



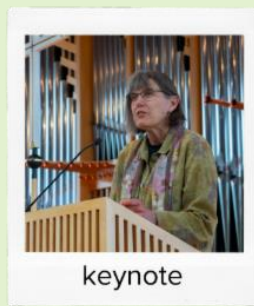
News and Events

SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

May 22, 2023



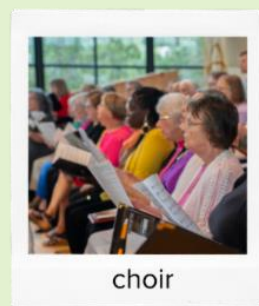
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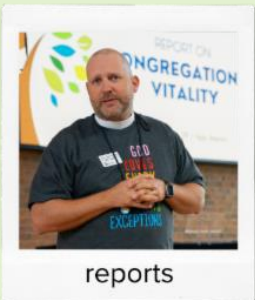
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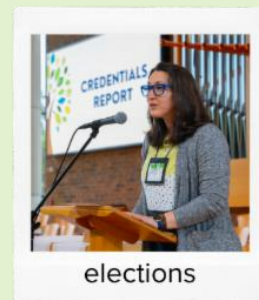
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elections

2023 Synod Assembly Wrap-Up

Thank you to all who participated in our 2023 Synod Assembly, held May 12-13 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Under the assembly theme of "Living in Hope," featured speaker the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing shared a fast-moving presentation called "Seven Things That Give Me Hope for the Climate Crisis." View her [slides](#) OR view the [recorded presentation](#) (also includes the slides)
- The Rev. Louise Johnson from the ELCA shared an overview of the activities of the churchwide organization. View Rev. Johnson's [slides](#) OR watch [Presiding Bishop Eaton's video](#)
- Representatives were elected to the Synod Council and committees.
- The 2024 budget was approved.
- The assembly approved amendments to the synod constitution, along with resolutions

related to a position for a person of color on Synod Council and support for sacred tiny house communities.

More photos and wrap-up materials can be found at <https://spas-elca.org/events/2023-synod-assembly>.

Planting Hope: Families Together Therapeutic Preschool

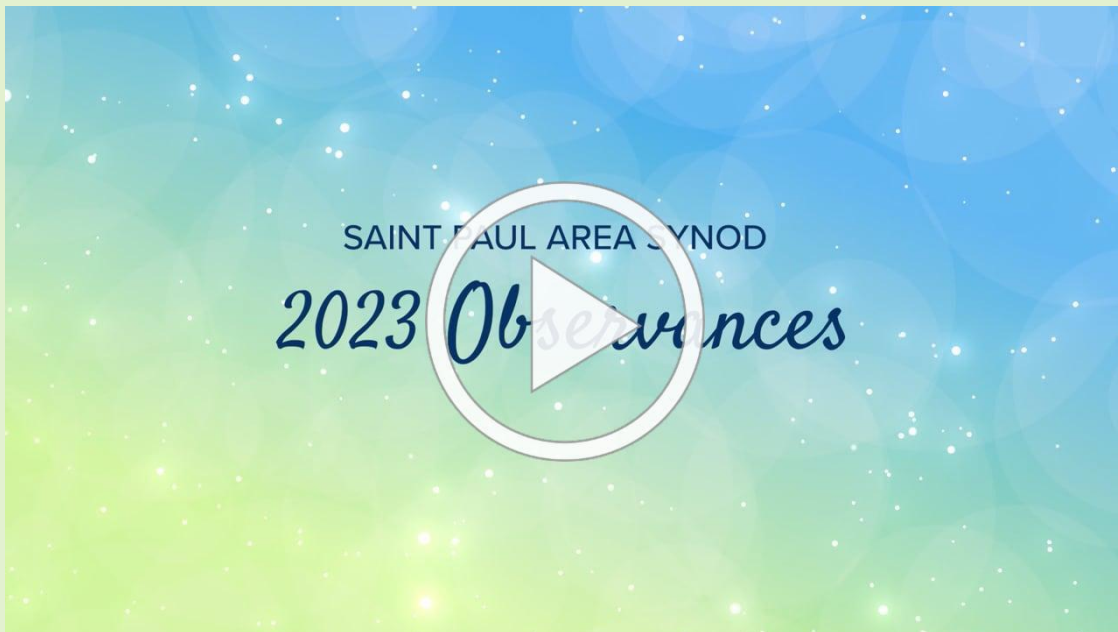
The synod presented a check for \$1 million to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. As part of the synod's Planting Hope Campaign, this gift will provide funding to renovate the ground level of Grace Lutheran Church as the site for a Families Together therapeutic preschool on the East Side of St. Paul.

Contributions are continuing to come in from generous congregations and individuals to fulfill our financial goal for this project. Thank you to all who have contributed and who will still contribute!



