at:

Western Iowa Synod

Tools and Resources

For Congregations

Missional Storytellers

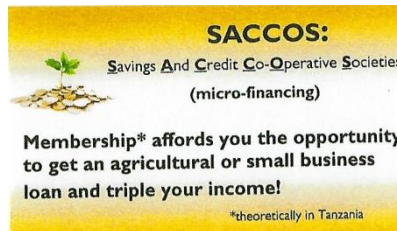


Video: (New) *Where Does Your Offering Go?* 4:43

YouTube videos, elca channel

SACCOS

These cards were copies and printed with permission. Permission was given to use this SACCOS fundraiser idea.



I have 90 of these SACCOS business-card-size cards left. You may have them. First come first served!



A couple of years ago at the WIS Assembly, Pastor Perry Aalgaard and Cindy Wells offered this mission opportunity for SACCOS. There is money remaining in the \$1 for \$2 matching fund. So, in June, we at Bethel in Graettinger we had a SACCOS fundraiser in the form of buying "SACCOS memberships" for \$10 each for the "Village of Bethel".

We celebrated Sunday, June 30th, with a "Pay Day" and a potluck after worship! Those that purchased memberships were asked to stand. These individuals were given 100 GRAND candy bars because those in a SACCOS village in Tanzania that join the membership of a SACCOS typically double or triple their loan. Next, those that knew or were related to those that purchased memberships were asked to stand. These individuals were given PAYDAY candy bars because those in a SACCOS employ 1 to 2 people from the village. Lastly, the whole congregation was asked to stand and was given LIFESAVERS candies because when a SACCOS comes to a village, it benefits the whole village.

WIS SACCOS

There 4 SACCOS in the Southern Diocese of Tanzania, our synod companion. Money given to WIS SACCOS will be used to infuse money into the existing SACCOS so more loans can be made.

Iringa Hope started SACCOS in the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania just north of our synod companion, Southern Diocese of Tanzania. We are in partnership with Iringa Hope to start SACCOS in the Southern Diocese.

What is SACCOS? A SACCOS is owned, managed, and run by its members. SACCOS means Savings and Credit Cooperative Society. SACCOS provide fair loans and reasonable rates of interest.

What is AMCOS? AMCOS are Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies. AMCOS enables the ability to access quality inputs at fair prices and marketing information and opportunities.

Currently, WIS is only supporting SACCOS in the Southern Diocese. Sophia and Silvia are women in the St. Paul's Synod companion synod, Iringa Diocese. Stories came from the *Iringa Hope Visit 2018*.



Sophia Chambo

Sophia is 32 years old and has been a member of the AMCOS for one year. She has three children. Her children are two boys, 16 and 13, and one girl, 10.

Sophia farms five acres of maize, sunflowers and groundnuts. Of the five acres, two acres are owned and three acres are rented. So far, she has used local seed and has used manure as fertilizer.

She said that the AMCOS has been very helpful, helping her to understand better farming practices. She intends to begin using hybrid seeds and organic fertilizer. She says that she and her husband farm together and contract for the use of oxen to plow the land.

Silvia is 38 years old and has been a member of the SACCOS and the AMCOS for 4 years.

She has four children. The children are 3 girls and 1 boy. The boy is 16 years old and the girls are 12 years, 7 years and 2 months old.

Silvia farms six acres. Four acres are in rice and two acres in maize. She also has a shop where she sells domestic supplies such as cooking oil.

Her first loan was for TZS 300,000 for buying 12 bags of fertilizer, used only for the rice. She earned TZS 900,000, so her profit after repaying her loan was TZS 600,000 (or about \$265).

Her second loan was for TZS 600,000. She used the loan to purchase 12 bags of Yara fertilizer from the AMCOS, and to pay laborers. She earned TZS 1,300,000, so her profit after repaying her loan was TZS 700,000 (or about \$310).

Her third loan was for TZS 1,000,000. She has not yet harvested the crop, so she hasn't recognized the income for this year yet.

Her yield from her rice farm is increasing and she is investing her profits into growing her business at the domestic shop and she is spending her profits to send her children to school.



Silvia Kabwa

Happenings in the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA

Faith Formation for all ages - Cross+Generational Event in Sioux City last March with about 70 attending.

Youth Events - 356 youth and adults from Western Iowa Synod attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston TX. Over 30,000 were there. Provide synod gatherings of youth leaders and some gatherings of youth.

Provide Workshops for Stewardship, Evangelism and Congregational Renewal - Synod staff will help organize these for congregations or groups of congregations.

Organize and Participate in Iowa Lutheran Day on the Hill: with legislators in February

Oversight of Lutheran Disaster Funds in Western Iowa - We received \$10,000 from ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response floods through Lutheran Services in Iowa. People brought supplies and we put together flood buckets during our Synod Assembly in May.

Congregational Vitality Teams – 24 of congregations in Western Iowa are engaged in some form of congregation renewal/vitality ministry.

Communications - eSpirit is an email newsletter of synod happenings, every two weeks.

Discipleship Academy (Formerly Lay School) - Has been a two-year (once a month) study of Biblical and Lutheran Theology. Now more classes have been added, including worship, preaching, and congregational care.

Call Process – supporting congregations in the call process and transitions between pastors.

Support Pastors – In their first call, in rural ministry (Grandview University with Southeastern Iowa Synod and Western Iowa Synod) with workshops, Interim pastors, those wanting to become pastors before and during seminary, continuing education opportunities for pastors.

Participate in Special Events - Celebrations of Congregations Anniversaries, Installations and Ordinations of Pastors, and Funerals or Memorial Services for Pastors who pass away.

Western Iowa Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) – Participate in annual retreat in February and quarterly meetings. Congregations have men's Bible Studies. A group of LMM rides in RAGBRAI every year.

Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization (WISWO) – Annual Convention in June, this year it is at Bethany Lutheran in Emmetsburg on June 22nd. They give Scholarships to Women from Western Iowa in Seminary and support the Igumbilo Lutheran Girls' Secondary School in Tanzania. Congregations have Bible study groups, make quilts and prayer shawls, give to Lutheran World Relief, and more.

Triennial Convention & Gathering of Women of the ELCA will be in Phoenix AZ in July 2020.

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