



News *and* Events

SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

May 19, 2025



We Had a Synod Assembly!

Nearly 400 rostered ministers and lay leaders registered for this year's Synod Assembly, held this past Friday and Saturday at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Pictured above is a moving moment of the worship service, when Bishop Lull asked the crowd to "scooch over" to the center aisle to surround her in singing *I Love to Tell the Story*, a fitting hymn for a gathering with the theme of *Called to Invite*.

We need a few days to unpack supplies, go through photos and reflect on our time together...we have much to share with you: election results, approved resolutions and memorials, observances (milestone anniversaries and retirements, etc.) from the past year and more. In the coming days, watch for some highlights on our social media, website and future newsletters. Many thanks to St. Andrew's for again sharing their beautiful facility, competent staff and friendly volunteers with us. Thank you to all who helped make our assembly possible!

THANK YOU TO OUR SYNOD ASSEMBLY SPONSORS:



Gratitude & Blessing Breakfast for CYF Leaders

**Thursday, May 22 - 8:30-11 a.m. |
Bethlehem, Minneapolis**

Children, Youth and Family (CYF) leaders and volunteers are invited to celebrate the program year and gear up for summer! We hope all CYF leaders from the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Area Synods can join us for breakfast, time together, and worship



with Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Jen Nagel. There is a \$10 cost to help cover the cost of breakfast, with scholarship assistance available. [Register here.](#)

Leading Antiracist Studies in the Congregation

Wednesday, May 28 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. | St. Michael's, Roseville

Join the synod's Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE) work group in an experiment this summer! Using the curriculum, *Now is the Time: A Study Guide for the ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent*, we will hold two sessions on "Leading Antiracist Studies in the Congregation." Individuals, congregational leaders, and racial ministry teams are invited to attend the first training event on May 28, which can either be treated as a one-off event or a catalyst for starting a conversation or study in your own congregation over the summer. [Register here.](#) At the end of the summer, there will be a closing event where we can learn from one another's experiences. Questions? Contact Pastor Tim Maybee at tmaybee@aglcigh.org.



PRAYER SERVICE FOR ROSTERED MINISTERS

Thursday, May 29 at 9 a.m. | Resurrection, Woodbury

Scripture, music & prayers with other pastors and deacons in the synod



Youth Gathering Volunteers

Applications are now open to join the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering planning teams! From creative programming to behind-the-scenes logistics, this is your chance to help shape an unforgettable experience for thousands of young people as the Gathering heads to Minneapolis. Apply by June 30. [Learn more.](#)



ELCA Youth Ministry and the Gathering are also seeking 11 regional representatives to assist in establishing relationships within their region, lead cohorts or emerging and established youth leaders, champion the 2027 Gathering, and to serve as resources for synods and congregations as they join the movement toward this triennial mountaintop experience. [Learn more.](#)



ELCA Advocacy Podcast

Did you know ELCA Advocacy has a podcast that connects faith-based advocacy and current events that matter in our neighborhoods, worship communities, social ministries and lives? Each episode of *Here I Pod* offers insights on important advocacy topics and explains how to get involved. Listeners hear from ELCA staff who share their knowledge and experience, helping you reflect on today's challenges. The podcast brings together voices of faith-advocates caring for all people and creation. Season 1 topics have included conversations around housing and homelessness, climate care, foreign assistance funding freeze effects, migration policy, and more. Tune in wherever you find your podcasts to learn, act, and be inspired!



ELCA Hunger Grants

Applications are now being accepted for ELCA's World Hunger 2026 Domestic Hunger Grants! To learn more about submitting a Letter of Inquiry (LOI), grant partnership eligibility, and granting priorities, visit the [Domestic Hunger Grants website](#). ELCA World Hunger hosted a Zoom webinar last week for applicants to review granting priorities and cover the basics of submitting an LOI. A recording of the webinar is now available on the Domestic Hunger Grant [FAQ page](#).

