

This is the Central States Synod

Spring 2020





→ Who are we?

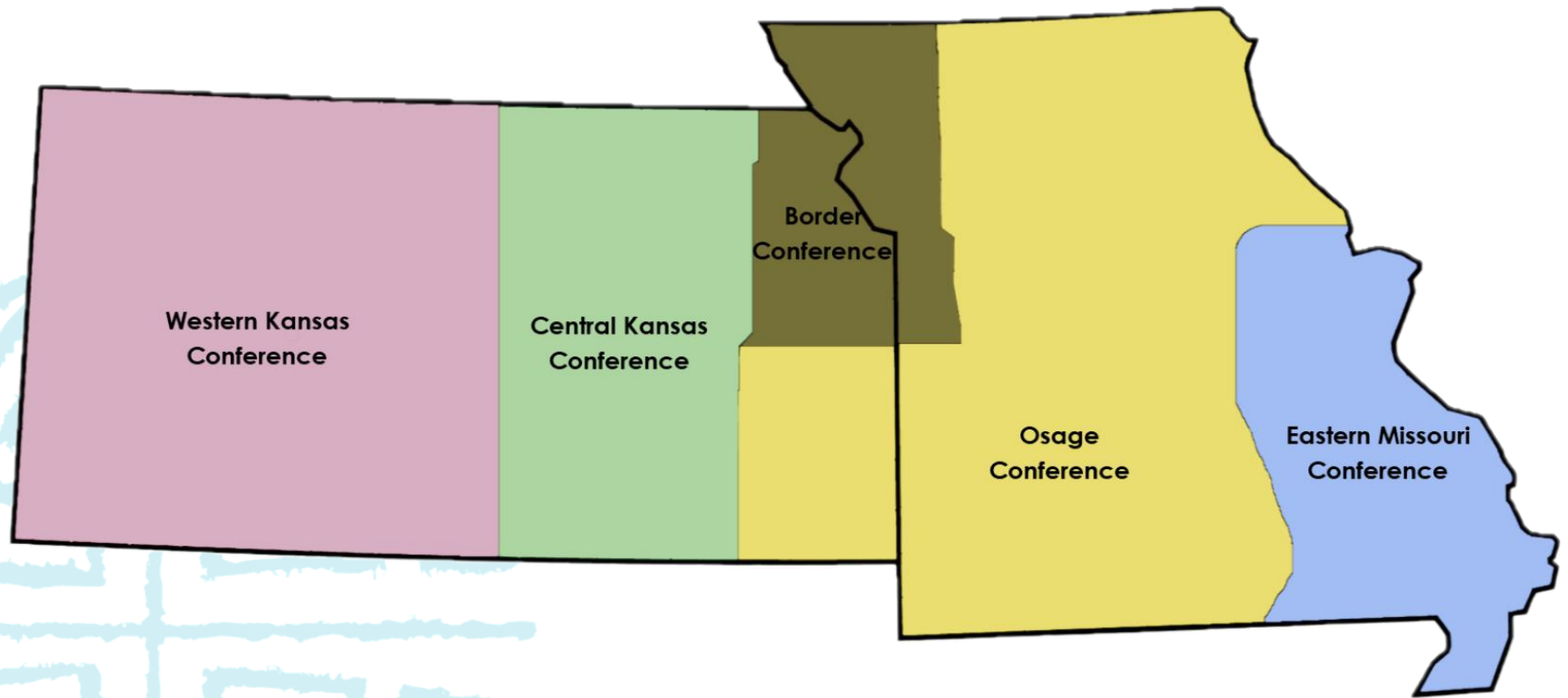
Geography

65 Synods grouped into 9 regions

Smallest just 30
congregations

Largest nearly 300
congregations





150,438 Square Miles



→ Who are we?

Membership



164 Organized Congregations



**9 Synod Authorized
Worshipping Communities**



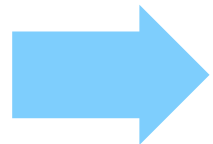
Clergy (248)

90 Active

135 Retired, OLFC, or Disabled

15 in Specialized Ministry

8 Interim



Deacons (18)

8 Active

10 Retired or OLFC



Parish Ministry Associates (46)

