Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Following Jesus;
Living Hope

2019 Synod Assembly
May 3rd - 5th
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Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2019 Synod Assembly  
Tentative Agenda  
May 3rd - May 5th, 2019  
Theme: Following Jesus; Living Hope  

Friday, May 3rd  
9:30 am Pre-Assembly Gathering @ St John/Sioux City (Rostered/TEEM/SAM Leaders)  
10:00 am Break w/morning snacks  
10:30 am Plenary 2 cont. - Resolution #4 & #5  
12:00 pm Lunch & Displays  

Sioux City Convention Center - 801 4th Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
1:30 - 3:00 pm ALICE/Active Shooter Response Training - optional, open to anyone  
2:00 pm Assembly check-in opens  
3:00 pm New Voting Member Orientation  
3:15 pm Break  
4:00 pm Opening Worship  
5:30 pm Evening Meal  
6:30 pm Plenary 1 - First Ballot for Bishop Election - Resolution #3  
3:30 pm Plenary 3 cont.  
4:00 pm Opening Worship  
5:30 pm Evening Meal  
6:30 pm Plenary 1 - First Ballot for Bishop Election - Resolution #3  
7:00 pm Evening vespers  

Saturday, May 4th  
6:00 am Deadline to submit bio or withdrawal for bishop election  
8:30 am Opening devotions  
Plenary 2 - 2nd Ballot for Bishop Election  
5:45 pm Evening meal  
7:00 pm Evening vespers  

Sunday, May 5th  
8:45 am Opening Devotion/ Plenary 4  
10:00 am Break w/morning snack  
10:30 am Closing worship  
12:00 pm On our way rejoicing
1. **Sessions.** All sessions of the Synod Assembly shall begin promptly at the place and hour specified.

2. **Registration and Schedule of fees.**

   All voting members and visitors attending the Synod Assembly must register.

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<th>Early Bird Before 4/1/2019</th>
<th>After 4/1/2019</th>
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<td>Voting Member</td>
<td>$195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>$170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired Rostered leader</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not serving</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vender/no meals</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All who Walk-in at Assembly</td>
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   Retired Rostered Leaders not actively serving a congregation who are being honored for an anniversary of ordination or consecration and their spouse shall receive paid registration to Assembly with one night in a hotel.

3. **Assembly Voting Members.** Voting Members of the Synod Assembly shall be designated by congregations and otherwise determined in accord with Chapter 7 of the Constitution of the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA. Any individual otherwise qualified to be a Voting Member of the Assembly, shall not be permitted seat, vote or voice until after completing registration.

   3.1 Synodically Authorized Ministers from Western Iowa and Rostered leaders from ELCA Full Communion partners serving Western Iowa Synod congregations shall be accorded voice and vote at the Assembly.

   3.2 Congregations served by a Synodically Authorized Minister shall be allowed to register an additional lay member of Assembly from their congregation.

4. **Voting Member Credentialing.** To be seated as a Voting Member of Assembly all must present themselves to the check-in table for Voting Members prior to the first plenary session for which they are in attendance to receive a registration packet and an electronic voting remote. Voting Members will not be credentialed for a plenary session in progress. Proxy voting or substitution of voting members after individuals have been seated is not permitted.

5. **Registration Closes.** Registration for each plenary session of the assembly shall close at the scheduled time on the agenda for the session to begin. Late registering Voting Members shall be credentialed for the beginning of the subsequent plenary session.

6. **Order of Business.** The adoption of the Synod Assembly agenda, with necessary changes, shall become the order of business for the Assembly.

7. **Quorum.** One half of the registered voting members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

8. **Decorum and Etiquette.** Respect, dignity, civility and courtesy shall be guidelines for the tone and content of all Assembly discussion. Behavior outside these guidelines and which continues after warning shall be grounds for the assembly chair to restrict any further privilege of the floor.
9. **Privilege of the Floor.** Privilege of the floor shall be granted only in accord with Chapter 7 of the Constitution of the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA. Privilege of the floor for Voting Members shall include seat, voice and vote. Privilege of the floor for non-voting members or guests shall include seat only, unless otherwise designated by the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council in accordance with S7.24. No Voting Member shall speak more than three (3) times on the same subject during a session, nor longer than two (2) minutes at one time. A second or third time to speak on one subject may be granted only after all other Voting Members desiring to speak on the subject have had the opportunity to do so. Any Voting Member desiring the floor shall rise, approach one of the authorized microphones, and when recognized by the Assembly Chair, state his/her name and the name and location of her/his congregation. A Voting Member must move to one of the authorized microphones to move to end debate.

10. **Voting Procedure.** To be eligible to vote, a Voting Member must be seated in the assembly. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted. A two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting is required for adoption of amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the Western Iowa Synod, to add an item of new business to the agenda, and to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, without the approval of the Synod Council (WIS Constitution S7.32.02). A majority vote of voting members present and voting is required for approval of the Western Iowa Synod budget, resolutions, and other actions as specified in Robert’s Rules of Order. Votes will be taken by electronic vote and/or with green and red voting cards.

11. **Elections.** All elections shall be by electronic vote and/or written vote. A person making a nomination from the floor must be certain that the nominee will accept the position if elected and be prepared to provide the biographical information. The wearing of promotional buttons or slogans, the distribution of material or the carrying of placards to promote one nominee over another is not permitted at any time.

11.1 The representative of the churchwide organization shall preside over the assembly whenever the assembly is in session and considering business related to the election of the synod bishop, or when the assembly is casting ballots in this election. Upon conclusion of balloting or of specific business related to the election, the bishop shall resume presiding over the assembly.

12. **Motions and Resolutions.** The following procedure applies to all motions or resolutions offered to the Assembly.

a. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly desiring to add an item of new business to the agenda of the Synod Assembly shall present such an item to the chair no later than one-half hour following the close of the first plenary session of the Assembly. The Assembly Chair shall immediately refer it to the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel. (WIS Constitution, Section S7.40.04)

b. Every motion or resolution submitted to the Synod Assembly and its Committee for Assembly Business and Counsel shall be presented to the Assembly in whole or part or by reference to the published reports. In presenting motions or resolutions, the Committee for Assembly Business and Counsel shall take one of the following actions:

To report a resolution or motion and recommend its adoption.
To report a resolution or motion and recommend its adoption with amendment.
To report a resolution or motion and recommend its defeat.
To report a resolution or motion and offer a substitute resolution.
To report a resolution or motion and recommend that the matter be referred by the bishop to an appropriate council, board or committee.
To report a resolution as information (A two-thirds vote of the Synod Assembly shall be required to consider a resolution reported as information.) (WIS Constitution S7.40.04.e).

c. Any motion to amend a motion or resolution properly before the Assembly and recognized by the Assembly Chair as part of the order of business, is subject to an initial determination by the Assembly Chair as to whether said motion to
amend is germane to the specific subject matter of the motion or resolution then under consideration by the Assembly, before any discussion of that motion to amend shall proceed after it is seconded. If the ruling of the Assembly Chair is that the motion to amend is germane, further discussion and action by the Assembly on that motion to amend shall proceed. If the ruling of the Assembly Chair is that the motion to amend is not germane, the motion to amend will be referred immediately and without further discussion to the Committee for Assembly Business and Counsel, which shall take one of the actions described in Rule 11b, in connection with reporting the motion to amend back to the Assembly at a later time consistent with the order of business.

d. All actions taken by the Assembly shall be consistent with the Constitution, By-laws and documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA.

13. **Reports.** All Synod committee or other reports to the Assembly shall be written. They shall be computer produced, type written or legibly handwritten on 8½ x 11 inch white bond paper, and presented to the Assembly Chair before any oral presentation of the report is given to the Assembly. The reporting person and/or committee shall be identified at the beginning of the report. The committee chair or other responsible person for the report shall sign it. The reporting speaker giving the oral report may present the entire report or highlights from it, at her/his option or at the discretion of the Assembly Chair. Except by prearrangement as a part of the Synod Assembly agenda or by additional time granted by the Assembly Chair, no oral report to the Assembly should exceed fifteen (15) minutes in length. In the interest of time anyone giving a report shall address the Assembly Chair only.


15. **Distribution of Materials.** Distribution of materials at the Assembly shall be in accordance with the Policy on Distribution of Materials at the Synod Assembly as adopted by the Synod Council.

**POLICY ON DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS AT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY.**

Materials produced by the synod staff, networks and committees may be distributed to voting members and visitors at the synod assembly convention center as long as such materials are relevant to the overall work of the synod. Synod staff, networks and committees may distribute materials produced by other organizations as long as such materials are directly related to the work of the synod or its boards, committees or networks.

Agencies and institutions that are directly related to the Western Iowa Synod may, with the approval of the Assembly Business and Counsel committee, distribute materials at the assembly convention center that interpret their work and their relationship with the synod.

Other organizations or individuals who want to distribute materials at the assembly convention center must receive advance approval from the Assembly Business and Counsel Committee. Such materials must be submitted to the ABC Committee for review prior to distribution. Approval will be granted on a case-by-case basis. Material approved for distribution shall further the mission of the Western Iowa synod and its congregations.

The purpose of this policy is to foster the effective working of the voting members of the assembly in conducting the work of the synod, to encourage support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to insure fairness in response to a variety of requests.

3/26/19 JHM
2019 Report of the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel

Committee Members: Pr. Eric Alm, Chr; Pr. Jim Mossman, sec, Synod Council; Bishop Rodger Prois, ex officio; Pr. Katherine Russell, Pr. Barb Kopperud, Synod Council; Pr. Willie Rosin; Brian Campbell, Synod Council; Pr. Tom Hagen; Randy Popkes; Pr. Erma Wolff; Lynn Egesdal, Team member.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel (ABC Committee) is described in the Synod Constitution, Section S7.40.04. Two constitutional provisions govern assembly business and parliamentary procedure:

S7.32.01. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly desiring to add an item of new business to the agenda of the Synod Assembly shall present such an item to the chair no later than one-half hour following the close of the first plenary session of the Assembly. The chair shall immediately refer it to the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel.

S7.40.04.e. Every motion or resolution submitted to the Synod Assembly and its Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel shall be presented to the Assembly in whole or part or by reference to the published reports. In presenting motions or resolutions, the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel shall take one of the following actions:

1) to report a resolution or motion and recommend its adoption
2) to report a resolution or motion and recommend its adoption with amendment
3) to report a resolution or motion and recommend its defeat
4) to report a resolution or motion and offer a substitute resolution
5) to report a resolution or motion and recommend that the matter be referred by the bishop to an appropriate council, board, or committee
6) to report a resolution as information (A two-thirds vote of the Synod Assembly shall be required to consider a resolution reported as information.)
Policy for Handling Resolutions at the Synod Assembly

At its meeting on September 15, 2001, the Western Iowa Synod Council took the following action:

SC 01.09.60 TO AFFIRM the ABC Committee recommendation that any resolution not submitted prior to February 20, 2002 or through the synod council for consideration at the 2002 assembly will be referred to the appropriate committee or reported as information to the assembly. In future years, resolutions should be submitted 60 days prior to the start of the assembly to be considered at the assembly.

The Assembly Business and Council committee had asked the synod council for this affirmation. The ABC committee is instituting this change in procedure for two reasons. First, they are responding to complaints that assembly members have made in the past. Many members have been frustrated at not having enough time to consider resolutions that are not available to assembly members until the assembly has already begun to meet. They have noted that most of these last minute resolutions are not addressed to issues that have just surfaced and that they could easily have been submitted much earlier.

Secondly, at a previous assembly, the ABC committee itself struggled to deal with such last minute resolutions. Frequently the language needed to be reworked to communicate the intent of the authors while still making sense to assembly members. Several resolutions addressed the same issue and needed to be combined. The committee had to wrestle with the recommendations they should make to the assembly concerning these last minute resolutions. The committee believes that trying to do this on the first evening of the assembly does not allow them to do their work effectively.

Accordingly, the ABC committee set March 3rd, 2019 as the cutoff date for submitting resolutions for consideration at the 2019 assembly. This will allow these resolutions to appear in the pre-assembly report along with a recommendation from the ABC committee. Any resolutions received after that date will either be referred to the appropriate committee or submitted to the assembly as information. The only exception will be for resolutions coming to the committee from the synod council.

This change in policy is not intended to stifle the consideration of important issues at the assembly. Rather, its intent is that resolutions be handled in an orderly manner and that assembly members should have adequate time for discussion and deliberation. The committee wants to stress that the assembly still has the final say concerning resolutions it wants to consider. Any resolution that is reported as information can still be brought to the floor for consideration by a 2/3 vote of the assembly. Since recent assemblies have made changes in the agenda by a similar vote, it is not unreasonable to expect that the members could take up a resolution if they chose to do so.
RESOLUTIONS

1. **Adopt the Budget**

Submitted by: Western Iowa Synod Council

RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA adopt the revised budget for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2019, and the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2020.

*The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.*

2. **Western Iowa Synod 2020 Compensation Guidelines**

Submitted by: Western Iowa Synod Council

WHEREAS, congregations call rostered leaders “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”; and

WHEREAS, congregations desire to provide for the financial, spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of those called to serve them; and

WHEREAS, the compensation guidelines have been developed by the Synod Council for congregational use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA adopt the proposed guidelines and urge that congregations compensate rostered leaders at the recommended levels.

*The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.*

3. **Synodical Merger or Consolidation toward Increased Faithfulness in Stewardship and Mission**

Submitted by: Authored by Pastor Rod Hopp and respectfully submitted by “Seeds of Faith Conference”

WHEREAS, the Western Iowa Synod (WIS) is one of the original 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) that celebrated its thirtieth birthday in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA continues to function under the original structure of sixty-five synods in nine regions; and

WHEREAS, the membership, leadership and the budget of the Western Iowa Synod has declined significantly throughout those years, and that same pattern of decline seems inevitable in the foreseeable future; and
WHEREAS, as a church body we are called to be excellent stewards of God’s resources, including financial and people; and

WHEREAS, decline cannot steal the church’s vibrancy and vitality it does invite and challenge us to become more efficient, faithful, and intentional about how we structure ourselves and use God-given resources to carry out God’s mission and ministry, and

WHEREAS, merger or consolidation is not intended to be a “white flag of surrender,” but to strengthen and build up the church, WIS congregations must understand that increased benevolence to the WIS during this time of negotiation and transition is imperative in order to demonstrate to prospective partners that WIS congregations intend to shoulder our share of the financial and missional responsibility following any merger or consolidation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of Western Iowa Synod direct the Synod Council of the Western Iowa Synod to form a task team including the WIS Bishop, Rostered Leaders, and Lay Leaders, to invite neighboring synod bishops and synod councils or their appointed task teams to enter into dialogue, and negotiations with the purpose of consolidating and or merging operations with the goal of increased faithfulness in the areas of stewardship and mission, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this process be undertaken in conversation and communication with the secretary of the ELCA and that recommendations for consolidation and or merger be brought forward to participating synod assemblies no later than 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that WIS congregations commit to growth in benevolence to support this effort and the mission of God’s church.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.

4. Request for a Churchwide working group to support synodical merger or consolidation:
Submitted by: Authored by Pastor Rod Hopp and respectfully submitted by “Seeds of Faith Conference”

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 2018 and

WHEREAS, the ELCA continues to function under the original structure of sixty-five synods in nine regions; and

WHEREAS, the number of congregations, rostered leaders, and congregational members constituting the ELCA has declined significantly throughout those years: 5.2 million members in 1988 to 3.5 million today; 11,138 congregations in 1988 to 9062 in 2018; 9105 clergy with active calls to 6868 between the years of 2005 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, contributions to synods and to churchwide continue to decline at a rate that is raising serious concerns and questions about the fiscal sustainability of these structures of the church; and

WHEREAS, we as a church body are called to be excellent stewards of all God’s resources, including but not limited to financial and people resources; and
WHEREAS, decline cannot steal this church’s vibrancy and vitality it does invite and challenge us to become more efficient, faithful, and intentional about how we structure ourselves for faithful mission and how we function best to the glory of God; and

WHEREAS, the constitution of the ELCA Chapter 10.01. states: “This church shall be divided into synods, the names and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Churchwide Assembly and included in the bylaws”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Western Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that a working group be established by ELCA churchwide council to work with and assist synods to evaluate the number and composition of synods needed to carry out faithful mission in a manner consistent with a Lutheran understanding of faithful stewardship and mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this working group report back to the ELCA Church Council at or before their November 2020 meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Church Council encourage the Conference of Bishops to take actions in their respective synods to implement changes that will strengthen the ELCA in its sustainability for mission and service to God’s Kingdom and to the world.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.

5. Protecting the human rights of Palestinian children living under Israeli military occupation: No Way to Treat a Child
Submitted by: Western Iowa Synod Global Mission/Hunger Network

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in 2005, established [CA05.06.23] an initiative, “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” with three components – awareness building, accompaniment and advocacy – which seeks “peace with justice for both Palestinians and Israelis and the continuation of the Christian witness in the Holy Land” (Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is in relationship with the six Lutheran congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social message on “Human Rights,” adopted unanimously by the Church Council of the ELCA on November 12, 2017, affirms this church teaches that “human dignity is God’s gift to every person and that the commitment to universal rights protects that dignity;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social message on “Human Rights,” also affirms, “ELCA social teaching is clear: ‘The God who justifies expects all people to do justice’”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social message on “Human Rights,” further states, “Christians cannot be satisfied simply with responding to injustice that has already occurred. We also are called to take actions that prevent rights abuses from happening in the first place, whether by personal intervention in injustice or publicly addressing rights abuses. Support for legal protections and means of enforcement is also our responsibility”; and
WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social statement “For Peace in God’s World” (1995), has committed to promote respect for human rights, especially for “groups most susceptible to violations, especially all minorities, women and children”; and

WHEREAS, Israel operates two separate and unequal legal systems in the same territory. Military law has applied to Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967, when Israeli forces occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, while Jewish settlers, who reside within the bounds of the occupied West Bank, in violation of international law, are subject to the Israeli civilian legal framework (see US Library of Congress control number: 2012382263) ; and

WHEREAS, per the UNICEF 2013 report on Children in Israeli Military Detention, Observations and Recommendations, Israel is the only country in the world, in violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, that automatically and systematically prosecutes children in military courts that lack fundamental fair trial rights and protections, detaining and prosecuting an estimated 500 to 700 Palestinian children in military courts each year.; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military detention system commonly report being arrested in the middle of the night and typically arrive to interrogation bound, blindfolded, frightened and sleep deprived, and often give confessions after verbal abuse, threats, physical and psychological violence that in some cases amounts to torture, while Israeli military law provides no right to legal counsel during interrogation, and 95 percent of children in East Jerusalem having no parents present during interrogation; and

WHEREAS, Israel has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on October 3, 1991, which states in article 37(a), “No child shall be subject to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Western Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that, in the spirit of justice, the assembly call on the State of Israel to guarantee basic due process rights in the Israeli military court system, respect and ensure the absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment in accordance with international law (specifically the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child), and call on the government of the United States to fully implement and enforce its own established law, including the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Western Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that the ELCA presiding bishop and the bishops and staff of every ELCA synod advocate with elected officials, encouraging them to ensure that U.S. taxpayer funds, including the over $3 billion annual foreign aid to Israel, do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse or ill-treatment of Palestinian children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Western Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, to request that the Peace Not Walls strategy consider creating a resource enabling congregations to learn more about the lives of Palestinian children – especially those living in occupied territories; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Western Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that the assembly encourage ELCA members to contact their members of Congress in support of legislation that prohibits U.S. foreign aid to be used in ways that violate human rights for Palestinian children; and to contact the President of the United States to request reinstatement of financial support to the Palestinian Authority, to be distributed to Augusta Victoria Hospital and other West Bank Hospitals providing critical health care to Palestinian children and their families.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.
Sample Ballot: 2019 Western Iowa Synod Assembly

**Nominating Committee (S9.03.) 1 year term – Vote for one from each conference and one at large**
Seeds of Faith – lay female Karen Post – Immanuel, Titonka
Winds of Hope – lay male James (Jim) Mohn – Bethlehem, Cherokee
Abundant Fields – clergy OPEN
Rivers of Grace – lay female OPEN
Hands of Hope – lay male OPEN
Living Waters – clergy Rev. Barb Spaulding – Trinity, Moville
At large - any

**ABC (S7.40.04) 2 year term – Vote for 1 from each conference and 1 at large**
Hands of Hope – clergy OPEN
Rivers of Grace - lay female (1 year only)

**Lori Clark – St. Paul, Missouri Valley**
Abundant Fields – lay female OPEN
Living Waters – lay male Ben Hertenstein – First, Sioux City
At large – any Jon Merritt – Augustana, Manson

**Discipline Committee (S11.03) 6 year term rotation – Vote for 1 in each category**
Abundant Fields – clergy (4 years to complete a term) OPEN
Abundant Fields – lay female (3 years to complete a term) OPEN
Winds of Hope – clergy (4 years to complete a term) **VOTE FOR 1 BELOW**

( ) Rev. Eric Alm – Immanuel, Akron
( ) Rev. Sarah Deutsch – Immanuel, George
Winds of Hope – lay female OPEN
Rivers of Grace – lay male (5 years to complete a term) OPEN
Hands of Hope – lay female OPEN
Living Waters – lay male OPEN
Seeds of Faith – lay male Gary Hayungs – St. John, Woden

**Synod Council (S10.01.01, S10.01.03) 3 year term – Vote for 1 in each category**
Abundant Fields - lay male (2 years to complete a term) OPEN
At-large clergy **VOTE FOR ONE BELOW**

( ) Rev. Dan Kahl – Grace, Fort Dodge (Hands of Hope)
( ) Rev. Jean Morse – Bethlehem, Cherokee (Winds of Hope)
( ) Rev. Kim Petersen – Parish 3, Titonka/Woden (Seeds of Faith)
( ) Rev. Marsha Smith – Onawa/Soldier (Living Waters)
( ) Rev. Trish Underberg – Country Roads Parish, Akron (Winds of Hope)

Synod Council at-large lay male **VOTE FOR 1 BELOW**

( ) Tracy Gayer – Bethlehem, Inwood (Winds of Hope)
( ) Larry Hill – Bethany, Thompson (Seeds of Faith)

Person of color or language other than English OPEN
Youth (S6.04.02) Congregation voting member under 18 prior to election.
2 year term OPEN
Young adult (S6.04.02) Upon election ages 18-30
3 year term OPEN
Bishop’s Report to the Assembly
Reverend Rodger C. Prois

The theme of our 2019 Western Iowa Synod (WIS) assembly will be: Following Jesus; Living Hope. I will use this report to share how we in the synod have attempted to follow Jesus this past year, and then look to the future that we are called to walk into with a living hope.

In the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ ministry, he talks about following him over 30 times. As students of Martin Luther we realize that we cannot do this on our own but need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to turn us back to God and then allow the light of Christ to light our path. 2018 was a year of walking with the Spirit in our congregations, Houston, Chicago, Dubuque and Tanzania.

I was blessed to be able to preach in 25 congregations around the synod, including 5 pastor installations and the 125th Anniversary celebration at Immanuel Lutheran in Rock Rapids. Eight congregation councils invited me to meet with them and talk about ministry and leadership issues. On the average of about one per week, I met with pastors to learn of their ministries and learn how their neighbors and synod colleagues can support their work. Four pastors retired from their calls, three were granted Leave of Call status, and three transferred in our synod. We continue to have several TEEM candidates serving congregations. A Synodically Authorized Minister learning series was added to the Discipleship Academy so that lay leaders can be assigned to serve congregations that we have not been able to identify rostered people for pastoral leadership. It remains the reality that there are fewer available leaders than are needed to fill our churches needs. We were assigned one new graduate in the Fall of 2018 and one this Spring resulting in two ordinations for the year. WIS currently has 86 on the active pastor and deacon roster, 74 retired, 3 disabled, and 5 on Leave of Call.

It is unfortunate to report that the roster of congregations is now at 126, four less than last year. Two congregations voted to terminate their relationship with the ELCA and two were administratively removed, after following stated procedures and due to calling non-ELCA pastors, a direct violation of the constitution. At the time writing of this report five congregations have notified me that they are considering holy closure, a trend that will continue.

The financial status of the synod is detailed in Treasurer Michael Jacobson’s report. It is my sense that the most effective way to encourage congregations to support the work of the synod is to build and maintain positive relationships. The Synod Leadership team and members of the Synod Council visited 30 congregations in the Fall facilitating conversations that we call “Thankfulness Events”. Our hope is to have similar gatherings with a similar number this coming year.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering was a mountain top event for a record number of young people from Western Iowa in late June. Over 30,000 attended the triennial event in Houston, more than 300 from our synod. The holy energy was almost overwhelming, I only wish we could find a way to bottle it. I even learned a new dance step.

Every Spring and Fall the Conference of Bishops is held in Chicago to allow the 66 bishops and the Secretary of the ELCA to confer on issues of concern for the church, present and future. I distribute my notes of those gatherings to all rostered people and other leaders on our mailing list. Let the synod office know if you would like to be included in that emailing.

In late July I traveled to Tanzania with four others from WIS, Cindy Wells, Pr Arlyn Norris, Pr John Wolf, and Alexis Knutson. The primary reason for our visit was the Summit for Bishops from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the ELCA. Prior to the summit my traveling companions and I visited the Southern
Diocese to learn about the progress of our various ministries and dedicate a well. I would urge you to attend the Companion Synod informational forum or talk with Cindy Wells to learn more of the trip and our partnerships.

As the Bishop of the WIS I sit on the board of Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI) which meets three times a year. This past year I was elected by the bishops of Region 5 to serve on the Wartburg Seminary Board and have attended two meeting and participated in an online conversation. Theological education in our church is rapidly changing and there is reason to hope in that registrations are up at all 8 of the church’s seminaries.

1 Peter 1:3 states this: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” As followers of Jesus we can hope and trust in the promise we inherit by the gift of the cross. With that hope we can walk into the future, though uncertain, with confidence that we are being led by the Holy Spirit. Our walk together is a pilgrimage, with a known destination and accepting that there will be road blocks, hurdles, pot holes, and other distractions. We must stay true to our primary purpose as a church, to accomplish God’s mission and preach the Gospel, intentionally helping others enter into a relationship with Jesus, to become followers also. It is my fervent prayer that we can remain focused on that cause.

It has been a true blessing to work with my colleagues on the Synod Leadership Team, Kay Broich, Julie Cook, Deacon Lynn Egesdal, Pr. Lorna Halaas, Pr. Jeff Ungs, and Cindy Wells. I give thanks for the officers of the synod, Vice President Brian Campbell, Secretary Pr. Jim Mossman, and Treasurer Michael Jacobsen. They and the members of the synod council are exemplary leaders of the church as described in Hebrews 13, taking watch over your souls.

Peace
+ +Bishop Rodger C. Prois
VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT
2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Isaiah 43: 18-19

But the Lord says, “Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new things I am going to do. It is happening already; you can see it now!”

While we can learn from past experiences, we must focus on the future if we are to grow. We must expect change if we are to prosper. We must always look ahead and run to meet the challenges and goals of the future. Because it is like running up the down escalator; if you stop running, you move backward.

The Western Iowa Synod is running to the future. The picture may be somewhat blurred and distant, but it is visible and obtainable. It is happening already and we can be part of it. God will raise up leaders to do his work.