How to Tell Your Ministry's Story to Funders

Tuesday, May 20 - 6:30-8 p.m. | Online

Telling your ministry's story in a memorable way is an important first step in gaining funding for your program - whether you're writing a grant, speaking to local funders or to your own council, local or state government, speaking to your community, or even your own team members. Beth Ann Johnson, a professional grant writer for non-profits, will help you learn how to focus on the impact your project will have, how to use vivid details and real people to humanize the problem and your solution. She'll also help you to clearly outline the problem, your solution, and how your project will address it, while also demonstrating how your organization is capable of completing the project. Beth Ann will also help you learn about the ELCA World Hunger grant application process, which runs through July 2. [Register here.](#)



George Floyd Memorial at Rise & Remember

Friday, May 23-Sunday, May 25 | George Floyd Square, Minneapolis

ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and ELCA African Descent Ministries invite you to join them at the [Rise & Remember Festival](#) to remember George Floyd and "those we have lost unjustly to the pervasive impacts of systemic racism." This three-day event concludes with a gospel concert and candlelight vigil; meet in front of Calvary Lutheran Church at 5 p.m. [Learn more.](#)

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Breaking Chains, Building Hope:

Faith Communities Rising Against America's Addiction Crisis

Wednesday, May 28 - 12-1 p.m. | Online

Presenter Jeff Horowitz of SAFE Project will discuss how our language, assumptions and attitudes toward those struggling with substance use disorders often create barriers to healing and recovery. The unexpected pathways to addiction could affect anyone – from prescription medications after surgery to coping with trauma, mental health challenges or even social pressure. This session will provide faith communities with practical life-saving strategies to help move beyond judgment to genuine understanding and effective support. This webinar is for clergy, counselors, faith and lay leaders, someone in recovery or someone who loves someone who is struggling. [Learn more and register.](#)

Shobi's Table Open House

Sunday, June 1 - 12-2 p.m. | Christ on Capitol Hill, St. Paul

Whether you're a regular at lunch, a volunteer, or just want to see what we are all about, this open house is for you! Invite a friend and share the good news of a pay-as-you-can food truck and community. Come try the food, have your photo taken in the truck, check out the merch table and enter a raffle. [Learn more.](#)



Cherish All Children 5K

**Sunday, June 8 in Minneapolis or June 6-8 at
Your Own Location**



Join in this fun event where YOU can make a difference in keeping children safe! Walk or run at a time and location that's best for you or meet for a group walk/run Sunday, June 8, at 11:30 a.m. at 4499 Victory Memorial Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55412. 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. Participants who raise \$500 will prompt a donor to give an additional \$500! If you're unable to participate, you may also sponsor a racer or make a general gift. Help us raise \$12,000 for this important work of keeping children safe from sexual exploitation! [Learn more and register.](#) Questions? Email joy.mcelroy@cherishallchildren.org.

Application Deadline: May 23

The Confluence for High School Youth

June 22-27 | Augsburg University, Minneapolis



The Confluence, now in its 20th year, is a program for youth to explore their vocation...the confluence or intersection of God's story, the world's story and their personal story. Throughout the week, we explore these different stories through worship, classroom study with an Augsburg professor — this year it's Professor Chris Stedman — personal reflection, small group discussions, meeting with local leaders and dynamic Augsburg staff, eating good, local food and exploring Augsburg's Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. This year's focus is on the connections between vocation, resistance and resilience — essential pieces to surviving and thriving in our current moment. The application deadline has been extended to May 23. [Learn more.](#)

Peace of the Prairie Retreat for Church Musicians

Sept. 11-13 | Shalom Hill Farm, Windom

Church musicians are invited to a time or renewal that includes worship, discussion, resource sharing and fellowship, as well as opportunities to enjoy the walking prayer trails, labyrinth and peace of the prairie. Participants will be introduced to Shalom Hill Farm's newly commissioned liturgical resources, including *Peace of the Prairie: A Liturgy for Here and Now* and *Shalom Daily Prayers: Morning, Midday, Evening*. The retreat leader is composer and liturgical musician Carol Meier. The cost is \$300 per person including lodging (\$200 for commuters). [Learn more.](#)



Other Events:

- [Aus Memorial Lecture](#) - June 17 | Luther Seminary, St. Paul
- [Churchwide Assembly](#) - July 28-Aug. 2 | Phoenix, Ariz.
- [Seminar on Lutheran Liturgy](#) - Aug. 13-15 | Minneapolis
- [God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday](#) - Sept. 7
- **Bishop's Theological Conference** - Oct. 12-14 | Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

Bishop Patricia Lull

- May 30 - Southeast Minnesota Synod Assembly Worship, Mankato (preaching)

The Rev. Justin Grimm

- June 1 - Our Savior's, Stillwater (preaching)

[Blogs](#)

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The Saint Paul Area Synod, which includes 106 congregations and new mission starts, is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



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