Observances

Each year at Synod Assembly, we mark "observances" from the past year, which includes milestone anniversaries, retirements and deaths, as well as recognition of rostered ministers new to the synod. We invite you to view this year's Observances video:



Bishop's Sermon: The Gift of Creation

Bishop Patricia Lull preached at the synod-wide worship service, which kicked off the activities at this year's Synod Assembly.

What, then, is our role as creatures in the face of climate crisis? It is not to sit back and do nothing, shrugging with indifference, because we think Christ will do it all. Neither is our role one of being overwhelmed because the challenges are so grave. Our role is to get in line and follow Christ's own journey of reconciliation and solidarity with the whole creation; naming, protecting, teaching, changing our own habits of consumption, and forswearing the assumption that the earth exists for us to use up.



[Read Bishop Lull's full sermon.](#)

We want your feedback! If you attended Synod Assembly and have not yet completed the post-event survey that was emailed last week, please do so as soon as possible. Questions? Call the synod office at 651-224-4313.

Addressing Hunger: A Garden for Generations to Come

The Rice Street Gardens are now seven years old. The founders, the garden team, and most of all, the gardeners are hoping the garden continues for generations to come. This community, multi-city, and church (Galilee Lutheran) effort today serves 260 gardeners, 70% of them immigrants and many from Nepal and Myanmar. The gardeners speak a dozen first languages in their homes!

These gardeners are not only gardening to provide food for their families (and extended family and neighbors) but are eating healthy and familiar food. They are, at the same time, building a new community — something not as easily done when one is an immigrant to a new country and a new way of life.



As someone who has visited the gardens and watched them grow, it is always a treat to see people tending the earth in new ways. I have seen many, many plants that were totally unfamiliar to me. I have been offered produce from people with a smile rather than spoken language. I've watched gardeners share tools, help with keeping the water tanks filled, and share produce and meals with each other.

The 2.5 acres of the Rice Street Gardens (1958 Rice Street, Maplewood) are part of a 13-acre parcel owned by the Saint Paul Regional Water Services. The owners would like to sell the entire piece. Rice Street Gardens are trying to raise \$1 million dollars to buy the land to preserve the gardens forever. More than a third of the

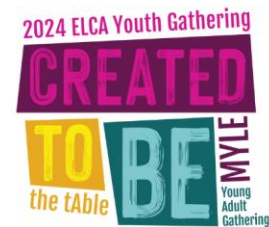
money has been raised but the need is great. Gifts of any size are welcome and appreciated and will be matched up to \$50,000. Gifts are tax deductible. You can help by sending a check to: Rice Street Gardens – Preservation Fund, Galilee Lutheran Church, 145 McCarrons Blvd. Roseville, MN 55113.

This is a wonderful opportunity to feed a hunger — a hunger for nutritious food as well as a hunger for a way to support a family, build relationships, and learn to be part of a new community in a new country. Stop for a visit as the growing season begins; join in the Summer Garden Party on August 5, 2023 from noon to 4 p.m. There will be music, food, a cultural fashion show and more!

Vernita Kennen
Incarnation, Shoreview

ELCA Youth Gathering Information Sessions Thursday, May 25 - 2 or 7 p.m. | Online

Are you planning to bring a group to the ELCA Youth Gathering, MYLE, or the tAble next summer in New Orleans? Are you on the fence and want to hear more before making a decision? Are you new to ministry or have never heard of the Gathering? Join your Minneapolis Area Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod Champions, John Hulden and Kelsey Young, for a Zoom info session to learn about these amazing faith formation opportunities! [Register here](#) to receive the Zoom link by email.



Information Session
May 25, 2:00 or 7:00 pm

Have you seen the new ELCA Youth Gathering website? [Check it out here](#) for new information, resources and content on the 2024 Gathering, MYLE, the tAble and the Young Adult Gathering. The Youth Gathering has also launched [gLearn](#), an online hub of courses and trainings related to the 2024 event.

Hunger Grant Applications

The application process for ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants opens today! A new two-step process is designed to increase efficiency, shorten the time for award decisions, reduce barriers to the application process and allow for deeper engagement with partners invited to submit a full proposal. Prior to submitting a full grant proposal, grant applicants are asked to complete a letter of inquiry by May 31 with a brief description of the project proposal. ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants are awarded to ELCA congregations, organizations or other nonprofits with significant connections to ELCA congregations. [Learn more.](#)



New ELCA Young Adult Vocational Fellowship

The ELCA has launched a Young Adult Vocational Fellowship, which offers young adults an opportunity to discover their calling while gaining valuable professional experience. In partnership with new and existing year-long opportunities at ELCA affiliated ministries, participants are equipped with tools and knowledge to explore their faith and vocational aspirations while receiving support from a network of peers and experienced ELCA coaches. The program is designed to prepare communities and ministry organizations to welcome new, young and diverse leaders, paving the way for a more inclusive and dynamic future.



