

Congregations of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA:

**God's work. Our hands.**  
*Locally; Globally*

The Western Iowa Synod ELCA will meet in Festival Assembly April 27-28, 2012, at the Clay County Regional Events Center, Spencer, Iowa. The Rev. Ruben Duran, Director for New Evangelizing Congregations, ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission, will serve as representative from the churchwide organization and keynote speaker. David Ludwig, Worship and Arts Director, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Winter Park, Florida, will lead worship and music.

The assembly will gather for worship Friday evening at Bethany Lutheran Church in Spencer. Offerings have been designated for ELCA World Hunger/ELCA Malaria Campaign, Lutheran Disaster Response (western Iowa), with loose offerings for new ministries in the Western Iowa Synod ELCA like New Hope, Eagle Grove, and Living Faith, Oakland worshipping communities.

The essence of the 2012 Festival Assembly is ministry and mission in congregations in the Western Iowa Synod ELCA. Your congregation has been challenged by invitation to show off your ministries, to strut your stuff about mission, to shout out your stories. Your stories might be:

- ❖ a passionate, supporting relationship with a partner ministry of this church, i.e. Lutheran Services in Iowa, The Mission of the Messiah, or Wartburg Seminary, with an offer to share display space with that ministry;
- ❖ strength in worship, or education youth and family ministry, or Bible study, and you might present a forum or workshop to share best practices;
- ❖ a strong presence in your community in outreach, or in funding local mission opportunities, with an invitation to bring a visual display to share that story;
- ❖ standing by friends in Tanzania as you support Companion Synod projects, or engage in a Companion Congregation relationship, and you might prepare a video presentation for assembly viewing.

Please read the Assembly Participation Form enclosed with this letter for more information and registration. Realization of the Festival Assembly theme is limited only by the reach of imagination of members of the congregations of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA.

Assembly check-in will open at 1:00 p.m. Friday afternoon with opening plenary at 3:00. A buffet meal will be served before transition to opening worship. The assembly is scheduled to adjourn with sending worship at 5:30 Saturday afternoon. A preliminary agenda is enclosed. All assembly reports will be available at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org) in April. Print copies of assembly reports will be available at registration check-in for those who indicate so on their registration form. The assembly will be streamed live on the web.

The deadline for submitting resolutions for consideration at this assembly is Tuesday, February 28, 2012. A Guide to Writing Resolutions, the Policy for Handling Resolutions, and a Resolution Submittal Form are available at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org).

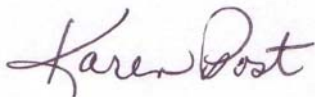
Electronic voting with wireless remotes will be used at this assembly. The voting membership of the assembly includes rostered leaders, lay congregation members, youth and young adults. A complete listing is available as a web resource. Youth will participate fully in the assembly.

Youth visitors have been visible at recent assemblies and are invited to accompany a congregation's youth voting member. Youth voting members and visitors should register for and travel to the assembly with voting members from their congregations. Youth registering for assembly may choose youth housing, which is chaperoned by synod Lutheran Youth Organization leaders. Additional assembly information for youth (behavioral covenant, permission to treat) will be mailed upon receipt of youth registrations.

An assembly registration form is enclosed; please copy as needed. Registration is also available online at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org). Registration fees are \$150 voting member and \$135 visitor. Registration should be completed by April 3, 2012. [All ordained ministers, associates in ministry ... under call and the persons appointed as voting members of the Synod Assembly from congregations shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly. (S7.21.01. Constitution and Bylaws of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA)] Please share this preliminary information with voting members as registration is completed.

The Clay County Regional Events Center is located at 800 West 18<sup>th</sup> St, Spencer, Iowa. Bethany Lutheran Church is located at 15 West 14<sup>th</sup> St, Spencer, Iowa. A list for Lodging in Spencer & the Surrounding Area is enclosed with this mailing. Looking ahead, the 2013 Synod Assembly is presently scheduled for the last weekend in April at the Sioux City Convention Center.

Grace and peace,



Karen Post, Secretary  
Western Iowa Synod ELCA

Enclosures:

- Preliminary Agenda
- Registration Form
- Festival Assembly Participation Form
- Lodging in Spencer & the Surrounding Area

Deadlines:

- Resolutions – February 28, 2012
- Festival Assembly participation Form – March 13, 2012
- Registration – April 3, 2012

Resources available at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org):

- Membership of Synod Assembly
- A Quick & Easy Guide to Writing Resolutions
- Policy for Handling Resolutions at the Synod Assembly
- 2012 Resolution Submittal Form