The Synod Council and Executive Committee look to the future role of the church in Western Iowa and the role of the Western Iowa Synod in the ELCA. How does what we do further the work of God in Western Iowa? How can the Western Iowa Synod’s organization, goals, projects and decisions help grow God’s work to all people in Western Iowa, Iowa, the Midwest, the United States and the World? It is a large challenge and takes the efforts of everyone. Every member, every congregation, every conference, every Synod. It starts with each one of us.

I urge each of you to return to your congregation and share the good news of what is happening in the Western Iowa Synod and the ELCA. Not only in Western Iowa but the World. Tell the story of the love and compassion of God and the promises of the future. Tell the story of how their work and participation is vital to the telling of the love and hope that God has for each of us.

These are exciting and challenging times in our church. A challenge has been put forth to every member and every congregation. The future is happening. It is our challenge to share the good news of that future.

Chairing a portion of the 2018 Synod Assembly and the Synod Council meetings has been and honor. The Synod Vice President e-mail group has allowed me to share ideas and listen to other vice presidents. I was asked to lead worship at several congregations during the past year. Synod committees in which I participated were Bishop Election Committee, to plan the election process, and Assembly Business and Council Committee, to plan the Synod Assembly. Participating in a Thankfulness Event and a Vitality in Rural Congregations seminar provided a new possibility for ministry in Western Iowa.

This past year, we as a synod have made decisions that will guide us into the future. Some of these were difficult decisions. And next year we will make more decisions and again some will be difficult. We always look to God for guidance and ask the Holy Spirit to touch our hearts. We ask for your prayers and guidance as we prepare for God’s work in the future.

We thank you for your prayers and comments in the past year. And we welcome your continued prayers and comments and participation in the future. You may contact me at bcampbell@iowalakes.edu and please put “synod” in the subject line.

“God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called.”

Brian Campbell, Western Iowa Synod, Vice President
2019 Assembly Roster Update  
May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019

Pastors New to the Western Iowa Synod

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Kathleen Anderson</td>
<td>Northwest Washington Synod</td>
<td>Our Saviour's, Humboldt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southwestern Minnesota Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Dr. Leonard Halvorson</td>
<td>Synod</td>
<td>St. Olaf, Fort Dodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Kurt Hoover</td>
<td>Central Southern Illinois Synod</td>
<td>Emmanuel, Shenandoah/St. Paul, Northboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. David Kebschull</td>
<td>Northeastern Iowa Synod</td>
<td>St. Mark, Storm Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Robert Lewis</td>
<td>Northwest Washington Synod</td>
<td>St. Paul, Holstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Sharon Worthington</td>
<td>Southeast Iowa Synod</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Western Iowa Synod Pastors Accepting Calls Within Synod

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Ben McIntire</td>
<td>OLFC</td>
<td>Faith, Odebolt &amp; Bethel, Kiron (Interim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Andrew Nelson</td>
<td>St. Mark, Sioux City</td>
<td>(Chaplain at Morningside College)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Marsha Smith</td>
<td>Interim</td>
<td>Faith, Onawa &amp; Soldier, Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Patricia Underberg</td>
<td>OLFC</td>
<td>Country Road Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Sherry Van Lishout</td>
<td>OLFC</td>
<td>(St. John, Akron &amp; St. John, Craig)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Ron Yarnell</td>
<td>OLFC</td>
<td>Synod Council Call - pastoral appointment in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Synodically Authorized Ministers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>To</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Seminary Graduates Accepting Western Iowa Synod Calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Sarah Deutsch</td>
<td>Immanuel, George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Jean McCartney</td>
<td>St. Paul, Missouri Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Gina Sterk</td>
<td>Trinity, Webster City/South Enes, Vincent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Western Iowa Synod Pastors Accepting Calls in Other Synods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Sarah Aasheim</td>
<td>OLFC</td>
<td>Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Jeffery Alvestad</td>
<td>Salem, Creston</td>
<td>Southeastern Iowa Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Norman Bauer</td>
<td>First, Algona</td>
<td>Northeastern Iowa Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Barbara Chapman</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>Central States Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. K. Russell Crouthamel</td>
<td>Emanuel, Dayton</td>
<td>Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Filemon Diaz</td>
<td>Senor de la Misercordia</td>
<td>Sierra Pacific Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Kelly Heide</td>
<td>St. Croix, Spencer</td>
<td>Southwestern Minnesota Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Carla Johnsen</td>
<td>St. John, Dunlap/Bethesda, Moorhead</td>
<td>Nebraska Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Stephanie (Tess) Panamarow</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>St. Paul Area Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Anna Speiser</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center</td>
<td>Nebraska Synod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Interns Serving in the Western Iowa Synod

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Western Iowa Synod Rostered Leaders Retiring/Disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Lilette Johnston</td>
<td>Country Road Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. R. Paul Johnston</td>
<td>Trinity, Sioux City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Elton Jorde</td>
<td>St. Peter, Pocahontas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. John Sersland</td>
<td>St. Olaf, Fort Dodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Jean Ziettlow</td>
<td>St. John's, LeMars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Trudy Peterson</td>
<td>Disability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Western Iowa Synod Rostered Leaders on Leave From Call

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Matthew Manz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Renee Tecklenburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Western Iowa Synod Rostered Leaders Removed from the Roster

Name
Karen Goltz

Western Iowa Synod Congregations Voting to Leave ELCA

Death of Rostered Leaders

Rev. Virgil R. Anderson
Rev. Peter Boe
Rev. Ann Klavano
Rev. Jack Peterson
Rev. John Planz
Rev. Mel Suhr
Rostered Leader & Congregational Anniversary Report

Word and Sacrament:

5 Years:
Rev. Brian Jack
Rev. Kristine Stedje
Rev. Luke Kuenzli

10 Years:
Rev. Andrew Nelson
Rev. Benjamin McIntire
Rev. Denise Parrello
Rev. Kurt S. Hoover
Rev. Lorna Halaas

20 Years:
Rev. Christian Meier
Rev. Jeffrey Ungs

25 Years:
Rev. Robert Lewis
Rev. F. Peter Morlock
Rev. Kathleen Anderson
Rev. Sandra Krynik

30 Years:
Rev. James Davis

35 Years:
Rev. David Bernhardt
Rev. Lowell Hennigs

40 Years:
Rev. Daniel Kordahl
Rev. David Bergstrom
Rev. J. Douglas Rokke

45 Years:

50 Years:
Rev. Carroll Lang
Rev. Paul Wiegman

55 Years:
Rev. Curtis Benson

65 Years:
Rev. Herbert Schiller

Word and Service:

5 Years:
Deacon Lynn Egesdal

Congregational Anniversaries

125 Years:
Trinity, Akron
Ebenezer, Audubon
Tabor, Stanton

Please let the Mission Center know (712.732.4968 or Julie.cook@wisynod.org) of any omissions in this list.
Thank you!
Western Iowa Synod ELCA
2019 Secretary’s Report

The Secretary of the Synod is charged by the Constitution and By-laws of the Western Iowa Synod with keeping and distributing the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and the Synod Council. The Synod Council provides governance in between synod assemblies. This report is a summary of how it has conducted the synod’s affairs in the past year.

2018-2019 SYNOD COUNCIL ROSTER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM:</th>
<th>ENDS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Pr. Rodger Prois</td>
<td>6 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President Brian Campbell</td>
<td>4 yrs 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer Michael Jacobson</td>
<td>4 yrs 1/31/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary Pr. Jim Mossman</td>
<td>4 yrs 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Abundant Fields (clergy) Pr. Brian Jack</td>
<td>3 yrs 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Hands of Hope (clergy) Pr. Mike Kroona (appointed)</td>
<td>1 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Hands of Hope (lay female) Judy Lang</td>
<td>3 yrs 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Living Water (lay female) Maja Knutson</td>
<td>3 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Living Water (lay male) Blake Straton</td>
<td>3 yrs 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Rivers of Grace (lay male) (open)</td>
<td>3 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Rivers of Grace (lay female)</td>
<td>3 yrs 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Seeds of Faith (clergy) Pr. Cole McCormick</td>
<td>3 yrs 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Seeds of Faith (lay male)</td>
<td>3 yrs 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Winds of Hope (clergy) Pr. Erma Wolf</td>
<td>3 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Winds of Hope (lay male) Brian Underwood</td>
<td>3 yrs 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference - Winds of Hope (lay female)</td>
<td>3 yrs 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-large (lay female) Julie Sievers</td>
<td>3 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-large (clergy) Pr. Barb Kopperud</td>
<td>3 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-large person of color or language Antoine Cummins</td>
<td>3 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-large young adult Gail Schilmoeller</td>
<td>3 yrs 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-large youth (male or female) Kaylynn Ridgely</td>
<td>2 yrs 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- WIS Women’s Organization Marlyce Hauge
- Lutheran Men in Mission Dave Bohnet

The SYNOD COUNCIL met 5 times since the last synod assembly to the submission of this report:

- July 14, 2018
- October 13, 2018
- December 18, 2018 (Electronic)
- January 12, 2019
- March 30, 2019

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the synod council assists in the operational function of the synod between council meetings. In 2018-19 it was made up of the four officers (Bishop Rodger Prois, Vice President Brian Campbell, Treasurer Michael Jacobsen, and Secretary Pr. Jim Mossman) and for members from synod council (Julie Sievers, Judy Lang, Pr Barb Kopperud, and Nancy Peters).

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met 3 times:

- October 13, 2018
- January 12, 2019
- March 30, 2019
SYNOD COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS:

APPOINTED to Synod council the Rev. Dr. Mike Kroona (Hands of Hope) to fill the vacancy created by the election of the Rev. Jim Mossman to Synod Secretary.

APPOINTED TO SERVE AS CONFERENCE DEAN
- Rev. Chuck Meyer (Rivers of Grace)
- Rev. Shawn Brooks (Winds of Hope)

ELECTED/APPOINTED SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON SYNOD COMMITTEES
- Judy Lang (lay) to the Executive Committee
- Julie Sievers (lay) to the Executive Committee
- Nancy Peters (Lay) to the Executive Committee
- Rev. Barb Kopperud (Rostered) to the Executive Committee

ITEMS FORWARDED TO ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL (none)

RECEIVED REPORTS
- Bishop Prois
- Staff/team members (Pr. Halaas, Pr. Ungs, Deacon Lynn Egesdal, Cindy Wells)
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- 2018 Assembly evaluations
- Auditor’s Report for 2018 from Hunzelman, Putzier & Co.
- Updates from the Bishop’s Election Task force on preparations for the 2019 election
- Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM)
- Western Iowa Synod Women’s Organization (WISWO)

CONSIDERED VARIOUS ITEMS
a. Financial status of WIS throughout the year
b. Companion Synod activities worldwide
c. 2019 synod assembly activities and responsibilities
d. Other

APPROVED
- 2018 Synod Assembly minutes
- 2018 Mission Support to Churchwide of $285,564.02 or 33.5% of total income ($850,808).
- Cashing a CD worth approximately $33,000 to include in churchwide mission support total from the synod.
- Scheduling the 2019 synod assembly in Sioux City on May 3-5, 2019 (Theme: Following Jesus; Living Hope) with the election of a bishop.
- Scheduling the 2020 Synod Assembly in Spencer May 1-2, 2020.
- Designating 2019 assembly offerings to scholarships for the Igumbilo Girls School in Tanzania and collection of an “in kind offering” of Flood Buckets for western Iowa disaster relief.
- Standing Rules for the 2019 synod assembly
- Adoption of housing allowances for Bishop Rodger Prois and Pr. Lorna Halaas

RECOMMENDED for synod assembly adoption
- 2019 Revised WIS Budget
- 2020 Proposed WIS Budget
RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING PASTOR AND CONGREGATION CHANGES:

ON LEAVE FROM CALL
p. Rev. Lissa Kahl
q. Rev Patricia (Trish) Underberg
r. Rev. Norm Bauer
s. Rev. Ann Klavano

DISABILITY
● Rev. Trudy Peterson

RETIRED
t. Rev. Paul Johnson—1/01/2019
u. Rev. Lil Johnston—1/01/2019
v. Rev. Jean Ziettlow—1/01/2019
w. Rev. Jon Sersland—7/01/2018
x. Rev. Judy Wozniak—6/01/2018

REMOVED ROSTERED LEADERS (none)

ISSUED SYNOD COUNCIL LETTERS OF CALL:
y. Rev. Len Halvorsen, Interim at St. Olaf, Fort Dodge beginning 6/11/2018
z. Rev. Andy Nelson, Campus ministry chaplain at Morningside College and chaplain to the 185th Air Refueling wing of the Iowa National Guard.
aa. Rev. Ben McIntire, Interim at Faith, Odebolt and Bethel, Kiron

FULL COMMUNION PARTNER SERVICE
● Rev. Ron Yarnell to a pastoral appointment in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church.

REPORT NEW CONGREGATION (none)

REPORT TERMINATION OF RELATIONSHIP WITH ELCA
● St. John, Cylinder
● St Paul’s, Neola
● Bethlehem, Buffalo Center
● Good Shepherd, Adair

REPORT CLOSING OF CONGREGATION

Respectfully submitted,

Pr. Jim Mossman
Synodical Secretary
Western Iowa Synod ELCA
2018 Western Iowa Synod Assembly Minutes
31st Assembly
June 8 - 10, 2018
Sioux City Convention Center, Sioux City, IA

Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

Theme: We Are Church for the Sake of the World

Friday June 8, 2018

The assembly began with opening worship at 4:00 PM.

Bishop Rodger Prois led the opening synod assembly litany at 5:20 PM and declared the assembly in session.

The assembly had a break for the evening meal.

The first plenary session began at 6:30 PM.

Bishop noted that the worship offerings will be split equally between the following three recipients: the Campaign for the ELCA-ELCA Fund for Leaders and Youth and Young Adults, Western Iowa Synod TEEM (Theological Educating and Emerging Ministries) Scholarships, and Tanzanian SACCOS (Savings and Credit Co-Operative Societies). An in-kind and monetary offering for the “Blast Off for Books” project (the ELCA Youth Gathering) will also be collected. Another opportunity to donate is for fleece blankets for foster care.

Bishop Prois introduced the following guests and assembly leaders:

• Dr. Kathryn Johnson, director for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations in the ELCA's Office of the Presiding Bishop
• Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben, the Assistant professor of New Testament at Wartburg Seminary, our Bible study leader
• Rev. Nordphrey Mlangali – an international student and recent graduate of Luther Seminary. Prior to coming to Luther Seminary, he worked at the headquarters of the ELCT - Southern Diocese of Tanzania as the Diocesan Coordinator for Prayers and Revival Department.
• David Taylor – a friend of and chauffeur for Rev. Mlangali. David is a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in the St Paul Area Synod.
• Sebastian Munoz Oyarzo – an international student from Punta Arenas, and a member of a congregation in the southernmost part of Chile. Sebastian will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, spending time at our bible camps and visiting some of our congregations.
• Dr. Tom Hendrickson – the President and Director of Iringa Hope since 2010. Dr. Hendrickson has many years of experience in forming and running overseas operations. He has worked on projects in Tanzania for the last ten years. He currently teaches engineering at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
• Giocal Musicians – our musicians for the weekend (Michael May, Benhi Khabe, Grant Applehans, Timothy Butler, Jonathan Allabouni, Kenneth (Devin) Shaw, Melinda Suarez, Imani Waters, Antoinette Butler, Peter Mack)
• Tom Stock – a member of St John Lutheran, Sioux City, and works at KCAU, our photographer for the weekend
• Travis Brincks – a member of St John Lutheran in Carroll, our AV assistant this weekend

- Cindy Wells and Rev. Lorna Halaas, floor managers
- Brian Campbell, vice president
- Jay Denne, parliamentarian
- Michael Jacobson, synod treasurer
- Karen Post, synod secretary
- Jean Knight, Qwizdom, Inc., wireless voting
- Julie Sievers, timing light

SA18.06.01 A motion and second were made by to grant privilege of voice on the floor of the assembly to Dr. Kathryn Johnson (guest and presenter). Voice vote: PASSED

Rev. David Halaas introduced Bruce Miller, a representative of Sioux City, editor of the Sioux City Journal who welcomed the Western Iowa Assembly to Sioux City.

The Credentials and Elections Committee (Rev. Barb Kopperud, Rev. Jeff Ungs, Rev. Jim Mossman, Barb Brennan, Diane Vavak, Maja Knutson, Gail Schilmoeller and Rev. Brian Jack) was introduced. Rev. Barb Kopperud, the committee chair, reported the following registration data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credentials Report #1</th>
<th>06/08/18 6:30 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay females</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay males</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total voting</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total registered</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jean Knight led a demonstration on electronic voting machines.

SA18.06.02 A motion and second were made to adopt the Standing Rules. Voice vote; PASSED

SA18.06.03 A motion and second were made to adopt the agenda. Voice vote; PASSED

SA18.06.04 A motion and second were made to approve the 2017 assembly minutes. Voice vote; PASSED

The Minutes Committee (Tim Johnson, Deacon Denise Lindemann, Rev. Janelle Siffring, Karen Post) was introduced.

Rev. Roger Claxton, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported on the nominations for general election and gave instructions on procedures for additional nominations.
Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben presented a video on Wartburg Seminary’s “Digital Learning”.

Michael Jacobson, Synod Treasurer, presented the Treasurer’s Report, the Budget Presentation, and the Compensation Guidelines. Questions were invited for time to research answers and a report back to the assembly on Sunday.

SA18.06.05 A motion and second were made to vote on the budget and compensation guidelines in plenary 3 on Saturday afternoon. Voice vote; PASSED

Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben, gave a Bible study based on Acts 1:1-8.

Deacon Tammy Devine, Portico representatives, addressed the assembly.

Bishop Rodger Prois presented the bishop’s report.

Bishop introduced the Mission Team: Kay Broich, Julie Cook, Deacon Lynn Egesdal, Rev. Dr. Lorna Halaas, Rev. Jeff Ungs, Cindy Wells.

Rev. Eric Alm and Susan Brown addressed the assembly about being a welcoming congregation and AMMPARO and extended the invitation to the AMMPARO forum on Saturday.

Deacon Lynn Egesdal announced final nomination instructions and gave closing announcements.

The evening ended with a prayer service at 9:10 PM.

The assembly was in recess until 8:30 AM Saturday morning.

Saturday June 9, 2018

The Glocal Musicians opened with native American music, “Many and Great” at 8:40 AM.

Rev. Jeff Swanson introduced Tom Monson who spoke about the indigenous people of the Sioux City area, then followed with a reading from 1 Peter.

The Glocal Band lead Native American, Nigerian, Botswana hymns.

The Credentials and Elections Committee chair, Rev. Barb Kopperud, reported the following registration data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credentials Report #2</th>
<th>06/9/18 8:30 AM</th>
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</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>total registered</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The plenary session reconvened at 8:59 AM.

Rev. Dr. Troy Trofgruben led the opening Bible study based on Acts 10:1-11, 18.

Rev. Roger Claxton presented the final nominations report, noting the following additions: Rev. Scott Dalen-Underwood, Underwood (Rivers of Grace), Rev. Jennifer Osheim-Owen, Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge (Hands of Hope)

SA18.06.06 Vote for synod secretary: Rev. Jim Mossman-St Paul’s, (Living Waters) received 145 votes, Dagna Simmons, received 81 votes; Rev. Jim Mossman was elected.

SA18.06.07 A motion and second were made to cast a unanimous ballot for uncontested positions. Votes for: 225, Against: 2; PASSED; the following persons were elected:

- Synod Council – Youth: KayLynn Ridgely – St. Paul’s, Rockwell City (Hands of Hope)
- Churchwide Assembly – Youth/Young Adult: Jenee’ Eden – Immanuel, Titonka (Seeds of Faith)
- Churchwide Assembly – person of color/language: Pr. James Rut-Thanksgiving Sudanese, Council Bluffs (Rivers of Grace)
- Nominating Committee – lay (either): Karen Post-Immanuel, Titonka (Seeds of Faith)
- ABC Committee – lay male: Randy Popkes-Immanuel, George (Winds of Hope)
- ABC Committee – clergy: Rev. Willie Rosin-First, Britt (Seeds of Faith)
- Discipline Committee-clergy: Rev. Jennifer Osheim-Owen, Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge (Hands of Hope)
- Discipline Committee-clergy: Rev. Cindy Johnson-St John, Carroll (Rivers of Grace)
- Synod Council – lay female: Kathy McEnelly-Immanuel, Forest City (Seeds of Faith)
- Synod Council – lay female: Nancy Peters-Hope, Sioux City (Rivers of Grace)

SA18.06.08 Votes for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly-lay female: (3) elected (224 legal ballots):

- Janis Campbell-Bethany, Emmetsburg (Seeds of Faith) - 176 votes
- Laurel Pierson-St John, Carroll (Rivers of Grace) - 163 votes
- Diane Vavek-St Paul’s, Rockwell City (Hands of Hope) - 152 votes
- Lisa Franco-St. Luke, Sioux City (Living Waters) - 150 votes

SA18.06.09 Votes for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly-lay male: (2) elected with the following votes: (226 legal ballots)*

- Jim Post-Immanuel, Titonka (Seeds of Faith) - 135 votes adjusted to 133 legal votes
- Daniel Holste-Our Saviour’s, Humboldt (Hands of Hope) - 118 votes adjusted to 115 legal votes
- Bill Peters -Hope, Sioux Center (Winds of Hope) - 104 votes adjusted to 102 legal votes
- Carl Norquist-Immanuel, Sioux City (Living Waters) - 98 votes adjusted to 96 legal votes

*(Secretary's note: the final votes here reflect adjustments for illegal ballots: voters who voted for more than 2 nominees. The adjustments did not affect the outcome of the election as announced at the assembly.)

SA18.06.10 Votes for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly-clergy: (4) elected with the following votes (227 legal ballots)

- Rev. Cindy Johnson-St John, Carroll (Rivers of Grace) - 202 votes
- Rev. Lorna Halaas-St Mark, Sioux City (Living Waters) - 189 votes
- Rev. Rod Hopp-Immanuel, Forest City (Seeds of Faith) - 187 votes
- Rev. Shawn Brooks-Christ, LeMars and St Peter, Brunsville (Winds of Hope) - 172 votes
- Rev. Lisa Kahl-On leave of call (Hands of Hope) - 120 votes

Dr. Kathryn Johnson, director for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations in the ELCA’s Office of the Presiding Bishop, presented the Churchwide report.

A video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was shown.
SA.18.06.11 A motion and seconded to read only the “RESOLVEDs” from Resolution #1. This amendment was before the 2017 Western Iowa Synod Assembly as Resolution #2 and is brought forward for adoption according to †S18.13.a. of the Western Iowa Synod Constitution.

RESOLUTION #1 - AMEND THE WESTERN IOWA SYNOD CONSTITUTION
Submitted by: Synod Council

WHEREAS the Western Iowa Synod Constitution is the governing document for the synod, the following constitutional changes are noted as additions and deletions:

Chapter 3.
TERRITORY

†S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be: the counties of Adair, Adams, Audubon, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton (west), Hancock (west), Harrison, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Webster, Winnebago (west), Woodbury, Wright (west) in the state of Iowa.

Chapter 7.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.11.01. The regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be called annually by the Synod Council. The time and place of the Western Iowa Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place of the next regular Synod Assembly shall be announced at each assembly, or at least ninety days prior to the Synod Assembly.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister’s service in a congregation of this church.

S7.32.04. All elections shall be by written ballot. Elections shall be held by written or electronic ballot, with the exception of uncontested elections, which may be by voice. In preparing the ballot, the Credentials and Elections Committee shall identify on the ballot those eligible and nominated for reelection. Additional nominations for assembly elections may be made for any position if supported by ten voting members of the Synod Assembly. The voting member presenting the nomination shall secure from the nominee assurance of her/his willingness to serve if elected. The nominee shall have all of the requirements of the position (in order to meet the criteria of †S6.04.) Additional nominations, including biographical information, shall be made to the secretary no later than one-half hour following the close of the first plenary session of the Synod Assembly.

S7.40.02. The Credentials and Elections Committee shall prepare printed ballots, supervise the voting and counting of ballots, and report to the Synod Assembly and to the Secretary. When electronic ballots are used, review the ballot prior to voting, supervise the voting, report to the Synod Assembly and to the Secretary.

Chapter 8.
OFFICERS

S8.52. The terms of the officers shall begin as follows:
   a. Bishop: on the first day of the third month following election;
   b. Vice President and Secretary: on the first day of the next month following election;
   c. Treasurer: on the first day of the fiscal year following the Synod Assembly.
or in special circumstances, the Synod Council may designate different beginning dates, as deemed necessary, at a time designated by the Synod Council, with the exception of the treasurer, who shall begin on the first day of the fiscal year following the Synod Assembly.

S8.55. Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The successor officers will finish out the term of the original officer. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a four-year term.

Chapter 9.
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of five to seven members to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Persons placed on the ballot for the Nominating Committee should represent different conferences and comply with criteria of †S6.04. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which the nominations are made by the Nominating Committee. From the twelve conferences, the Synod Council shall designate, on a rotating basis, five conferences, each of which shall submit two or more names to be placed on the ballot for election of the Nominating Committee. The Synod Assembly shall then elect five persons to serve the next regular Synod Assembly as the Nominating Committee. A sixth member may be appointed by the Synod Council to serve on the committee at the next regular Synod Assembly to meet the criteria of †S6.04.

S9.05.a: The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least four persons at large from within the synod, at least four youth, and at least four persons of color or language other than English to the Synod Council.

S9.11. The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.

Chapter 10.
SYNOD COUNCIL

10.01.01. Of the other members of the Synod Council, in addition to positions for synod officers and one youth representative designated in †S10.01, there shall be one position reserved for a representative of each conference, two positions reserved for at-large representation, two positions reserved for persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, and one position reserved for an additional youth representative—young adult.

S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant. If a Synod Council member misses three consecutive meetings without notice, the office will be considered vacant and a replacement may be appointed by the Synod Council immediately, or elected at the next Synod Assembly to finish the term.

Chapter 11.
COMMITTEES

S11.01.1 The required “Audit Committee” is known in the Western Iowa Synod as the “Finance Committee”. Refer to S11.11.C98.

S11.01.A96 The Executive Committee shall:

d. perform an annual evaluation of the bishop or review the evaluation of another party such as a Mutual Ministry Committee

e. prepare/approve a recommendation of staff salaries for Council approval;

S11.16.02. Official notices of the synod shall be published both in THE LUTHERAN and in the synod periodical, and items of synodical interest shall be published regularly in the synod periodical.
Chapter 12.
CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS

S12.01.01 The Synod Council shall determine the structure and organization of the conferences. Refer to Appendix A for a list of conferences and congregations.

Chapter 13.
CONGREGATIONS

S13.02.01. Congregations of this synod are to provide costs of lodging, meals, and transportation to the Synod Assembly for their voting members. The provisions for reimbursing expenses of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service attending the Synod Assembly shall be embodied in all calls issued. This synod shall provide a per diem for retired ministers of Word and Sacrament attending the Synod Assembly.

Chapter 14.
ROSTERED MINISTERS

†S14.30. Ministers of Word and Service
S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S14.42. Ministers of Word and Service shall confer with the bishop of this synod before accepting a call within this synod. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

Chapter 15.
FINANCIAL MATTERS

S15.12.02. The Synod Assembly shall determine in each budget, when funds are available, an amount of money to be equally divided among the conferences. Each conference shall use the money for its own purposes.

S15.12.03. In preparing each budget of the synod, the Synod Council shall hold hearings at which the committees, boards and other organizations receiving stated support through the synod budget shall be invited to consult with the Synod Council or its appointees to present full statements of their operations, the financial needs of their current work, and the budgetary implications of advance programs which they have in view for the year under consideration. There shall also be a hearing for any member of the synod to address the preparation of the synod budget.

S15.12.05. The Synod Council shall be responsible for developing guidelines for congregations for determining the congregations’ “proportionate share” of this synod’s budget and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination of offerings and gifts to this synod.

S15.14. A reserve shall be established (of not less than two months nor more than four months) to cover operating expenses in case of catastrophic conditions.

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APPENDIX A – WESTERN IOWA SYNOD CONFERENCES

§12.01.B12. There shall be the six (6) conferences in the synod. They shall be listed below and include the following congregations:

Winds of Hope Conference

- In Lyon County –
  1. Immanuel (George)
  2. Bethlehem (Inwood)
  3. Immanuel (Rock Rapids)

- In Osceola County –
  1. American (Melvin)
  2. Trinity (Sibley)

- In Sioux County –
  1. American (Hawarden)
  2. Our Savior’s (Rock Valley)
  3. Hope (Sioux Center)

- In O’Brien County –
  1. Siloam (Paullina)
  2. Grace (Primghar)

- In Clay County –
  1. Bethany (Spencer)
  2. Trinity (Spencer)

- In Plymouth County –
  1. Immanuel (Akron)
  2. St. John (Akron)
  3. Trinity (Akron)
  4. St. Peter (Brunsville)
  5. St. John (Craig)
  6. Christ (Le Mars)
  7. St. John (Le Mars)
  8. St. John (Merrill)
  9. St. Paul (Merrill)
  10. St. Paul (Remsen)

- In Cherokee County –
  1. Bethlehem (Cherokee)
  2. Faith (Marcus)

- In Buena Vista County –
  1. Our Savior’s (Albert City)
  2. St. John (Albert City)
  3. Immanuel (Alta)
  4. Trinity (Alta)
  5. Trinity (Linn Grove)
  6. Grace (Marathon)
  7. Nain (Newell)
  8. Our Saviors (Rembrandt)
  9. First (Sioux Rapids)
  10. St. Mark (Storm Lake)

Seeds of Faith Conference

- In Dickinson County –
  1. First (Milford)
  2. Grace (Spirit Lake)

- In Emmet County –
  1. Nazareth (Armstrong)
  2. Estherville (Estherville)
  3. Trinity (Estherville)
  4. United (Ringsted)
  5. Wallingford, (Wallingford)

- In Palo Alto County –
  1. St. John (Cylinder)
  2. Bethany (Emmetsburg)
  3. Bethel (Graettinger)
  4. Lost Island (Ruthven)

- In Kossuth County –

- In Winnebago County –

- In Hancock County –

Living Waters Conference

- In Woodbury County –
  1. Salem (Correctionville)
  2. St. John (Cushing)
  3. Trinity (Moville)
  4. New Life (Sergeant Bluff)
  5. Augustana (Sioux City)
  6. First (Sioux City)
  7. Immanuel (Sioux City)
  8. Riverside (Sioux City)
  9. St. John (Sioux City)
  10. St. Luke (Sioux City)
  11. St. Mark (Sioux City)
12. Trinity (Sioux City)  × In Monona County –  
1. Faith (Onawa)  
2. Soldier (Soldier)  
× In Ida County –  
1. St. Paul Evangelical (Holstein)  × In Crawford County –  
1. Bethel (Kiron)  
× In Sac County –  
1. Faith (Odebolt)

Hands of Hope Conference

× In Pocahontas County –  
1. St. Paul (Palmer)  
2. St. Peter (Pocahontas)  
× In Calhoun County –  
1. Augustana Evangelical (Manson)  
2. St. Paul Evangelical (Manson)  
3. Elfsborg (Pomeroy)  
4. St. John (Pomeroy)  
5. St. Paul's (Rockwell City)  
× In Humboldt County -  
1. Our Saviour's (Humboldt)  
2. Trinity (Ottosen)  
3. St. Paul (Renwick)  
4. Trinity (Rutland)  
× In Webster County –  
1. Immanuel (Burnside)  
2. Emanuel (Dayton)  
3. Washington (Duncombe)  
× In Wright County –  
1. First (Clarion) (none)  
× In Hamilton County –  
1. Trinity (Webster City)  
× In Boone County –  
1. Trinity (Boxholm)  
× In Sac County –  
1. Emanuel-St. John (Lytton)  

Rivers of Grace Conference

× In Monona County –  
1. Bethesda (Moorhead)  
× In Harrison County –  
1. St. John (Dunlap)  
2. St. Paul (Missouri Valley)  
× In Pottawattamie Co. –  
1. Emanuel (Council Bluffs)  
2. Our Savior's (Council Bluffs)  
3. St. John (Council Bluffs)  
4. St. Paul (Treynor)  
5. Underwood (Underwood)  
× In Carroll County –  
1. St. John (Carroll)  
2. Ascension (Coon Rapids)  
× In Audubon County –  
1. Ebenezer (Audubon)  
2. Brayton (Brayton)  
3. Exira (Exira)  
4. Bethany (Kimballton)  
5. Immanuel (Kimballton)  
× In Cass County –  
1. St. Paul's (Atlantic)  
2. Faith (Griswold)  
× In Greene County –  
1. Christ (Jefferson)  
× In Adair County –  
1. Good Shepherd (Adair) (none)  

Abundant Fields Conference

× In Mills County –  
1. St. John (Mineola)  
× In Fremont County –  
1. St. Paul (Northboro)  
× In Montgomery County –  
1. Salem (Creston)  
2. Bethlehem (Red Oak)  
3. Mamrelund (Stanton)  
4. Tabor (Stanton)  
5. Strand (Villisca)  
× In Page County –  
1. Bethesda (Clarinda)  
2. St. John's (Essex)  
3. Fremont (Red Oak)  
4. Emmanuel (Shenandoah)
RESOLVED, that the Western Iowa Synod Constitution be amended.

SA.18.06.12 Voice vote: PASSED

Several of our networks, partner agencies, synod advocates, and forum leaders were introduced and greeted the assembly:

- Maxine Lampe - Raising Up Healthy Women and Girl’s Network (afternoon forum)
- Rev. Paul Stone, Brian Underwood and Victor Scalco - Church of the Damascus Road
- Ann Johnson and Pat Friedrichsen - Hunger Network
- Reid Christopherson - our region’s Churchwide Council representative from Garretson, SD; Joe Nolte (SE Iowa Synod and ISU Campus Ministry)
- Rev. Arlyn Norris - Companion Synod Network (afternoon forum)
  - Girls’ Secondary School (Jan Rosdail-Aegertev)
  - Medical Supply (Shelby Kroona)
  - Well Project (Rev. Mike Kroona)
  - CAD: Center for Agricultural Development / SACCOS (Carl Bergstrom)
  - Companion congregations (Randy and Jean Van Weihe)
  - SACCOS (Rev. Perry Aalgaard)
  - Rev. Arlyn Norris (SACCOS Peer to Peer Crowd Funding)
  - Rev. Nordphrey Philip Mlangali (Southern Diocese of Tanzania companion synod)
  - Sebastian Munoz Oyarzo (Punta Arenas, Chilean companion synod)
- Rev. Katie Russell addressed the assembly speaking on the draft ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice (afternoon forum)
- Nick Wuertz – LSI’s (Lutheran Services of Iowa) Director of Refugee Community Services
- Folabi Olagbaju – Director of Outreach for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (afternoon forum)
- Rev. Barb Spaulding – Discipleship Academy (afternoon forum)
- Rev. Jeff Swanson – Vitality Team
- Rev. Rod Hopp and Rev. Joy Gonnerman – Global Mission and Global network; Peace Not Walls

Rev. Jeff Ungs gave a report of congregational 2017 Mission Support, thanking the synod for 2017 Mission Support of $881,038 (+4%), the highest since 2010.

The first recognition was given to congregations who increased their financial mission support up to 9%:
Audubon, Ebenezer; Carroll, St. John; Clarinda, Bethesda; Council Bluffs, Emanuel; Craig, St. John’s; Cushing, St. John; Estherville, Estherville; Hawarden, American; Inwood, Bethlehem; Kimballton, Immanuel; Lytton, Emanuel-St. John; Mineola, St. John; Moville, Trinity; Newell, Nain; Odebolt, Faith; Rembrandt, Our Saviors; Remsen, St. Paul; Ringsted, United; Sioux City, Augustana; Sioux City, St. Mark; Sioux City, St. Luke; Thompson, Bethany; Tiltonka, Good Hope; and in Vincent, South Enes.

The following congregations were acknowledged and thanked who increased Mission Support giving by 10% or more over last year; and 13 of these congregations increased mission support over last year by 50% or more:
Rev. Ungs expressed appreciation to the 75% of congregations who maintained or increased (either in amount or %) their Mission Support to the synod.

Rev. Joy Gonnerman invited participants to the afternoon forum on behalf of the Jackson Recovery Center.

Deacon Lynn Egesdal gave announcements.

The assembly offered a table prayer.

The assembly was recessed at 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM.

The following forums were held at 1:00 and 2:00 PM:

- Music – A Language That Speaks Volumes (Glocal Musician Educators)
- Smooth Sailing: Becoming a Resilient Leader in Turbulent Times (Deacon Tammy Devine, Portico)
- Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls for the Sake of the World (Maxine Lampe & CSADV representative)
- Draft Statement for Women and Justice (Rev. Katherine Russell)
- SACCOS for the Sake of the World (Rev. Perry Aalgaard)
- To Be Lutheran Is to be Relational (Dr. Kathryn Johnson, Churchwide representative)
- What in the world is going on in Israel/Palestine (Rev. Rod Hopp and Rev. Joy Gonnerman)
- From Bondage to Freedom (Rev. Paul Stone, Mark Juhl)
- Welcoming the Stranger (Folabi Olagbaju)
- Changing Hearts in the Heartland (Bishop Rodger Prois and Youth)
- Addiction: bringing light to those afraid of the shame (Rev. Joy Gonnerman)
- Ending Hunger for the Sake of the World (Ann Johnson, Pat Friedrichsen)
- Seeking Refuge Amidst Violence: AMMPARO as Church for the World (Rev. Eric Alm, Lauren Markham)

The plenary reconvened at 3:05 PM.

The Credentials and Elections Committee chair, Rev. Barb Kopperud, reported the following registration data:

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<td>Total voting</td>
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</table>
Rev. Grant Van Lishout reported on the Spirituality Network.

Deacon Lynn Egesdal reported on the Faith Formation Network and invited new members.

Michael Jacobson read and responded to the budget questions submitted earlier in the assembly.

Rev. Erma Wolf read Resolution #3:

**Resolution #3 “Adopt the Budget”**
Submitted by: Western Iowa Synod Council

RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Western Iowa Synod adopt the revised budget for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2018, and the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2019.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.

SA.18.06.13 A motion and second to separate the 2018 Revised Budget from the 2019 Proposed Budget. Voice vote: PASSED

SA.18.06.14 A motion and second to adopt the 2018 Revised Budget. Voice vote: PASSED

SA.18.06.15 A motion and second to increase the 2019 Proposed Budget Mission Support from $950,000 to $1,150,000. Votes in favor: 112; against: 99; PASSED

SA.18.06.16 A motion and second were made to approve the 2019 Proposed Budget. Votes: For: 107, Against: 103; PASSED.

SA.18.06.17 A motion and second to refer to Synod Council to determine revised 2019 Proposed Budget spending after the increase of 2019 Mission Support income as approved in SA.18.06.15. Voice vote: PASSED.

Rev. Erma Wolf read Resolution #2: Western Iowa Synod 2019 Compensation Guidelines

**Resolution #2 “Western Iowa Synod 2019 Compensation Guidelines”**
Submitted by: Western Iowa Synod Council

WHEREAS, congregations call rostered leaders “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”; and

WHEREAS, congregations desire to provide for the financial, spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of those called to serve them; and

WHEREAS, the compensation guidelines have been developed by the Synod Council for congregational use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA adopt the proposed guidelines and urge that congregations compensate rostered leaders at the recommended levels.
The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.

SA18.06.18 A motion and second were made to approve Resolution #2. Votes: For: 181, Against: 21; PASSED.

Reports were given from the following Ministry Partners:
Sue Boblit – Western Iowa Synod Women’s Organization
Mark Juhl – Lutheran Men in Mission
Barb Brennan – Mission Interpreters

Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben led the opening Bible study based on Acts 28:16-31.

Reports were given from additional Partners in Ministry:
John Twardos - president and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa; Sue Salmon – LSI foster care
Rod Quanbeck - Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps
Amanda Adam and Brittney Swanson - Lutheran Lakeside

Pr. Chris Lang, Candidacy Committee, introduced the following seminary candidates as of May 1, 2018:
The following leaders lost in the past year were held in remembrance:
  - Rev. Lorene Glant
  - Rev. Noel Kropp

Rev. Erma Wolf read the “resolved” items from Resolution #4, “Memorial on the ELCA’s 50th anniversary of the ordination of women”, which was submitted by the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel as information only, as it was submitted after the 2018 resolution deadline.

**Resolution #4 “Memorial on the ELCA’s 50th anniversary of the ordination of women”**

Moved,
To transmit the following memorial to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Whereas in 1970 both the Lutheran Church in America and American Lutheran Church in their national conventions voted to ordain women; and

Whereas the ELCA rejoices in these actions of its predecessor church bodies and will recognize the 50th anniversary in 2020 of the ordination of women; and

Whereas we express our profound gratitude for the many and varied ways the gifts of ordained women have advanced God’s mission through this church; and

Whereas we learned in the research related to the 45th anniversary of women’s ordination of some progress but also significant disparities for women in the areas of preparation for ministry, all calls including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education [http://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=45th+anniversary+of+women%27s+ordination]; and

Whereas the same research uncovered denigrating and discriminatory experiences of many ordained women, some particularly acute for women of color; and

Whereas the church is called to reflect in church and society its roles of advocate and model for the respect, dignity, and equal rights due all women, including the ordained women of this church; and

Whereas this church is simultaneously addressing justice and women in its social statement under consideration and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women;

Therefore be it resolved,

We call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon
the 50th anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and

We call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, synods, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women’s ordination has brought to our church; and

We call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

We call upon all members of this church to examine our consciences, and confess our sins and complicity in whichever circumstances by the outright or silent actions women have faced including barriers, discriminations, or sexual harassment as they prepared for and served as ordained women in this church; and

We call upon this church to renew efforts in education on the intersection of the sins of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, and develop healing interventions offering hope and support to those who experience these sins to the point of despair about ministry; and

We call upon our seminaries to include intentional coursework and resources to equip pastoral leaders in identifying and ministering in situations of gender-based discrimination and violence; and

We urge all congregations, synods, and the Churchwide organization in 2020 to conduct a gender analysis wherein each can develop strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice, with particular focus on addressing the areas of preparation for ministry, call process including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women comparable compensation with that of ordained men in all calls by 2025, reporting the outcome of this action step at the Churchwide Assembly in 2026; and

We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

We call upon the churchwide expression’s Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary; and

We call upon all candidacy committees to examine their practices in light of the findings in the 45th anniversary research; and

We request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and

We request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and

We invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel submits this resolution as information only.

SA18.06.19 A motion and second to bring the resolution to the floor (2/3 vote necessary). Votes: For: 157, Against: 24; PASSED
Rev. Erma Wolf introduced Resolution #5 “Resolution concerning the schedule for Western Iowa Synod Assembly” which was submitted by the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel as information only, as it was submitted after the 2018 resolution deadline.

**Resolution #5 “Resolution concerning the schedule for Western Iowa Synod Assembly”**

WHEREAS, the yearly meeting of the Western Iowa Synod Assembly is becoming more and more expensive each year for the synod; and

WHEREAS, the assembly is becoming more expensive for congregations to afford to send voting members; and

WHEREAS, the synod assembly is very time consuming for the synod staff and synod council to organize and plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western Iowa Synod begin meeting every other year in assembly beginning with the assembly in the year 2021, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Iowa Synod Constitution Bylaw S7.11.01 be amended to read, “The regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be called annually biannually by the Synod Council [remainder of the bylaw to remain the same]...”; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaw S7.13.01 be amended to read “Notice for the annual biannual meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be given to each congregation by the secretary and post-marked at least ninety days before the meeting”; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Synod Council be charged with bringing recommendations to the Synod Assembly, as soon as 2019 but no later than 2020, on further bylaw changes regarding elections to the Synod Council and Committees (some of which are mandated to take place in even-numbered years) necessitated due to the change to biannual Synod Assemblies; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Synod Council, in consultation with the Bishop and Synod staff, bring a recommendation to the Synod Assembly in 2020 on the type of one-day Synod-wide meeting/event that should occur in the non-assembly years.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel submits this resolution as information only.

**SA.18.06.21** A motion and second to bring the resolution to the floor (2/3 vote necessary). Vote for: 77; against 113; FAILED

Deacon Lynn Egesdal gave closing announcements.

Bishop Prois recessed the assembly at 5:55 PM until Sunday at 8:45 AM.

Hors devours were served and participants were invited to visit the vendor displays, the congregational service projects in the plenary hall and the bookstore.

The Glocal Musicians led a “Journey of Mission with Music” at 7:00 PM.

A “Healing of the Nations Service” was held at 8:00 PM.
Rev. Alm presented a PBS documentary “Trafficked in America”, which related the journey of migrant minors and led a discussion on it.

Sunday June 10, 2018

Rev. Deb Mechler lead opening devotions at 8:45 AM.

The fourth plenary session resumed at 9:00 AM.

The Credentials and Elections Committee chair, Daniel Holste, reported the following registration data:

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<tr>
<th>Credentials Report #5</th>
<th>06/10/18  8:30 AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay females</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay males</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total voting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total registered</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rev. Lorna Halaas, representing the Discipleship Academy, recognized those persons completing the 2-year program:
- Denise Berns
- Vesta Clausen
- Lisa Franco
- Connie Miller
- Sarah Morphew
- Al Norsiden

Kurt Fleming (Fort Dodge) and Kirsten Dunlap gave an overview of the upcoming Youth Gathering in Houston. Bishop Prois led a blessing and sending for all the participants that will be attending the Gathering later this month.

Pr. Mark Holmer, chair of the Western Iowa Synod Foundation Committee, introduced the committee members and announced the Mission Endowment grant recipients:

1. Church of the Damascus Road................................................. $ 1,000
2. IELCH: Evangelical Lutheran in Chile................................. $ 1,000
3. Newell Food Pantry............................................................. $ 1,500
4. Haiti Missions........................................................................ $ 500
5. For Daughters, Inc. ............................................................... $ 500
6. Food for Kids.......................................................................... $ 500

TOTAL $ 5,000

The following congregations were recognized for celebrating significant anniversaries:

- Faith Lutheran, Onawa 50 years
- Immanuel, Rock Rapids 125 years
- Trinity, Moville 125 years
- Immanuel, George 125 years
- Our Saviors, Rembrandt 150 years
Bishop Prois installed the Synod Council and 2019 Churchwide Voting Members:

Current Synod Council members:
- Brian Campbell – Vice President
- Dave Bohnet (Lutheran Men in Mission)
- Marlyce Hauge (WISWO)
- Michael Jacobson - Treasurer
- Maja Knutson
- Rev. Barb Kopperud
- Judith Lang
- Rev. Cole McCormick
- Gail Schilmoeller
- Julie Sievers
- Blake Stratton
- Brian Underwood
- Rev. Erma Wolf

Newly-elected Synod Council members:
- Rev. Scott Dalen
- Kathy McEnelly
- Rev. Jim Mossman, Secretary
- Nancy Peters
- KayLynn Ridgely

Churchwide Assembly voting members
- Janis Campbell
- Laurel Pierson
- Diane Vavek
- Daniel Holste
- Jim Post
- Jenee’ Eden
- Rev. James Rut
- Rev. Shawn Brooks
- Rev. Lorna Halaas
- Rev. Rod Hopp
- Rev. Cindy Johnson

Karen Post was given a plaque and planter as tokens of appreciation for her two terms as synod secretary.

Deacon Lynn Egesdal gave announcements.

Bishop Prois offered the assembly closing litany. The plenary session ended at 9:30 AM.

The assembly concluded with closing worship at 10:00 AM with communion. It was reported that the weekend offerings exceeded $15,815.

Respectfully submitted
Karen Post
Western Iowa Synod Secretary
Western Iowa Synod ELCA
Treasurer’s Report

Report of Fiscal Year 2018

Income
The primary source of receipts for the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA is mission support from its congregations. During fiscal year 2018, congregations of the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA gave $850,808 in mission support: which is down $30,230 from what was received from congregations in the prior fiscal year. As noted on the year end reports, event registrations, administrative reimbursements, interest income, equity transfers, and other miscellaneous income provided additional operating funds.

Expenses
The Synod used the congregational mission support income received in 2018 to support the wider mission of the church by sending $285,564 to the ELCA churchwide organization (this amount is 33.6% of mission support), $20,000 to Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministries, and $10,000 to seminaries (Wartburg and LSTC). Of the $285,564 sent to ELCA churchwide, $33,500 of the money came from the cashing of an undesignated Certification of Deposit (CD). Mission support also supported programs and events ($320,837), Synod team member salaries and benefits ($493,273) and office resources ($106,460) to the Synod. The 33.6% of congregational mission support sent to the churchwide organization was less than the budgeted goal of 34.2%.

Summary
Mission support from Western Iowa Synod, ELCA congregations was approximately $30,000 less than the previous fiscal year.
Of the mission support income received from congregations, as authorized by the synod council, 33.6%, or $285,564, was distributed to the ELCA churchwide organization. An undesignated CD of $33,500 was cashed to offset the shortage sent to churchwide. Income and expenses pertaining to mission partners, such as companion synods, are included in our operating budget reports due to our auditor’s recommendation. In addition, $20,000 was distributed to Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministries and $10,000 to the seminaries in our region (Wartburg and LSTC).

Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2019
The Western Iowa Synod, ELCA Council has reviewed the proposed budget approved at the 2018 Synod Assembly for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2019, and, with recommendations from the synod finance committee and executive committee, has developed a revised budget and recommends its adoption by the 2019 Synod Assembly.
As part of the 2019 revised budget, mission support income from congregations is estimated to be $900,000. Of the mission support income, 27.2% ($245,088) will be distributed to the ELCA churchwide organization. The budgeted amount to send to Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministries ($20,000) and the seminaries ($10,000) was not changed in the revised budget. It is recommended that any additional mission support (above $900,000 level) be distributed to the ELCA churchwide organization until the total amount distributed would reach a level of 49.75% of total mission support income received from Western Iowa Synod, ELCA congregations. At that point, if there would be any additional mission support, it would be shared between the ELCA churchwide organization and other agencies and institutions.
The balance of expenses in the 2019 revised budget are based on historical patterns, as well as estimates provided by Synod team members and Networks of the Synod.

**Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020**
The proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2020 projects an estimated $950,000 in mission support. Of that amount, 29.7% is recommended to be distributed to the ELCA churchwide organization. Mission support above the budgeted amount of $950,000 would be passed on to the churchwide organization.

**Independent Auditor’s Report**
The certified public accounting firm of Hunzelman, Putzier & Co., PLC, Storm Lake, Iowa audited the Synod’s statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – cash basis, and the related statements of receipts, disbursements, and changes in net assets – cash basis and cash flows – cash basis for the years ended January 31, 2019 and 2018. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, in the opinion of the firm, the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and net assets of the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA as of January 31, 2019 and 2018, and its receipts, disbursements, and changes in net assets and cash flows for the years ended on a modified cash basis of accounting. The audit report is available in the synod office.

**Finance Committee**
Synod finance committee members during the past year were Rev. Cole McCormick, Estherville; Julie Sievers, Storm Lake, and Michael Jacobson, Emmetsburg. The finance committee oversees the financial soundness of the Synod and invests a great deal of time and energy in the budget planning process. A big “thank you” is extended to all of the members for their efforts and assistance. In particular, I thank all of the Synod team members, especially Bishop Rodger Prois and Kay Broich, for their stewardship of the finances of the Synod.

Michael Jacobson, Treasurer
## UNAUDITED

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount 1</th>
<th>Amount 2</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Western Iowa Synod Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ELCA Mission Investment Fund</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>$6,915.00</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust</td>
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<td>$103,575.00</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust - Bahnson</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Farmland</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Property and equipment, at cost</td>
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<td>$364,518.00</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Accumulated depreciation</td>
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<td>($108,366.00)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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<td>$1,300,670.00</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Payroll Tax and Benefits Withholdings Payable</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>Note Payable</td>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Net assets without donor restrictions</td>
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<td>Net assets with donor restrictions</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$1,223,329.00</td>
<td>$1,300,670.00</td>
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### Western Iowa Synod ELCA
### Analysis of Revenues and Expenses

#### Fiscal Year
- **Beginning February 1**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>Proposed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Revised</strong></td>
<td><strong>Proposed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission support income</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td>$906,200.00</td>
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<td><strong>Synod Council</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly income</td>
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<td>$71,750.00</td>
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<td>Candidacy income</td>
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<td>Education &amp; Family Ministry events</td>
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<td>Fall Conv income</td>
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<td>Leadership Event</td>
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<td>First Call Retreat Income</td>
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<td>Global Reavel Income</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
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<td>Discipleship Academy</td>
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<td>Misc. registrations income</td>
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<td>Pastor to Pastor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirituality retreat income</td>
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<td>Stewardship events</td>
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<td>Thankfulness Event</td>
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<td>Youth events income</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Administrative Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other reimbursements</td>
<td>$68.00</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Salaries reimbursements</strong></td>
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<td>$11,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Travel reimbursements</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td>$11,250.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transfers from Comp Synod Equity Accounts</strong></td>
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<td>$183,900.00</td>
<td>$142,500.00</td>
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<td><strong>Transfers from Misc. Equity</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>$1,364,000.00</td>
<td>$1,357,600.00</td>
<td>$1,568,050.00</td>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>Churchwide mission support</strong></td>
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<td>$245,088.08</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IA Lutheran Campus Ministry</strong></td>
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<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seminaries (LSTC &amp; Wartburg)</strong></td>
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<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seninarian and Pastor Support</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Support to ELCA Ministries</strong></td>
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<td>$372,000.00</td>
<td>$275,088.08</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meetings expense</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Leadership Event/Interculturality</strong></td>
<td>$50.65</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thankfulness Event</strong></td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<td><strong>Conf. Deans</strong></td>
<td>$129.80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interculturality Team</strong></td>
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<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<td>$-</td>
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<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
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Fiscal Year
Beginning February 1

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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Support to ELCA Ministries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Programs, Events &amp; Boards</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Synod Council</strong></td>
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<td>$1,500.00</td>
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<td><strong>Fall Leadership Event/Interculturality</strong></td>
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<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thankfulness Event</strong></td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<td><strong>Conf. Deans</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Disaster Preparedness Team</strong></td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<td><strong>Intentional Interim Ministry</strong></td>
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<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Proposed</th>
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<th>2019 Proposed</th>
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<td>76</td>
<td>Meetings expense</td>
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<td>Disaster equity expense</td>
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<td>$ 100.00</td>
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<td>Worship team expense</td>
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<td>Youth expense</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>Faith Formation</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>Book of Faith</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>Discovering Hope</td>
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<td>86</td>
<td>Leadership Academy</td>
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<td>Area Strategy</td>
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<td>Evangelism Equity</td>
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<td>Bishop Discretionary Equity</td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>Spirituality</td>
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<td>92</td>
<td>WIS Leader Ship Dev. Equity</td>
<td>$ 96.14</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>Rostered Leader Dev. Equity</td>
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<td>$ 15,342.52</td>
<td>$ 17,700.00</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>Discipleship Academy expense</td>
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<td>$ 7,420.27</td>
<td>$ 19,200.00</td>
<td>$ 17,000.00</td>
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<td>98</td>
<td>WIS Mission Fund Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Mission Support Table</td>
<td>$ 1,900.00</td>
<td>$ 334.11</td>
<td>$ 1,900.00</td>
<td>$ 6,500.00</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Rural Immersion</td>
<td>$ 67.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>New and Renewing Congregations</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

47
| Capital camp. Vitality/Renewing | $7,500.00 | $5,382.17 | $7,500.00 | $7,500.00 | $7,500.00 |
| Agencies/institutions | | | | | |
| Companion Synod TZ and Chile | $317,350.00 | $137,832.59 | $183,900.00 | $146,400.00 | $277,400.00 |
| Global Mission/Hunger | $40,200.00 | $1,304.71 | $8,700.00 | $5,300.00 | $49,700.00 |
| Domestic Hunger | $ | - | $ | - | |
| **Programs and Events** | **$513,088.00** | **$295,308.30** | **$363,950.00** | **$462,650.00** | **$611,500.00** |
| **Administration** | | | | | |
| Region 5 expense | $3,582.00 | $3,582.00 | $3,557.00 | $3,557.00 | $3,484.00 |
| Salaries/wages expense | $313,906.49 | $323,751.81 | $329,581.85 | $323,751.81 | $335,083.12 |
| Pension and other benefits expense | $159,479.22 | $148,784.31 | $169,047.97 | $159,199.21 | $170,343.15 |
| Other staff expense | $21,862.04 | $20,736.91 | $22,192.40 | $21,766.90 | $21,732.89 |
| Equipment expense | $12,880.00 | $5,055.14 | $13,000.00 | $14,380.00 | $13,580.00 |
| Synod insurance expense | $6,200.00 | $5,390.78 | $6,300.00 | $6,597.00 | $6,797.00 |
| Occupancy expense | $22,700.00 | $29,614.40 | $22,900.00 | $23,200.00 | $23,700.00 |
| Office supplies expense | $13,275.00 | $11,035.44 | $13,775.00 | $12,500.00 | $12,700.00 |
| Professional services expense | $9,560.00 | $8,350.41 | $9,560.00 | $9,610.00 | $9,910.00 |
| Telephone expense | $6,570.00 | $6,396.43 | $6,600.00 | $6,700.00 | $6,700.00 |
| Travel expense | $36,300.00 | $40,617.33 | $32,100.00 | $38,600.00 | $40,000.00 |
| **Administration** | **$606,314.75** | **$603,314.96** | **$628,614.22** | **$619,861.92** | **$644,030.17** |
| Transfers to equity accounts | $ | | | $11,847.38 | |
| **TOTAL** | **$1,457,402.75** | **$1,226,034.66** | **$1,364,564.22** | **$1,357,600.00** | **$1,568,050.00** |
| Net Total | $14,781.30 | -$33,500.00 | -$564.22 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
## WESTERN IOWA SYNOD ELCA
### Mission Partners Contributions

<table>
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<th>Assembly offering expense</th>
<th>1/31/2019</th>
<th>1/31/2018</th>
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<td>124</td>
<td>$ 16,361.19</td>
<td>$ 14,539.35</td>
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<td>125</td>
<td>Bible camps expense</td>
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<td>Church of the Damascus Road expense</td>
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<td>ELCA disaster expense</td>
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<td>ELCA global missions' expense</td>
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<td>$ 43,857.32</td>
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<td>ELCA Lutheran World Relief expense</td>
<td>$ 10,424.76</td>
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<td>ELCA world hunger expense</td>
<td>$ 55,882.98</td>
<td>$ 62,436.01</td>
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<td>LSI general expense</td>
<td>$ 6,220.50</td>
<td>$ 13,381.25</td>
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<td>Special giving agencies expense +</td>
<td>$ 3,734.34</td>
<td>$ 8,195.64</td>
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<td>Waldorf Foundation</td>
<td>$ 184,959.39</td>
<td>$ 637.16</td>
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<td><strong>Total Mission partners Contributions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 320,837.48</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 190,202.72</strong></td>
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### Assembly offering

201

8 Campaign Fund for Leaders, SACCOS, WISEM Scholarships

+ Special Giving
  + ELCA Campaign for Youth
  + Fund for Leaders
  + General ELCA church wide synod support
  + Iowa Campus Ministries
  + Malaria
  + Midwest Christian Home
### Net Assets

Subject to disbursement for a specified purpose:

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<tr>
<th>Fund Description</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Area Strategy Equity</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 2,355.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book of Faith</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 1,952.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign Synod Renewal</td>
<td>$ 22,107.00</td>
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<td>Companion Synod Equity</td>
<td>$ 185,814.00</td>
<td>$ 204,824.00</td>
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<td>Continuing education</td>
<td>$ 8,846.00</td>
<td>$ 8,149.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster Equity</td>
<td>$ 27,021.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovering Hope Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Family Ministry Equity</td>
<td>$ 891.00</td>
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<td>Evangelism Equity</td>
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<td>Gift Planner Fund for WIS</td>
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<td>Good Samaritan Fund Equity</td>
<td>$ 1,399.00</td>
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<td>Hunger Equity - Donor Designated</td>
<td>$ 1,869.00</td>
<td>$ 954.61</td>
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<td>Discipleship Academy</td>
<td>$ 19,503.00</td>
<td>$ 20,928.68</td>
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<td>Leadership Program for Musicians Equity</td>
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<td>New Congregations Equity</td>
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<td>Pre-Retirement Seminar Equity</td>
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<td>Rostered Leader Development Equity</td>
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<td>Spouses Retreat Equity</td>
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<td>Stewardship Equity</td>
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<td>WIS Leadership Development Fund Equity</td>
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<td>WIS Mission Equity</td>
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<td>Youth Equity</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Subject to endowment committee spending policy:

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<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment in perpetuity, income expandable</td>
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<td>$ 137,818.00</td>
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Subject to endowment committee spending policy:

<table>
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<th>Fund Description</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<td>when a specified event occurs:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmland</td>
<td>$ 503,771.00</td>
<td>$ 492,891.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total net assets with donor restrictions</td>
<td>$ 968,454.00</td>
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<td>Endowment net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>$ 630,709.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
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<td>$(4,300.00)</td>
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<td>Endowment net assets, end of year</td>
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<td>$ 630,709.00</td>
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<td>Synod Council has designated from net assets without donor:</td>
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<td>restrictions, net assets for the following purposes:</td>
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<td>Mission Investments</td>
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<td>$ 29,062.00</td>
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<td>Building</td>
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<td>178</td>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>179</td>
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## Mission Support Report

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The Western Iowa Synod called me to serve as Director of Missional Leadership/Assistant to the Bishop for a six year term call. This call now comes to an end on June 30, 2019. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve the Western Iowa Synod for the past six years. I give thanks for the many relationships with leaders and congregations as new calls and new partnerships took shape. I give thanks for the opportunities to be together in worship, text studies, learning opportunities, retreats, and countless congregation council and call committee meetings. I am grateful for much: your kindness, faithfulness, grace and care as together we bear the Light of Christ into the world.

+ **Call Process** -
16 congregations/shared ministries currently served by pulpit supply or interim.

+ **Candidacy Committee** –
Many thanks to Steve Gates, Pastor Jennifer Henry, Pastor Judith Johnson, Sandy Kropf, Pastor Craig Miller, Pastor Jean Morse, Pastor Christine Lang and Jane Olivier as they accompany candidates currently attending seminary.

The work of this committee has greatly increased as theological education continues to change to meet the needs of the church and the number of students attending seminary in western Iowa has grown from 6 to 23 in the past six years. Thank you congregations for your support of these candidates for ministry!

+ **First Call Pastoral Support**
Thank you to Pastor Cindy Johnson for continued leadership with pastors who are beginning their ministry. Pastors Ann Albert, Zech Anderson, Sarah Deutsch and Jean McCartney will be joined by newly ordained Pastors Gina Sterk and Tami Groth at the May retreat.

+ **Interim Pastors**
Thank you to Pastor David Bergstrom for serving as convener, coordinating quarterly meetings for conversation, collegiality, and support.

+ **Rural Ministry Immersion**
Western Iowa is a rural synod which means both unique challenges and possibilities for ministry. An exciting new partner in learning and training pastors for ministry in rural congregations is Grandview University and the Moses Project. Through a grant the university will partner with the Western Iowa Synod and the Southeastern Iowa Synod to support and nurture clergy serving in rural areas.

In addition to the Moses Project, in January 2019 Western Iowa welcomed 16 students from Luther and Wartburg Seminaries for a week of “rural immersion”. Thanks to Pastors Shawn Brooks and Denise Parrello along with Dr. Tom Paulsen from Morningside College for coordinating host families, travel and learning experiences. Students learned much about agriculture and life outside of metro areas.

Leaders from Western Iowa accompanying the students also learned much. From the students we heard a deep and faith filled yearning for the ELCA. The hope that the church into which they feel called will be a place where diversity is embraced, traditions and change are celebrated, where questions invite learning and deep conversation attentive to God and one another.
+ **SAM Education/Discipleship Academy**
For the past nine months 12 lay people have met for monthly classes on preaching, worship, and congregational care in preparation to possibly serve congregations as a Synodically Authorized Minister. I am grateful for Vicky Brodale, Pastor Mike Kroona, Pastor Jean Morse, Pastor Kelley Pedersen, Bill Peters, Pastor Del Olivier, Jane Olivier and Pastor Barb Spaulding who serve as teachers, mentors, and leaders to walk with adults in continued faith formation.

+ **Soul Companions/Spirituality Network** –
Thank you to Pastor Deb Mechler for serving this year as coordinator for Soul Companions - a network that has grown from an idea to now eight spiritual directors in Western Iowa. This ministry continues to grow as others continue to receive training in spiritual direction.

+ **Women Clergy**
The challenges faced by ordained/rostered women are many. It has been life giving to gather a few times each year for worship, prayer, conversation and support.

+ **Women of the ELCA/Western Iowa Synodical Women’s Organization**
Thank you Women of the ELCA for your ministry! May you be bold women as you plan ...and as you prepare for attending the next Triennial Gathering in Phoenix. Continue “Raising up Healthy Women and Girls!”

+ **Worship Network and “the Band”**
Many thanks to this fun and talented group of musicians from around the synod who gather annually to plan and lead worship for the synod assembly.

As these six years come to an end, my prayers surround the Western Iowa Synod.
Thank you for your prayers this past year as I went through treatment for prostate cancer. I am grateful for all the support I received and prayers from many congregations. What a blessing it is to be called to serve the Synod and receive such support!

This year’s assembly theme is “Following Jesus; Living Hope.” As you know, my salary is paid through the Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA with your mission support giving. Here is how your mission support was stewarded through the Director for Evangelical Mission position in the Western Iowa Synod, providing “Living Hope.”

*Preached when invited and available
*Conducted congregation and council workshops for stewardship, evangelism, and or renewal
*Organized and participated in day of advocacy-Iowa Lutheran Day on the Hill 2019
*Attended WIS Conference meetings
*Provided support for: Domestic Hunger Network; Differently Abled Network (formerly Handicapped Network); Good News Network (Mission Interpreters); Mission Support Network; New and Renewing Congregations Network (Now known as the Congregational Vitality network); Mission Support table network, Disaster Response Network, Lutheran Men in Mission network

*Oversight of Lutheran Disaster response funds distributed in the Western Iowa Synod. Western Iowa Synod received $10,000 from ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response floods through Lutheran Services in Iowa.
*Participated in: Church of the Damascus Road (CoDR) prison congregation as outside board member and preached at both churches; CoDR Reentry/Reintegration meetings; Thanksgiving Lutheran South Sudanese congregation meetings, Episcopal Diocese of Iowa & Western Iowa Synod meetings regarding Senor de la Misericordia ministry. This ministry is now closed. Thank you for your prayers and support for this mission development exploration.
*Organized and participated in WIS “Thankfulness Events” (Sharing stories of the three expressions of the church and how we are living out our calling to be Church together for the sake of the world).

*Facilitated monthly meetings with the Western Iowa Synod Congregation Vitality team. There are currently 24 congregations engaged in some form of congregation renewal/vitality ministry throughout the Synod.
*Organized and facilitated 2 retreats with eight congregations and 58 persons participating in the congregation vitality ministry. Organized “Hope in the Heartland” congregation renewal workshop. Over 400 persons from 8 synods attended this workshop in person or virtually through the internet.
*Area ministry strategy conversations in various places.
*Supported rostered leaders and congregations through attendance and participation in ordinations, installations, funerals, Chrism Mass for rostered leaders, conference and deans meetings, anniversary celebrations, congregation vote to call Pastor, constitution reviews and updates
*Participation with WIS Lutheran Men in Mission. Western Iowa Synod Men in Mission meet quarterly, and have an annual retreat. This year’s retreat was held at Lutheran Lakeside Bible Camp. Please contact me if you want to grow or start a men’s ministry in your congregation.
*Attended ELCA staff meetings and events for Directors for Evangelical Mission
*Performed other administrative duties and responsibilities as assigned

The Synod mission team and I welcome any invitations to preach or conduct workshops in the various ministries listed above. You set the parameters for the visit! Mission interpreters are also available to come to your congregation free of charge. Mission interpreters are lay members of churches in our Synod who will come to your church and thank you for your mission support and share stories of faith in action. They will not ask for money or financial support during their visit. As we move into 2019-2020, I believe collaboration between congregations and Synod ministries will be the key to success. As followers of Jesus, we live into the hope of being the body of Christ, working together for the sake of the Gospel. If you want more information about any of the ministries listed above, please call 712-732-4968 x449 or 641-529-2479. Thank you for walking the talk of faith and being partners in the Gospel.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Ungs
Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop
Following Jesus; Living Hope! I am pleased to showcase the many ways this theme manifests itself in our synodical global mission endeavors! I joyfully give thanks to God for the many relationships, projects, networks members, and time/talent/resources offered by oh so many wonderful, faithful people, both here and across the world, that enable everything within this report to be! Network and WIS team members are recognized within the report—be sure to thank them for their service.

Companion Synods Network (Pr. Arlyn Norris, chair; Cindy Wells, synodical member):

Southern Diocese—Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (SD):

- **Center for Agricultural Development**: continued training of smallholder farmer and 4H groups, along with funding support for SACCOS (Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations—i.e., micro-financing) & more recently, AMCOS (input and marketing cooperatives) are our current priorities. These efforts allow for best ag practices, access to much-needed credit, and farmer “skin in the game”, so-to-speak—all resulting in considerably more profitable outcomes and dignified participation in their goals and use of profits. A $500 loan can double or triple profits, enhancing health and nutrition, education, community employment and tithing! It is a WIN-WIN for all and the WIS hopes to further develop many, many more opportunities for the Western Iowa Synod to accompany in this blessed way! CAD Board members include Carl Bergstrom, Michael Vaughn, and Dr. Bruce Towne, plus four more from Tanzania. Pr. Perry Aalgaard and Jane Kruse lead the SACCOS/AMCOS initiative.

- **Well-drilling** continues nicely with a 100% success rate in 2019 whereby safe, clean water was supplied for thousands! One of these successes involved our first-time contracting with an outside driller with a compressor-type rig. This was needed to penetrate the very hard rock often encountered in an area of the Southern Diocese called the Rift Valley. While three times more costly, it was deemed worthwhile to provide water in an intensely dry area of Tanzania, and an area of contaminated water due to area gold mining practices. Bishop Prois and others from the synod were privileged to participate in the dedication of this well and oh, what a joyous celebration it was!! Clean water impacts many arenas of life: health, educational opportunities (for girls in particular) and greater economic capacity. We are pleased to say our local drilling team is proving to be very effective and that the cost/well is relatively low ($3500 or so on average) compared to reports of many other drilling outfits in the region! Pr. Mike & Shelby Kroona lead this project.

- **The Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School** provides quality education, ranking first in its district and 23rd nationally! Much of this success is due to dedicated teachers, a Christian ethic throughout, and access to textbooks. Secondary school in Tanzania has, up until recently, only been available to those who can pay the associated tuition. This school, with the help of WIS scholarships has provided education to those with least access—i.e., the very poor, orphaned and/or area Masaai girls—since 2006. Our synodical funding has, quite honestly, diminished in recent years, jeopardizing who will be able to attend and potentially marginalizing the marginalized even more. This year’s assembly offering is for the school. While this will provide a boost for 2019, let us strive to find ways and continued sources of funding to sustain these dynamic girls. Annual tuition, including room and board at this boarding school, is approximately $750/year tuition. All said, we rejoice in all that we have been able to accomplish thus far and give thanks! Jan Rosdail Aegerter leads this project.

- **Medical** equipment requested by the Ilembula Lutheran Hospital of the Southern Diocese at this time include a portable ultrasound x-ray unit and/or a water distilling unit used for prostate treatment. We continue to work with Global Health Ministries to both secure and transport such items. Anyone with information or access to such units in their local contexts is asked to contact the synod office. Shelby Kroona leads this project.

- **Companion congregations** are receiving particular attention in 2019 in the synod and in Tanzania and Chile as leaders work to strengthen and rejuvenate these relationships. Updating contact information, researching best
and sometimes newer means of communications, showcasing the accompaniment model, encouraging mutual visits, etc. are part of the plan. Denise Kramer Tolzmann leads this effort.

- A small delegation of 5 from the Western Iowa Synod—Bishop Prois, Cindy Wells and Pr. Arlyn Norris, Pr. John Wolf and Alexis Knutson—visited the Southern Diocese visited last summer. A highlight was participation in the ELCA/ELCT Summit to celebrate companion synod relationships and discuss future engagement and potential re-structuring possibilities. This is a process that will move forward in the next 2-3 years between the ELCA, the ELCT and partnering companion synods. Please hold it in prayer.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH):

- The Western Iowa Synod accompanied the IELCH via companion congregation relationships and some mutual projects support.
- We were additionally pleased to be able to support two IELCH congregants to attend the EPES (Popular Education in Health) International training, an ILECH priority that grows leadership and capacity to address local wellness issues in some of its most vulnerable communities.
- An ELCA Global Mission sponsored Latin American Consultation is scheduled for November in Guatemala. At this time, all synods in companion relationship in Latin America and the Caribbean gather to learn about contextual dynamics, deepen relationships, network and build three-year strategies. We look to deepen our particular relationship with Chile and plan for our future connectedness then. Jan Rosdail Aegerter leads in this relationship.

NOTE: group synodical travel to Tanzania is tentatively planned for 2020 for youth, those in companion congregation relationships and others. Please let the synod know of any interest you or others you know have along these lines and be watching for more information in the months to come. Katie Hare leads the youth components of our companion synods relationships.

NOTE: Bishops’ elections are being held in both the Southern Diocese and the IELCH (as well as the Western Iowa Synod) in May 2019. Please hold this all in prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit’s presence and guidance as these key leaders emerge.

Asante sana! Thank you very much! ¡Muchísimas gracias!

Global Mission/Hunger Network (Pr. Rod Hopp, chair; Cindy Wells, synodical member):

Peace Not Walls: a campaign of the ELCA, strives to bring peace and justice and security to ALL peoples in the Holy Land. Opportunities to learn, have open dialog and to advocate on the issues in the Holy Land are possible—both synodically and on the national front these days. The Western Iowa Synod invites you to invite us in to do just that! Significant issues continue to arise in this region of the world, with the USA a major player. Our knowledge of the issues and events, as well as our willingness to advocate on behalf of the above-stated goal, can make an impact. The No Way To Treat A Child resolution at this year’s assembly is one of those issues. Plan to join the corresponding assembly forum to learn more. May this be an opportunity for learning as well action for our church.

World/Domestic Hunger: The need to address hunger—both domestically and globally—sadly continues to be before us at ever increasing levels. Congregations and communities are taking action to impact this need both directly and via advocacy. Be sure to check out the assembly hunger displays and attend the hunger forum more information and response/impact ideas. A Hunger Retreat was held last November and a revitalized synodical Hunger Network is emerging—might you participate? Pr. Jen Henry, Pat Friedrichsen, Ann Johnson, Pr. Erma Wolf, Brenda Manmiller are network leaders; Julie Cook, synodical member.

Please invite the synod in to share information, conversations, ways forward and more on any and all of these vital arenas where we walk with the least of these and love our neighbors per Jesus’ command.
LET US REJOICE as we clearly see how
“Following Jesus; Living Hope”
is reflected in our synodical global mission endeavors!

Anyone seeking more information or answers to questions is invited to contact the synod office 712-732-4968.

**Sabbatical Report:** After having served 16 years as a synod team member, I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to engage in a time of partial sabbatical in late 2018. I spent 4-5 weeks in Geneva, Switzerland attaining 8 graduate credits and an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from Fordham University in New York. It was a very challenging, interesting and intensive time of learning with people from all over the world. Classes were held from 8:30 am to 6 pm weekdays with varying lecturers from the field. Sample lecture topics include the Humanitarian Sector Environment, the United Nations and its structure and history, International Human Rights/Humanitarian/Refugee Laws, Climate Change, Sector Innovations, Communications, Personal Health, Refugee Trauma, Refugee Camp Management, Urban vs Rural Disasters, Communicable Diseases, Conflict and Disaster Case Studies, Humanitarian and Development Nexus points, greater Localization of humanitarian assistance—including churches, etc. Graded group presentations, weekly exams, a research paper and final exams and presentations kept students very busy and challenged. I am happy to report that I passed the course and that I found several correlations to my work as WIS Director of Global Mission.

The remaining 2-3 weeks were spent in Brazil with an extended family of sorts, primarily deepening relationships with them while, at the same time, affording myself an important though rarely-taken time for both rest and physical, emotional and spiritual rejuvenation. At a future time (2019 or 2020, depending on the situations at hand), I hope to complete my sabbatical offering with differing foci that additionally provide for growth and wellness.

May we all come to better understand and value the nature of sabbatical, affording and participating in it where possible. Again, thank you one and all~
WIS Assembly Report
Peace and Justice

by WIS Mission Team leaders:
Cynthia Wells, Kay Broich, Pr. Lorna Halaas, Julie Cook, Lynn Egesdal

Accompanying Migrant Minors in Protection, Accompaniment, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO), including Welcoming Congregations and Guardian Angels programming:
Migrant minors are leaving their country’s violence and extreme poverty, often alone and having faced perilous conditions along the way, at our southern border and, sadly, yet within our country. The 2017 Western Iowa Synod passed a resolution to establish 65 official ELCA AMMPARO Welcoming Congregations willing to receive and serve those minors and guardians in our midst needing support and love. AMMPARO has trained and participated in the Guardian Angels program, providing support to migrant minors at the Omaha Immigration Court, as well as helping to ensure just practices in that system. AMMPARO ministry may involve a physical, emotional, direct presence to those living in your own community. This may mean offering support and presence at our Immigration court in Omaha. This may also mean working collectively with others to advocate for sound immigration reform that places human dignity and family well-being at the forefront and that strengthens and improves situations in their home countries. This may mean using your voice and heart to educate and instill Jesus’ values in others with whom you connect. The need and the opportunity for non-polarized dialog and response over issues of immigration are before us—might our church be a place to do so? Please join us on all of these fronts. Network leaders: Pr. Eric Alm, Susan Brown, Pr. David Halaas and Pr. Jay Denne; Cindy Wells, synodical member.

Anti-Racism:
Racism, bias and privilege are all pressing issues of our time. The 2016 ELCA Churchwide passed a resolution than synods address issues of racism every two years. The Western Iowa Synod has begun so via its interculturality initiative that encourages us to more fully accept and accompany the “other” in love, while disposing of any “us”/“them” constructs surrounding race, gender, age, sexual orientation, political party, socio-economic status, denomination, religion, etc. The synod is additionally developing leaders via participation at ELCA and other anti-racism conferences—e.g., the Des Moines Civil and Human Rights symposium, Implicit Bias training and the nationally renowned White Privilege Conference. There is considerable work to be done in this arena—please join us. Network leader: Michelle Talbott; Kay Broich, synodical member.

Healthy Women Girls:
In partnership with Women of the ELCA, this network addresses all components of the Wellness Wheel as they particularly pertain to and impact women. Issues such as human trafficking, gender-based violence, gender discrimination, sexual abuse and assault, etc. are at the forefront of our concerns. The network hopes to continue to grow in size and impact in the year ahead. Please seek to join us. Network Leaders: Nancy Peters, Maxine Lampe; Pr. Lorna Halaas, Lynn Egesdal, and Julie Cook, synodical members.
Faith Formation – In March we hosted a Cross+Generational Ministry Lab in Sioux City in collaboration with the NE Synod, ELCA Generosity Project, outdoor ministries, Faith Ink, GenOn, and Thrivent. With seven generations together we learned about generosity through various activities. Those in attendance also learned about ways to incorporate cross+generational activities into their ministry setting. Our two main leaders were Linda Staats and Emily Dalen. There were approximately 70 people in attendance and many positive comments were made by those in attendance. It’s great to hear how those that were in attendance are already planning ways to incorporate what they learned into their ministry. We will continue to look for more ways to share this information and offer more learning opportunities.

ELCA Youth Gathering - The Western Iowa Synod was represented by 356 youth and adults at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX last June. A big Thank You to Kim and Tracy Gayer who were the synod’s gathering coordinators and Rev. Kae Russell and Kandi Anderson who were the synod day coordinators. A special thank you to the many of you who supported one or more of these youth through financial support or through prayers and encouragement. I hope by now you have heard stories about their experience and how it made a difference in their faith journey.

Also, we are in the process of scheduling monthly meetings with youth leaders in the synod.

Communication – Communication is so important and continues to be a struggle. So many ways to communicate is both a positive and negative. No matter the avenue used, we still rely on you and other congregational leaders to assist us in spreading the word about what’s going on in the synod. We continue to use and encourage others to use and connect through social media and email. These are two of the main ways we share news and what’s happening in the synod. The eSpirit is our main avenue of communication. We encourage all congregations to share the content with it’s members!

Sabbatical - I was blessed to be granted a sabbatical last summer. After serving the synod for a total of 17.5 years (as of July 1, 2018) the time away was greatly appreciated. It was a time for renewal, a time to work with a spiritual coach, time for photography, volunteering in new areas, opportunity to spend extra time with family, time for study and self-reflection, and time for travel with my family. I returned with a refreshed and renewed spirit.

As we move towards the 2019 Synod Assembly and the election of a Bishop, I continue to pray for the Spirit’s guidance and direction in the work that God is calling the synod to do.

Working and serving together for Christ, Lynn Egesdal, Deacon