Fellows receive competitive compensation and benefits, including access to mental health resources, relocation assistance, coaching, and a small group cohort. The program has partnered with several sites for the 2023-2024 year, including The Dwelling, All Places Together, National Lutheran Communities & Services, Together Lab, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, The Hunger Advocacy Fellow Program, Building Resilient Communities with the ELCA Churchwide Organization, Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, the Minneapolis Area Synod, and Capital University. [Learn more.](#)

Young Adult-Focused Farm Bill Listening Session

Tuesday, May 23 - 12 p.m. or Thursday, May 25 - 7 p.m.

The ELCA Advocacy Team and the ELCA Young Adult Ministries teams are partnering to host two young adult-focused Farm Bill Listening Sessions. The farm bill is an expansive piece of legislation that has implications on conservation, poverty, race, education, the economy, and far beyond. These are things that many young adults care deeply about. Further, young adults are the future inheritors and stewards of this land, and their stake in this bill must not be overlooked. These sessions will be an opportunity to engage with and to equip young adults to use their voices to advocate for themselves and communities they care about. [Learn more & register.](#)



Future of Rostered Ministry

In March 2022, a diverse group was appointed to examine and improve the candidacy process that equips rostered ministers for service in the ELCA. This team is the [Candidacy Leadership Development Working Group](#). In the last year it has spent time hosting virtual and in-person listening sessions to learn the needs of our church and surveying those excluded by the current candidacy process. The working group is now prioritizing feedback from the church at large. All members of the ELCA are invited to hearings at which the working group will share its findings. There will also be an opportunity for response. More details will be shared at the hearings; you can find an executive summary of the team's work [here](#).

The hearings will be hosted [via Zoom](#). Please mark your calendars for one of the following (all are central time zone):

- June 20, 6 p.m.
- June 22, 12 p.m.
- June 26, 1 p.m.
- June 28, 9 p.m.

No registration is necessary; [click here](#) to join a Zoom meeting at the scheduled time.

The synod office will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Courageous Leadership Series

Wednesdays - 1 p.m. | Online

ELCA Coaching offers a weekly online gathering for ministry leaders. Each week this series features a new topic and presenters. This week, we're talking about the generations - baby boomers, Gen X, millennials, etc. - and how we're all together in the workforce, in communities and the church. How are assumptions and beliefs holding us back from communicating and collaborating better? On May 24, the presenter is social psychologist, professor, and researcher Leah Georges, who works with organizations to pull apart the enduring fable of generations at war. She will show us how we're more similar than different and will offer helpful tactics for navigating multigenerational communities. [Learn more.](#)

Wartburg Seminary Online Open House

Tuesday, May 23 - 6:30-8 p.m. | Online

Are you wondering if seminary is for you? Wartburg Seminary invites prospective students interested in its master degree program to join them for an online open house. The evening will be a great opportunity for candidates to participate in a Scripture study led by one of the faculty and hear from current students. It's a chance to learn more about Wartburg's Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry and Master of Arts degree programs and the variety of ways Wartburg provides theological education. [Learn more.](#)



Cherish All Children Hybrid 5K

June 9-11 | Your Own Time & Location

Join Cherish All Children for their Hybrid 5K! You have the option to walk or run at a time and location that works best for you, or meet up with Cherish All Children's church and community partners for a group walk Sunday at Victory Memorial Parkway in Minneapolis. The goal for each participant is \$300. Enlisting others to sponsor you is an easy way to accomplish this goal, such as asking 10 friends to sponsor you for \$30 each. If you're unable to participate, you may also sponsor a racer or make a general gift and support this work of keeping children



safe from sexual exploitation. [Learn more.](#)

United Theological Seminary Cohort

The Leadership Center for Social Justice at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities is inviting congregational pastors and ministers to apply for the second year of its program by July 1, 2023. The program, led by a team of experts, helps pastors develop and/or deepen sustainable, community-based, social justice ministries responsive to what God is doing in our world, congregations, and communities.

The cohort will meet twice monthly (Friday mornings) in a hybrid format from September 2023 through May 2024. Those who complete the program earn a Certificate in Leadership for Social Justice and may be eligible to earn up to eight credits toward a Doctor of Ministry degree. Applications with a congregational letter of support must be complete by July 1. [Learn more.](#)



Other Event Reminders:

- [Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Workshop](#) - June 24 | Lakeview, Maplewood
- [The Confluence](#) - June 25-30 | Augsburg University, Minneapolis
- [Glocal Youth Mission Trip](#) - July 5-10 | Minneapolis Various Sites
- [Sudan Mission Centennial Celebration](#) - July 7-9 | Central, Minneapolis & Other Locations
- [ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering](#) - July 17-20 | Phoenix, Ariz.
- [Bishop's Theological Conference](#) - Oct. 15-17 | Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

Bishop Patricia Lull

- June 3-4 - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley

The Rev. Justin Grimm

- June 4 - Faith, Forest Lake

[Blogs](#)

[Job Openings](#)

[Calendar](#)

[ELCA](#)

[News About Calls](#)

[Living Lutheran](#)

The Saint Paul Area Synod, which includes 107 congregations and new mission starts, is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



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