

WILD LAMENT & WHIRLING DANCE

Hear me, Eternal Lord—please help me, Eternal One—be merciful!
You did it: You turned my deepest pains into joyful dancing;
You changed wild lament into whirling dance;

You stripped off my clothing of mourning and sadness
and covered me with joy and delight. You have restored my honor.
My heart is ready to explode, erupt in new songs!
It's impossible to keep quiet! Eternal One, my God, my Life-Giver,
I will thank You forever." Psalm 30

(Multiversion translation)

ASSEMBLY LOGO DESIGNED BY MARK MCDUGAL



MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Details on Pages 2 & 3



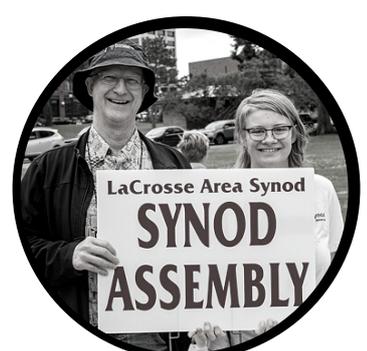
RESOLUTIONS & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Details on Pages 4 & 6



COMPANION SYNOD UPDATES

Details on Page 5



THANK YOUS & 2023 DATES

Details on Page 7

Synod Assembly is an annual gathering of delegates, leaders, pastors/staff, and volunteers from all 73 of our ministry sites in the La Crosse Area. It is a time where we intentionally walk together, to cultivate life-giving relationships rooted in God's love through times of worship, prayer, learning, conversation, offering, meals, service and highlighting our interdependent ministry relationship as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and churchwide initiatives, work to end hunger, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in all the world.



La Crosse Area Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



CULTIVATING LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIPS ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP

The 2022 Synod Assembly was an amazing and uplifting event!

My first Synod Assembly as your Bishop was the boost of energy and enthusiasm that I needed! It was wonderful to witness the impactful ministry of our church being done here in the driftless area and around the world. I am proud of who we are and anticipate only growing in this sentiment. I must say a big "THANK YOU" to the many volunteers that made the event possible, the planning committee, our presenters, and our hosts at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, UW-L, and Riverside Park. My only regret is that I did not have the opportunity to learn from all of them and all of you.

The Theme of "Wild Lament ~ Whirling Dance" captured the wide array of feelings we experienced in our gathering and serves as a call to action as we leap into another year of ministry together. In our communal acts of Wild Lament, we subversively call out sin at work in the world, wrestle with doubt, and participate in breaking down the oppressive powers of the world. We give name to the physical manifestations of sin in the world... global climate change, institutionalized and individual racism, indigenous erasure, gender and sexuality violence, and the many ways sin continues to lure us into fractured relationships.

In our Whirling Dance (if we can be so bold!) we have an opportunity to build up again. We can embrace radical optimism, we can create a new story and we can live into God's abundance. This is our opportunity to experience a foretaste of the feast to come. When we join the dance, we demonstrate to the world an alternate reality that it so desperately needs.

In and through Wild Lament and Whirling Dance I am challenging you to open yourselves up to the work of the Holy Spirit. May this year be an opportunity to cultivate life giving relationships rooted in God's love through the power of Wild Lament and Whirling dance!



LINK TO BISHOP'S ASSEMBLY SERMON: <https://youtu.be/7oKjqWAJ1V0>



Cultivating Lifegiving Relationships Rooted in God's Love



At the council meeting on May 19th, the Synod council voted to accept “Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships Rooted in God’s Love” as our mission statement. This will guide our ministry both as Synod office and as 73 congregations in ministry together. Throughout the next year, we will be asking the question, “Are we cultivating life-giving relationships rooted in God’s love through this ministry?” If we are, great! Let’s find ways that we need to invest in this ministry. If we are not, it may be time to reconsider this ministry, find ways to alter it, or perhaps let it go. This is a crucial time for the church in which we are being called to faithfully reflect on how to be the church in a changing world.

As I look ahead, I am excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads us to nurture existing relationships and where to develop new ones.

One thing I know for sure, when we open our hearts and reach out with God’s love, Jesus shows up. And With Jesus in our midst, anything is possible.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Felix Javier Malpica, Bishop

Welcome to the Synod

New Rostered Leaders to the synod since last Synod Assembly include: Rev. Alma Buco to Chaplain at Gundersen Health Care System, Rev. Alyssa Weaver to Westby Coon Prairie & Vang, Westby, WI, Rev. Mark Bartusch to Our Redeemer, La Crosse, WI, Rev. Linda McPeak to Chaplain at Eagle Crest Communities, Rev. Hillary Burns-Kite to St. Peter Evangelical, Prairie du Chien, WI. Rev. Dione Stepanek to Assistant to the Bishop & DEM



Celebrating the Call to Ministry

At the start of Synod Assembly we recognized and celebrated milestones in the ministry lives of Rostered Leaders and congregations. On Sunday, we commissioned, blessed and sent out the Sugar Creek Summer Staff or their 2022 summer ministry. Thank you taking up the call!

