

To the Congregations of the Western Iowa Synod:

*The Western Iowa Synod Assembly* will be held in Sioux City on May 3-5, 2019. It may seem early to start planning. However, this assembly will be unique in the fact that it will involve a bishop election.

*Bishop elections* occur every six years. The term of office is six years and bishops in the Western Iowa Synod may serve two terms. Bishop Prois has served six years and has agreed to put his name forth for a second term.

*The election process* allows for the nomination of any ordained pastor who is on the roster of the ELCA. Nominations will need to include contact information for that person, and of course those nominated should be asked if they would serve if elected.

*You will be electing voting members* to attend the Synod Assembly at the annual meeting of your congregation. It is important that these people have a sense of the thoughts and desires of the people of the Synod as they make decisions regarding the business and direction of the Synod as well as the election of a bishop.

With the help of the ELCA, a synod survey will soon be available on the WISynod website to aid in the discussions during this election year.

*Now is the time* for you to start conversations discussing the synod purpose and mission to share with your voting members. This may occur in Sunday or Sabbath School, Bible study, cottage meeting, etc. This will enable people at Synod Assembly to make informed decisions regarding the future of our Synod.

The Election Committee will post information to keep you informed about the election process and progress. Please check the Western Iowa Synod website and E-spirit for updates.

Brian Campbell, Western Iowa Synod Vice President