Border 9 • Central KS 16 • Eastern MO 7 • Osage 8 • Western KS 6



LEADERSHIP

Yoked in parish formation:	47 congregations
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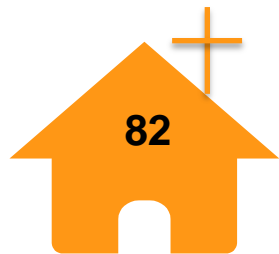
Served by Lay/PMA:	34 congregations
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Served by part-time pastors:	20 congregations
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Served by full-time pastors:	54 congregations
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Have more than one pastor:	9 congregations
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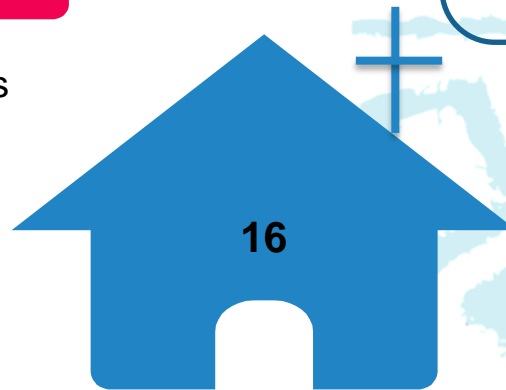
What sizes
are our
congregations?



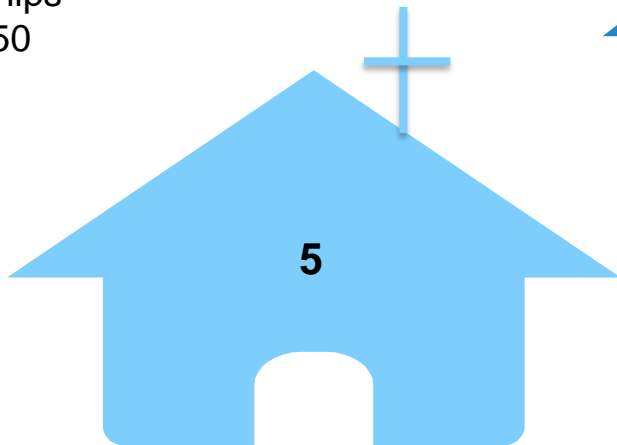
Worships
1 - 50



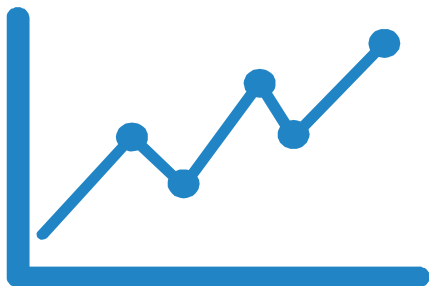
Worships
51 - 150



Worships
151 - 350



Worships
351 - 800



152
congregations
reporting

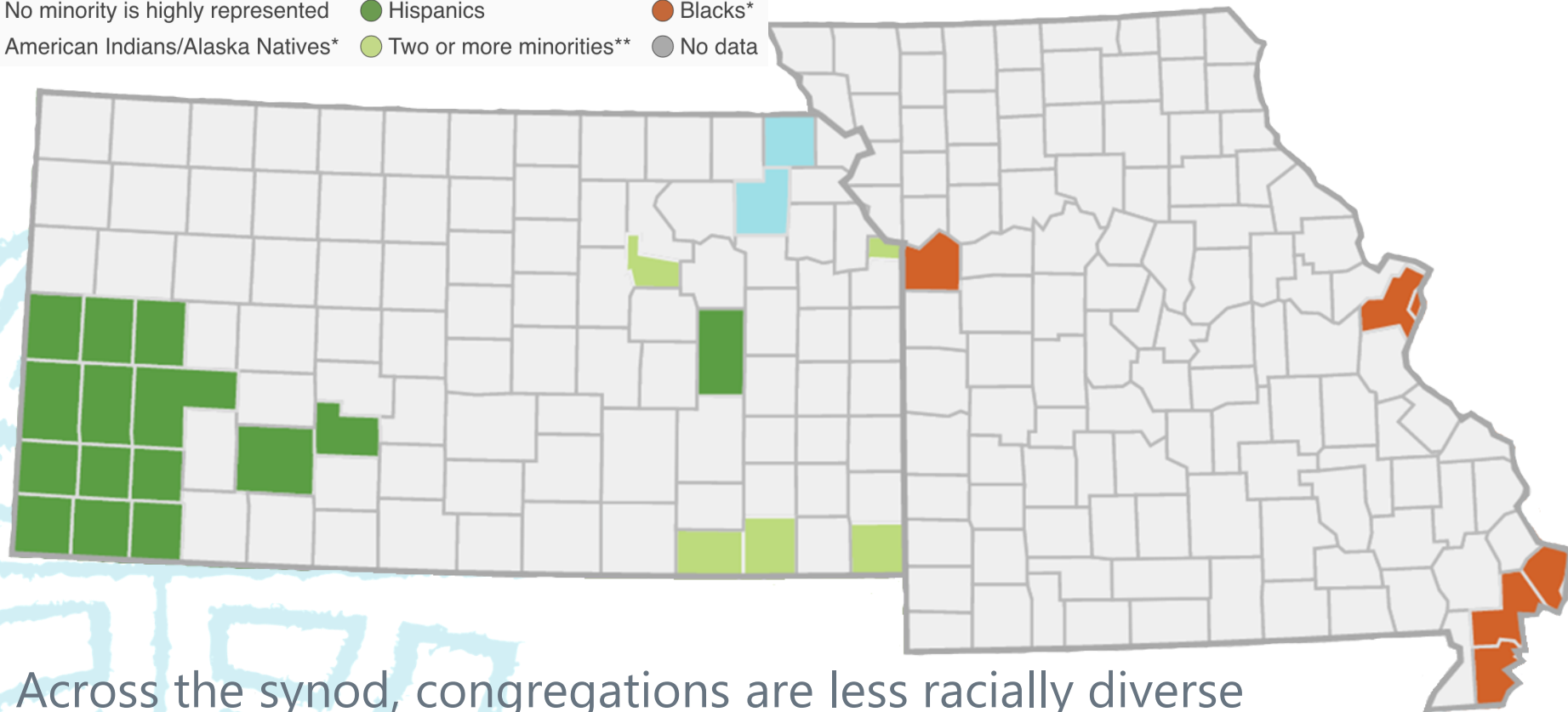
25 % of congregations report growth in average attendance