At this assembly, we walk alongside Living Hope Lutheran in Ettrick, WI as they celebrate 125 years of ministry, Mindoro Lutheran in Mindoro, WI as they celebrate 150 years of ministry and Fish Creek Lutheran in Rockland, WI as they also celebrate 150 years of ministry.



Rostered Leaders Being Recognized for Years of Service



Sugar Creek Summer Staff at Riverside Park for Assembly Worship

LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Assembly Edition 2022

All of these documents can be found at www.LaCrosseAreaSynod.org/2022-synod-assembly

MEMORIALS PROPOSED

The Memorials brought before the assembly were proposals that included thoughtful debate prior to a vote.

- Memorial to Uphold the Dignity of the Office of Ministry - Passed
- Memorial Regarding COVID Communion Practices - Failed

ASSEMBLY FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

- Proposed 2023 Mission Support Budget - Passed
- 2022 Treasurer's Report - Passed
- 2023 Proposed Minimum Guidelines Compensation for Rostered Leaders with a Parsonage - Passed
- 2023 Proposed Minimum Guidelines Compensation for Rostered Leaders without a Parsonage - Passed
- Compensation for Supply & Shared Time Pastoral Service - Passed
- Friday's June 10 Offering: Supported the Synod General Fund
- Saturday's June 11 Offering: Supported a variety of Synod & ELCA Partner Ministries & Program options
- Sunday's June 12 Offering: Designated by the assembly to be split 3 ways between Dignity Homes of La Crosse, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and the Synod Anti-Racism Task Force

NEWLY ELECTED & INSTALLED SYNOD COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Synod Vice President: Jesse Klosterboer (of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran in Prairie du Chien, WI)
- Secretary: Dennis Glaman (of Trinity Lutheran in Sparta, WI)
- Treasurer: Kris Stauffacher (of Grace Lutheran in Hustler, WI)
- Bishop: The Rev. Felix Malpica

NORTH CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Paul Sannerud
- Holly Anderson
- Fred Rist

SOUTH CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Amanda Schultz Garcia
- Lucy Vaaler
- Peter Engh

EAST CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Dawn Lindberg
- Leslie Peterson
- Jack Miller

WEST CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Jean Schmidt
- Bobbi Bringe
- Tom Andersen

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEADERS

SYNOD SECRETARY



Dennis Glaman has been a member of Trinity in Sparta since 2006. He has served as congregation Council Secretary, vice-president & president there. He has previously served seven years on the Synod Council and is a member of the Synod Evangelism Committee.

SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT



Jesse Klosterboer serves as the Executive Director for Sugar Creek Bible Camp, an association of our synod's churches as well as 53 other congregations around the Midwest. Jesse has served in full-time roles at ELCA camps for the past 17 years. He has a passion for creating retreat experiences for all ages and networking resources to strengthen congregations. Jesse is married to Miranda, Senior Pastor at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Prairie du Chien, WI.

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD SUPPORT

Friday Night of Synod Assembly, Bishop Kevin Strickland brought greetings from our our partner Southeastern Synod (representing ELCA congregations in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee). His sermon was a highlight for many in attendance that evening.

Following our Assembly, Bishop Strickland was inspired by our "Raising the Barn" World Hunger initiative and the Southeastern Synod made a donation of \$715 to help us to continue the work making sure ALL ARE FED. Each decorated barn at Synod Assembly represented of a donation of \$715 or more from participating congregations and the Assembly stage was filled with barns!



CLICK ON IMAGE TO VIEW BISHOP STRICKLAND'S MESSAGE



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD... WE DECORATED A BARN IN YOUR HONOR... THANK YOU!



PERU PARTNERSHIP COMPANION SYNOD



BY GREG ATTELSON

We were honored to have Pedro Bullón, Pastor President of the Iglesia Luterana del Perú, here in La Crosse to accompany us in our Assembly. Pastor Pedro was able to meet with many people during his time here.

