



2024 Year-End Summary

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is *Created to Be Connected*. We do more ministry because we work together. This 2024 Year-End Summary showcases some of the ways God is at work through the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

CREATED TO BE CONNECTED

Equipped to Lead

Your gift to the Northeastern Iowa Synod opens opportunities to inspire and equip youth and adults as lay leaders.



Photo: Pastor Kristen Corr Rod & Northeastern Iowa youth at the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit.

- ❖ This year, 437 high school youths and adults from the Northeastern Iowa Synod attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans to deepen their faith, learn new skills, and find inspiration to serve and lead in new ways.
- ❖ More than 150 people attended the Northeastern Iowa Synod's first Ministry Fair. Congregation members were co-leaders and co-learners in 30 workshops on topics to share creative ministry ideas and fellowship.
- ❖ With donor support, the synod developed a new Lay Ministry Training program to give lay leaders the tools and support they need when congregations are without a pastor or deacon.
- ❖ Congregational treasurers, council presidents, call committees and other lay leaders received educational support, guidance, and coaching.
- ❖ Congregations who requested assistance with renewal, stewardship, mission statements, evangelism, council retreats and more were provided guidance and leadership.
- ❖ Congregations received access to safe ministry training for their staff and volunteers, along with guidance for addressing misconduct situations.
- ❖ Synod staff supported start-up ministries and congregations considering new ministry partnerships or closing.
- ❖ Congregations in transition were guided through the call process, compensation planning and minister-in-training opportunities, and offered ministry resources and support.

CREATED TO BE CONNECTED Networked to Serve

Your gift to the Northeastern Iowa Synod means we are ready when help is needed.



Photo: Pastor Kyle Barton & family loading flood buckets to deliver to flooded communities in western Iowa.

- ❖ The Northeastern Iowa Synod currently has 10 active networks full of passionate volunteers called to focus on an area of interest.
- ❖ Synod networks shared resources, presented workshops and hosted engagement opportunities, such as the Racial Justice Book Club event and the Global Church Together Festival.
- ❖ In the past year, synod networks provided 26 Hunger Ministry Grants and coordinated disaster response, including delivering 300 flood buckets to western Iowa communities.
- ❖ Networks gave youth ministry leaders and families tools to help pass on the faith, such as youth ministry webinars and the *Living Faith at Home* newsletter.
- ❖ The networks connected with our companion synods through a synod-sponsored group trip to Hungary and an online conversation with three Namibian bishops.
- ❖ The Northeastern Iowa Synod hosted youth ministry events, including Created to be Connected, Plan-It, and Getting Ready for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

CREATED TO BE CONNECTED Called to Minister

Your gift to the Northeastern Iowa Synod helps congregations like St. Peter prepare, Interview and call a new pastor.



Photo: Installation of Pastor Nichole Robson, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Dubuque

- ❖ On any given day, 30 Northeastern Iowa congregations are ready to call a new pastor or deacon. Synod staff walk congregations, candidates and pastors through the call process, secure funding for seminary scholarships, and help set up alternative on-site learning.
- ❖ In 2024, 11 pastors and deacons were installed and eight brand new pastors and deacons were ordained, many serving in Northeastern Iowa.
- ❖ The First Call Theological Education program currently supports 11 rostered ministers who are in their first three years of ministry in this synod.
- ❖ Rostered ministers received pastoral care and support from the synod through personal guidance and annual gatherings, such as the Fall Theological Conference and Spring Day of Renewal.
- ❖ The Northeastern Iowa Synod joined 11 other synods of ELCA Region 5 to offer a day of professional ethics and boundaries training for all rostered ministers.
- ❖ The synod offered reduced rates for leaders to participate in the synod's Coaching Ministry, Mental Health First Aid Training, and other learning opportunities.