



North/ West Lower Michigan Synod

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Churchwide Assembly

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will take place from August 5–10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We gather under the theme “We Are Church”. The assembly will hear reports and review the work of Churchwide officers, leaders and units; receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies; elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws; establish ELCA Churchwide policy; worship together; and adopt a budget.

At this assembly, we will elect a Presiding Bishop—Bishop Eaton is available to serve a second term. We will also elect a Secretary—Secretary Boerger, who is with us at our assembly, is not available to serve a second term. For both elections, we will follow the same ecclesiastical ballot process that we used in our bishop election.

We will consider the Faith, Sexism and Justice social statement, an Inter-Religious Policy statement, and a Declaration to people of African Descent. You might recall that hearings on the social statement were held in our synod. You can read it at <https://elca.org/womenandjustice>. We will also decide whether our church will ordain deacons; our church currently consecrates deacons.

I am most looking forward to a celebration of Holy Communion every day before lunch and a Bible study after lunch. I am looking forward to dinner as a synod on Thursday evening and a celebratory reception, banquet, and program for the 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Friday evening.

Those elected by our 2018 Synod Assembly to attend as voting members from our synod are: Mr. Connor Ashley (Saron/St. Joseph), Ms. Rebecca Bossenbroek (St. Stephen/Lansing), The Rev. Rachel Laughlin (Prince of Peace/Portage), Mr. Nayamukora Christophe Maganza (Trinity/Grand Rapids), The Rev. Marilyn Robinson (Resurrection/Saginaw), Bishop Craig Satterlee, Ms. Anna Scheck (Grace/Hastings), VP Sandy Schlesinger (Trinity/Midland), The Rev. Andreas Teich (Messiah/Bay City), and Mr. Rich Weingartner (Faith/Okemos).

You can learn more about the Churchwide Assembly at <https://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly>.

The ELCA invites us to enter into six weeks of prayer in anticipation of the Churchwide Assembly. I confess I missed the first two! But I am going to take up the invitation and I invite you to join me.

Week 3 (July 14)

Almighty God, grant to your Church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name may abide to the end. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by your wisdom, as this church prepares to gather in assembly. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Week 4 (July 21)

Loving God, through holy baptism you continue to make us new and gather us together across all human divisions reconciling us to yourself in one body through the cross. Strengthen us by your presence, that our thoughts and actions may be rooted and grounded in your love for us. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by your reconciling love, as this church prepares to gather in assembly. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Continued from Page 1**Week 5 (July 28)**

By your word, eternal God, your creation sprang forth, and we were given the breath of life. By your word, eternal God, death is overcome, Christ is raised from the tomb, and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit. May we boldly proclaim this good news in our words and our deeds, rejoicing always in your powerful presence. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by your Word, as this church prepares to gather in assembly. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Week 6 (August 4) Sunday before the Assembly

Let us pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and its members who gather this week in its Churchwide Assembly. Inspire the celebration of God's varied works throughout the church. Instill your peace in the midst of the work you have called us to and the deliberations that will take place. Shape the work of the church according to your will for the whole world. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

For those traveling to the assembly: O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a start you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make the ways safe and the homecomings joyful for those traveling to the Churchwide Assembly and bring us all at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Week 7 (August 11) Sunday after the Assembly

Holy One, you formed the church to announce the words of eternal life to the world. Equip the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which concluded its Churchwide Assembly yesterday to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Gather the church together into one body for the sake of our shared mission to tell of the love of God. Filled with your Word, turn the church inside out so that we might live lives that proclaim your freedom and renewal to all the world. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Peace,

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop



2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-10, 2019 • MILWAUKEE

Churchwide Assembly Volunteers

In preparation for the Churchwide Assembly, the Greater Milwaukee Synod is looking for about 600 volunteers to help the event run smoothly. Volunteer responsibilities include ushering, ironing albs, providing technology assistance, monitoring doors, greeting visitors, and more. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, please visit the volunteer website: <http://www.cwa19.org>.

If you are interested in volunteering for Churchwide Assembly, please complete the volunteer registration form: <http://www.cwa19.org/volunteer-registration/>.

Synod Finances as of June 30, 2019

June Revenue and Support		Year to Date Revenue and Support	
Mission Support	\$ 99,646	Mission Support	\$ 569,380
Other	\$ 2,877	Other	\$ 96,252
Total	\$ 102,523	Total	\$ 665,632
June Expenses		Year to Date Expenses	
Support to ELCA	\$ 49,823	Support to ELCA	\$ 284,690
Other	\$ 75,466	Other	\$ 407,948
Total	\$ 125,289	Total	\$ 692,638
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0	Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (22,766)	Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (27,006)

Synod Eucharist Guest Preacher

On Wednesday, July 31, we are delighted to welcome Pastor Bill Uetricht as our guest preacher. Pastor Bill has served First Lutheran Church in North Muskegon for more than 20 years and is also a member of Synod Council.

Worship will take place at 11:30am at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Lansing. We encourage you to join us and hope to welcome other preachers to bring us the good news of the gospel.

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday September 8, 2019

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Access resources for planning, promotion, and more:

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2IaW8tp>

Fall Theological Conference

October 6-8, 2019
Mackinac Island

Rostered ministers and their spouses are invited to join colleagues from the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Southeast Michigan Synod for the Fall Theological Conference on Mackinac Island. Centered on the theme "Engaging Deitrich Bonhoeffer: Discipleship, Life Together, and His Theology of the Cross", the keynote speaker will be Rev. Matthew L. Becker, Ph.D., Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University.

This event will be held Sunday-Thursday, October 6-8, 2019 at the Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island.

Registration costs have been subsidized by "You Matter" funds, in lieu of a scheduled event this summer. All registrations must be mailed to the Northern Great Lakes Synod by August 31, 2019.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2Z7ae5B>

Addiction and Faith Conference

September 20-22, 2019
Bloomington, MN

The second annual Addiction and Faith Conference is open to anyone interested in exploring the devastation of addiction and the remarkable role of faith in the healing process.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2KER4z8>

LARC Retreat: Going Out Yet Not Knowing

October, 22-24, 2019
Conway, MI

We live in the paradox of a culture that is more connected than ever before and yet more disconnected. The planners of the LARC retreat discern the Spirit is disrupting our ways of working to challenge and invite us to claim new opportunities. We seek a better understanding of the "Nones", "Dones", and "Spiritual but not Religious" who are nonetheless hungry for authentic spirituality.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2E9akAF>

Synod Boundaries Workshop

October, 29, 2019
Muskegon, MI

This new and improved boundaries workshop is open to rostered ministers and lay leaders. All rostered ministers who have not attended a boundaries training in the last three years are strongly encouraged to attend. Registration is \$10 and includes lunch and materials.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2XVmFDA>

Congregations in Transition

Note: We include congregations on the public list when the called pastor or rostered leader completes her or his ministry in the congregation. Thus, congregations in which the pastor has resigned but is still serving are not listed here. We also do not post calls that are accepted until Bishop Satterlee signs the Letter of Call.

Bay Conference	Rev. Emily Olsen, Dean	Kalamazoo Conference	Rev. Kjersten Priddy, Dean
Prince of Peace/Rose City	Jeff Bonn, Intentional Interim/Interviewing	Stony Lake Conference	Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Dean
Faith/Saginaw	Supply Pastors/Revising MSP	Sunrise Conference	Rev. Chrisy Bright, Dean
St. Peter/Unionville (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Interviewing	Peace/Gaylord	Gary Grieger, Interim/Interviewing
Capital Area Conference	Rev. Gary Bunge, Dean	Traverse Conference	Rev. Scott Torkko, Dean
St. Stephen/Lansing (part-time)	Erick Johnson, Interim/Interviewing		
Calvary/Lansing (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Discerning Future		
Immanuel/Jackson	Cheryl Johnson, Stated Supply/Interviewing		
Greater Grand Rapids Conference	Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas, Dean		
Peace/Holland	Clay Bates, Contracted through December/Revising MSP		
Immanuel/Big Rapids (part-time)	Dennis Smith, contracted through August/Discerning Future		