Our companion relationship with the IL-P will be celebrating 20 years in 2023, and our churches are planning a number of activities to mark the occasion, including a synod delegation to visit Peru and walk with our sisters and brothers there. Watch for updates as the planning progresses.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COMPANION SYNOD PARTNERSHIPS WITH PERU (LA IGLESIA LUTERANA DEL PERÚ) AND EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CZECH BROTHERS COMPANION SYNOD (OR ECCB) - IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC GO TO:

www.LaCrosseAreaSynod.org/partners-in-ministry





WORLD HUNGER UPDATE

BY THE REV. KATHY INGBRITSEN

Our Synod Hunger Committee (its short title) works in our synod on behalf of hungry people in our communities, our country, and around the world – our focus is on “a just world where all are fed.” At this Assembly we featured some of the barns that were decorated by congregations as part of their fund-raising for the \$715 Family Farm “Good Gift.” This project ended up being extended over several years, and so has not had the benefit of the shorter-term focus of the cow and the sheep projects in the past. Thank you to the congregations that were able to complete this project, and it is never too late to take part or finish your project, of course!

BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse Area Synod in assembly establish a three-year goal for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024, that each congregation of the synod donate to the World Hunger Appeal and strive each year to increase their giving at least by 5%; and that each congregation continue to name at least one person as their Congregational Hunger Leader to work with the synod Hunger Subcommittee and their pastor in supporting synod hunger initiatives; and that the La Crosse Area Synod Hunger Subcommittee connect with Congregational Hunger Leaders on a regular basis and continue to offer workshops and training, share resources, and provide inspiration.

As a reminder, here is the resolution we passed at our 2021 virtual assembly with our financial and action goals for the 3 years of 2022, 2023, and 2024:

Our reported giving from the ELCA for gifts to World Hunger in 2021 from congregations, members, and other individuals in the zip codes of our synod was \$146,500. Please keep up the good and generous work you are doing!



THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS OF SOCKS & UNDERWEAR

Over 300 pairs of Socks and A LOT MORE underwear was received as an offering and brought to the alter by the kids at Riverside Park Worship on Sunday and later distributed to the Children & Teen and Women's Clothing Closets, Catholic Charities and more.



**THIS IMAGE JUST CAPTURES SOME OF THE DONATIONS THE KIDS BROUGHT TO THE FRONT DURING THE OFFERING
FEATURED: MARY IVERSON & JAVIER MALPICA**

SERVICE PROJECT SUCCESS

This year we launched a couple of new components to synod assembly including Worship in the Park at the Riverside bandstand complete with a Playground for Kids, FREE childcare Sat. of assembly, led by English Lutheran youth volunteers:

Anna Arends, Avery Farmer, Hazel Mueller and Evelyn McCoy, the commissioning of our Sugar Creek Bible Camp staff and family friendly service projects Sunday afternoon. We had 40+ volunteers serve in the community to conclude synod assembly! Thanks!

THANK YOU



La Crosse Area Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FIRST IN-PERSON SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING AGAIN



Steve McDougal



Melanie Timmerman



Rev. Karyn Bodenschatz



Linda Dahl

The Synod Council provides extensive behind-the-scenes synod leadership throughout the year. Each year at Synod Assembly, however, their leadership and planning is on full display. We could not have had such a successful synod gathering if it were not for their time and dedication.

Steve McDougal, Linda Dahl, Kris Stauffacher, Rev. Karyn Jonas/ Rev. John Ashland, Holly Anderson, Rev. Amanda Schultz Garcia, Rev. Dawn Lindberg, Linda Raap, Rev. Karyn Bodenschatz, Bobbi Bringe, Tom Andersen, Rev. Joanne Richmond, Cheryl Mader, Anita Jensen & Rev. Ben Morris

A special thank you goes out to outgoing executive committee members Steve McDougal who just finished his term as president and Linda Dahl who just finished her term as secretary. We also give thanks to other council members who just completed their terms: Rev. Karyn Bodenschatz, Linda Raap, Rev. John Ashland and Cheryl Mader.

And last, but certainly not least, many thanks and much appreciation are due our Synod Assembly Planning Committee and the committee chair Rev. Karyn Bodenschatz who put in countless hands-on hours planning and organizing to help bring the Assembly into being. Melanie Timmerman, the Synod's Office Manager and Executive Administrative Assistant, once again played a pivotal role in ensuring that all the planning was put into action. This Assembly was both Rev. Karyn's and Melanie's last year serving on the planning committee, as Rev. Karyn steps down from the role and Melanie prepares for retirement. We are immensely grateful for all their work over the years.

Save the Date for

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023:

JUNE 9, 10 & 11

Theme:

CULTIVATING LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIPS

ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE