



July 14, 2025

Mission Support Dinner

Monday, Aug. 18 - 6-8 p.m. | St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi

All congregations in the synod are invited to send up to three representatives to an inspiring evening as we celebrate being church together and hear about ways your contributions to mission support are making ministry possible all around our synod. Check out this short video from Pastor Justin Grimm and Pastor Kirsten Fryer from the mission support planning team:



There's no charge to attend the event on Aug. 18. We'll eat together, study Scripture, celebrate ministries that make a difference, and express our gratitude for our congregations, who make it all possible. You may sign up your three representatives on the same registration.

[REGISTER](#)

Open House for Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer

Wednesday, July 16 - 10:30 a.m. | Synod Office, St. Paul

An open house to celebrate Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer's good work on the synod staff will be held this Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the synod office in St. Paul. A brief program begins at 11 a.m. Rolf has taken a new position as the executive director of a Minnesota-based nonprofit after four-plus years serving as the assistant to the bishop for lay leadership and equity initiatives. Please join us in thanking Rolf for his contributions to the synod as send him on his way to new adventures!



An Opportunity to Invite

During this year's Synod Assembly, we focused on what it means to be "called to invite." Well, here's a great opportunity for you to do some inviting of your own!



Think for a moment about someone you know who seems to have a heart for serving the Lord...or has a gift for ministry leadership...or who is simply struggling with trying to figure out how God might be calling them. What if you reached out to invite them to an upcoming discernment retreat, where they can explore God's call through storytelling, introspection and Scripture study?

[Click here to download a PDF](#) about three retreat options to share with someone(s) who might be wondering if God is calling them to something...or something different. These Discernment Retreats are offered through the ELCA synods in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota on Aug. 17 in Faribault, Nov. 2 in Forest Lake and Feb. 22 in Minnetonka. The cost is just \$10 per person. [Register here.](#)

PRAYER SERVICE FOR ROSTERED MINISTERS

Thursday, July 24 at 9 a.m. | Christ on Capitol Hill, St. Paul

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



Bishop's Theological Conference

**Sunday, Oct. 12-Tuesday, Oct. 14 |
Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria**

This event is for rostered ministers for pastors and deacons in the Saint Paul Area Synod, including those who are retired. The Bishop's Theological Conference is a time for study, worship, unstructured time and abundant conversations.



This year's featured speaker is the Rev. Heidi Neumark, recently retired pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan. She was a founding member of South Bronx Churches, an ecumenical community organizing group that trained local leaders, built hundreds of low-cost homes, and established a top-ranked public high school. Rev. Neumark is the author of three books, including *Sanctuary: Being Christian in the Wake of Trump*.

Members of the Bishop Election Committee will also be present at the conference for a listening session as we prepare for a new synod bishop in 2026. Watch for more information and registration soon!



Registration closes tomorrow!

Enneagram Retreat for Rostered Ministers

Aug. 19-20 | Dunrovin Retreat Center, Marine on St. Croix

For pastors and deacons rostered in our synod who wish to use the Enneagram as a guide for spiritual and leadership transformation. The retreat will be led by certified spiritual director Karen Carlsen and hosted by Pastor Justin Grimm and Deacon Krista



Lind from the synod staff. The cost is \$220, which includes your Enneagram assessment and report, lodging and three meals. Registration closes tomorrow to allow time to complete your Enneagram assessment.

[REGISTER](#)

Lutheran Night at Target Field

Thursday, Aug. 14 - 6:40 p.m. | Target Field, Minneapolis

Take yourself out to the ball game with other area Lutherans! There are a variety of seating options and pricing, ranging from upper level (\$18) to club level (\$51) and more. For group or individual tickets, contact Ryan Thomson at 612-659-3582 or ryanthomson@twins.com.



National Anthem Lutheran Mass Choir

Let's show Minnesota that Lutherans can SING! Gather with other voices to sing the national anthem at the start of the game at Lutheran Night on Aug. 14. You will need to get to the field by 5:40 p.m. and meet the group outside the stadium by Gate 6. [Watch this video for complete details.](#)

Woven Together

2025 GUATEMALA GALA

September 28 - 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Midland Hills Country Club, Roseville

Celebrating 20 years of companionship with the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala!

Save the date!



CYF Healthy Boundaries Training

Tuesday, Sept. 16 - 6-7:30 p.m. | Online

ELCA Region 3 is offering another Healthy Boundaries Training for professionals and volunteers who work with children, youth and family ministry. Participants will explore their own relationship to power, boundaries, and authority, gaining insights into how these dynamics shape their leadership. Beyond personal reflection, the workshop will also equip leaders to actively foster wise boundary-setting

skills in the young people they serve. Through discussion and practical strategies, attendees will be empowered to nurture healthy, trust-filled ministry spaces. The presenters are Pastor Emily Carson of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and Cherish All Children's Joy McElroy. The cost is a \$10 donation to benefit Lutheran Social Service's Camp Noah. [Learn more and register.](#)



MN Paid Family + Medical Leave 101 Webinar

Tuesday, July 22 - 12-1 p.m. | Online

The new Minnesota paid family leave law, which takes effect in 2026, impacts ALL employers with tax, legal and financial implications. It also provides all employees opportunities to care for loved ones while maintaining their jobs. This free webinar is the place to go to get your questions answered. [Learn more](#) and [register here](#).



Lutheran Campus Ministry Referrals

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities (LCM) is hoping to connect with incoming students headed to the University of Minnesota (even yet this summer) and they need your help! They hope the students—even before they step foot on campus—know that there's a place on campus for them, just as they are. Email dana@umnlutheran.org with their name and contact info and LCM staff will reach out before the year begins.



What if your student isn't attending the U of M? There are 140+ Lutheran campus ministry sites across the country that offer a loving and welcoming community for students to grow in their faith. Use [this referral link](#) and select the state/college your student will be attending. At a time when students' lives are in flux, Lutheran Campus Ministry helps college students grow in their faith, ask big and beautiful questions about God, their vocation, their emerging identities, and experience the healing power of belonging and the transformational nature of Christ's welcome!

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Food Giveaway at Faith, St. Paul

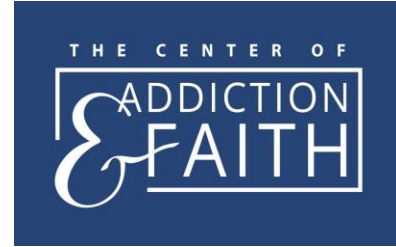
Faith in St. Paul collaborates with Second Harvest to distribute produce and 1% milk to those in need on the second Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Recipients only need to provide the number of people in the household and their zip code. Please pass the word to all who might be interested! The church is also seeking volunteers with some muscle to bring boxes and bags off the truck on the food delivery days. [Learn more.](#)



Who's Addressing Addiction in the Church?

Wednesday, July 30 - 12 noon | Online

Faith leaders, lay persons, parish nurses and others who have a heart for addiction work are invited to this community check-in for connection, sharing and mutual encouragement. This is an opportunity to share the innovative approaches you're trying, celebrate what's working well, navigate challenges and lessons learned along the way and gain inspiration of others' stories.



[Register to receive the Zoom link.](#)



ELCA Seminaries Lunch

Wednesday, July 30 - 12:30-1:30 p.m. | The Arrogant Butcher, Phoenix

Interested in getting connected and learning more about the ELCA Seminaries? Join the Cohort of ELCA Seminaries for lunch during Churchwide Assembly! This gathering is for those discerning their own theological education, mentoring others about discernment, those interested in learning what's new at the seminaries or just wanting to build relationships with seminary folks. [Learn more and register.](#)



Other Events:

- [Churchwide Assembly](#) - July 28-Aug. 2 | Phoenix, Ariz.
- [Gather Twin Cities Lakeside](#) - Aug. 10 | Diamond Lake Lutheran, Minneapolis
- [Summer Music Clinic](#) - Aug. 11-12 | Gloria Dei, St. Paul
- [Seminar on Lutheran Liturgy](#) - Aug. 13-15 | Minneapolis
- **Habari [News] From Iringa** - Aug. 14 | St. Mark, North St. Paul
- **Guatemala Friends Summer Picnic** - Aug. 19 | Central Park, Roseville

- [God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday](#) - Sept. 7
- [Peace of the Prairie Retreat for Church Musicians](#) - Sept. 11-13 | Shalom Hill Farm, Windom
- [Becoming a Health Promoter](#) - Sept. 16 & 30, Oct. 14 & 29, Nov. 11 | Online
- [LSS Celebration for Changing Lives Gala](#) - Sept. 20 | The Depot, Minneapolis
- [From Scratch: Shobi's Table Fundraiser](#) - Sept. 25 | Gustavus Adolphus, St. Paul
- [Global Health Ministries' 2025 Symposium](#) - Sept. 27 | Normandale Lutheran, Edina
- [Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities Fall Gathering & Fundraiser](#) - Oct. 9 | U of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- **The Word in an Inviting Church** - Oct. 25 | Prince of Peace, Burnsville
- **Joint Fall Ministerium** - Oct. 30 | Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Roseville
- **Bega Kwa Bega Fall Festival** - Nov. 8 | Location TBD

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

The Rev. Justin Grimm

- July 20 - Christ the King, New Brighton (preaching)
- July 27 - Eternal Flame, Vadnais Heights (preaching + installing Pastor Jua Jay Her)

Deacon Krista Lind

- July 20 - Bethlehem in the Midway, St. Paul (preaching)
- July 27 - St. Luke, St. Paul (preaching)

[Blogs](#)[Calendar](#)[News About Calls](#)[Job Openings](#)[ELCA](#)[Living Lutheran](#)

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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