66% of congregations report decline in average attendance

US Census Bureau (2018)

	Kansas	Missouri
2019 Population Estimates	2,913,314	6,137,428
Median Household Income	\$ 57,422	\$ 53,560
Persons in Poverty	12%	13.2 %
% with high school diploma or higher	90.7%	89.6 %
Persons without health insurance	9%	9.7 %
Male Median Income	37,174	\$ 34,687
Female Median Income	23,757	\$ 22,835
Veterans	181,453	413,189

- No minority is highly represented
- Hispanics
- Blacks*
- American Indians/Alaska Natives*
- Two or more minorities**
- No data



Across the synod, congregations are less racially diverse than the communities (zip code areas) they serve.



→ Who are we?

Organization



Floor of the Synod Assembly 2019



Current Synod Council

Synod Council - Officers



**President
Bishop Susan
Candea**



**Vice President
Nancy Nagel**



**Treasurer
Scott Schulte**



**Secretary
Rev. Chad
Langdon**

Synod Council – Conference Representatives



Border Conference
Susan Boxberger



Central Kansas Conference
Rev. David Strommen



Eastern Missouri Conference
Dan Lilienkamp



Osage Conference
Rev. David Frerichs



Western Kansas Conference
Lorna Paulus

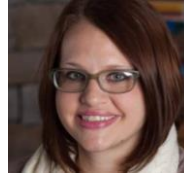
Synod Council - At-Large Members



Lay Male, POC
Terrence Freeman



Lay Female, POC
Linda Lockhart



Lay Female
Chelsea Deines



Lay Male
Dallas Rakestraw



Deacon
Mindy Tillberg



Youth
Theodore Keese

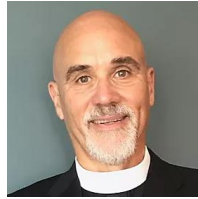


Young Adult
Joanie Saltzman

Synod Staff



Rev. Susan Candeia
Bishop



Rev. David Whetter
Bishop's Associate



Rev. Donna Simon
Director for
Evangelical Mission



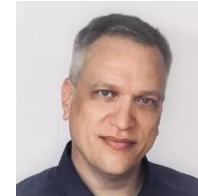
Rev. Kendra Nolde
Director for
Evangelical Mission



Dawn Bockelman
Synodical Ministry
and Special Events



Ben Perrin
Director of Disaster
Response



Tim Anderson
Director of
Communication

Conference Deans

Border



Rev. Mike Kern



Rev. Jim Peters

Central Kansas



Rev. Elizabeth Cummings



Rev. Amy Truhe

Eastern Missouri



Rev. Chris Naig



Rev. Jill Seagle

Osage



Rev. Stephen Zeller

Western Kansas



Rev. Lee Bennight



Rev. Jon Brudvig



→ Who are we?

Financial



Thank You!

In the 2019 fiscal year (ending January 31, 2020), our synod received...

\$1,567,500

... which means we collectively gave to the church-wide ministries of the ELCA

\$791,680

Strategically, the synod council and office **cut several expenses**, notably staffing and office rent. Total expenses for the year were

\$96,350 less!

than in 2018!

Because of this, we ended the year

\$41,919

in the black!

However, our mission support was significantly **down by nearly 20%.**

That is **\$84,000**

less funding to do the work of the church than in 2018.

Thanks to the frugality of your synod council, we ended the year in black despite significantly less funding.

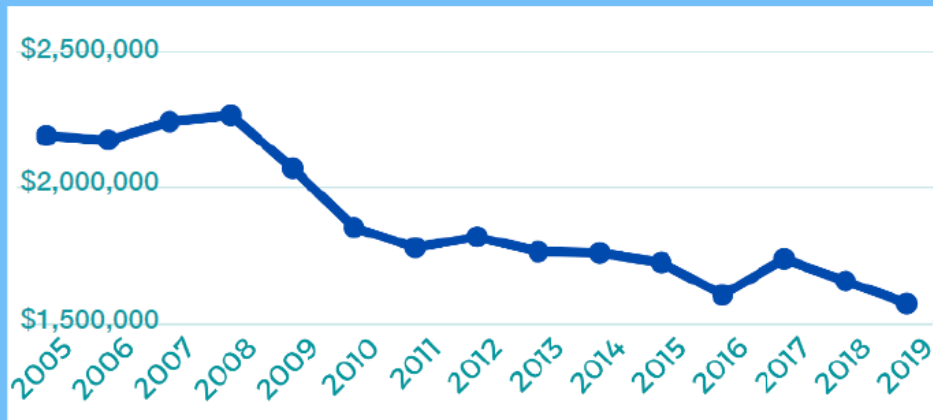
Year in a glance

The financial state of the synod usually reflects the state of its congregations. When giving goes down in congregations, Mission Support often declines, too. Going forward, it is our prayer that we collectively translate the work of the church to the people of God, specifically in terms of Mission Support and stewardship.

Together, we can continue to do God's work with our hands locally, regionally, domestically, and internationally.

Mission Support

trends over the past 15-years



As a synod, we are committed to the mission of the church and are among 24 (out of 65) synods that share 50% or more of our Mission Support with church wide.

The average CSS congregation has an annual income of \$234,742 and 263 baptized members.

The Central States Synod staffs 4 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee. 2 part-time Directors of Evangelical Mission are funded by church-wide, and 1 full-time CSS Director of Disaster Response staff is funded by Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ELCA congregations gift an average of 5.6% of their annual budget to Mission Support. CSS congregations gift an average of 5.9%; 25 CSS congregations gift less than 1% to Mission Support, while 25 others commit more than 10% to Mission Support!

For Mission Support information and resources, visit css-elca.org/stewardship

Averages for the Central States Synod

Regular Giving per Confirmed:	\$843
Mission Support % of Regular Giving:	5.47%
Household Giving % of Household Income:	2.32%
Household Income:	\$81,722

71% of
congregations
have no
indebtedness,
while several
have indebtedness
over \$1 million



Total indebtedness
has **decreased** by 30
percentage points
from 2011 to 2017





→ Who are we?

Synod Ministries

Camp Toma Shinga

Settled in the beauty of the Flint Hills, Camp Tomah Shinga aims to teach all of God's children about the beauty and mystery of His creation all around us.



Hollis Renewal Center

Hollis Renewal Center provides "a time and place apart" for individuals, small groups and organizations to pause and reflect on their mission

Hollis is a place for prayer and hospitality to provide opportunities for reflection, learning, and renewal for groups and individuals.



Campus Ministry: KU

Westwood House is a student-led community that meets for service, worship, food, fun, and study that welcomes the involvement, perspectives, and leadership of all people of any faith, race, ethnicity, or orientation. On an average week, the Westwood House welcomes and feeds over 500 students.



Campus Ministry: K State

ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministry at Kansas State University (LCM at KSU) is a ministry to, with, and by students at Kansas State University. LCM at KSU offers fellowship, worship, and service opportunities.



Campus Ministry: LuMin STL

Lutheran Campus Ministry is a progressive faith community serving colleges in St. Louis. We are here to help build an honest community to wrestle through questions of identity & vocation during the college years. We welcome ALL students of St. Louis area colleges and universities, though we primarily serve Washington University in St. Louis and St. Louis University.



Continuing Ed. Centers

The Bethany House of Study

The mission of the Bethany House of Studies is: "equipping the saints through education." Providing learning opportunities to lay people, PMA students, and church professionals.



The Lutheran School of Theology

is a ministry of the Metro St. Louis Coalition of ELCA Congregations. LST offers unique learning opportunities for lay people, professional church workers, and candidates for theological degrees.



Lutheran School of Theology
An Educational Ministry of Metro St. Louis Congregations – ELCA

Bishop Kemper School for Ministry

is a venture of the Episcopal Church, working collaboratively with the ELCA, to educate people for church leadership. There are a number of courses that can be taken as electives or continuing education classes.



**BISHOP KEMPER
SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY**
Theological Education for All People

Candidacy

The ELCA candidacy process is meant to be a welcoming and joyful time for people discerning how to serve through the church. It is a formalized - yet personally and relationally focused - journey that assists people in discernment for church leadership, whether they ultimately become rostered (Word and Sacrament or Word and Service) or serve in other lay roles within the church.



Parish Ministry Associates

The Parish Ministry Education and Associate program seeks to equip people for their own ministry including continuing education opportunities, which may lead to qualified pupil supply and pastoral lay leaders serving throughout the synod.



Bethany College

The mission of Bethany College is to educate, develop, and challenge individuals to reach for truth and excellence as they lead lives of faith, learning, and service for its 800+ students and staff from over 37 states and 20 countries.



Companion Synods

The Central States Synod is a Companion Synod to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (ELCUSFE) and the Kote (pronounced “cawtay”) District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG).



Lutherans Restoring Creation

Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) is a grass-roots effort designed to encourage the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to incorporate care for creation into its full life and mission at all levels.



Bethany Home

Bethany Home Association includes a licensed 100-bed skilled nursing facility offering rehabilitation, therapy, short and long term stays, 20 assisted living apartments with customized supports and services, and 49 independent living units.



Mission Endowment Fund

The Central States Synod Mission Endowment Fund, enhances the mission outreach of the Central States Synod through designated giving,



Kansas Interfaith Action

Kansas Interfaith Action “puts faith into action” by educating, engaging and advocating on behalf of people of faith and the public regarding critical social, economic, and climate justice issues.



Lutheran Family and Children Services

Lutheran Family and Children's Services is called to help families, children and individuals experience greater hope and wholeness of life



Women of the ELCA

CSS-WELCA commits itself to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.





→ Who are we?

Synod Authorized
Worshiping Communities

The Bridge



An ecumenical ministry sponsored by the ELCA and the Reformed Church in America with three foci: a non-profit coffee house, fair trade market, and a faith community. The community ministers to many un-churched and de-churched people.

Divino Nino



Divino Nino offers hope and stability to the Dodge City Ks community through worship, community outreach and fellowship events.

Gathering Table



Gathering Table invites people of the neighborhood in for food, clothing and a shower and they discover acceptance, fellowship, and hospitality. Pastor Ann Rundquist was called in 2013 to served as Pastoral Leader at the former Children's Memorial Lutheran Church, Kansas City and now Gathering Table Worshipping Community.

Holy Cross South Campus



HC South is a new location and expression of Holy Cross Lutheran Church exploring what it looks like to take our core DNA of inclusivity into a new place, with a new approach to experiencing God as a community. Gatherings are informal, include modern music led by a band, teaching components, and opportunities to explore God's presence and action in our lives.

Hope Local



Hope Local in the Kansas City area is a local site of Lutheran Church of Hope out of Des Moines, Iowa, developing a new local worshiping community.

Iglesia Sagrado Corazon de Jesus



Iglesia Sagrado Corazon de Jesus offers hope and stability to the Garden City Ks community through worship, community outreach and fellowship events.

Kansas City Oromo Mission



Housed at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church under the leadership of Pastor Melaku Tizazu, the congregation's mission is to serve Oromo Ethiopian-speaking immigrants by offering worship in their own language and to help them. The pastor also leads an online ministry to study the Word and support people in prayer.

Mision San Juan



Mission San Juan de Dios, formerly known as Partners Church concentrates on outreach to the Latino community, including a community clothing closet, a medical clinic, Zumba classes, computer lab, and English-as-a-Second-Language classes.

South Sudanese Congregation



The South Sudanese Worshipping Community of St. Joseph offers worship services in Dinka, the language of the largest ethnic group in South Sudan. They also support new South Sudanese residents in the St. Joseph area.