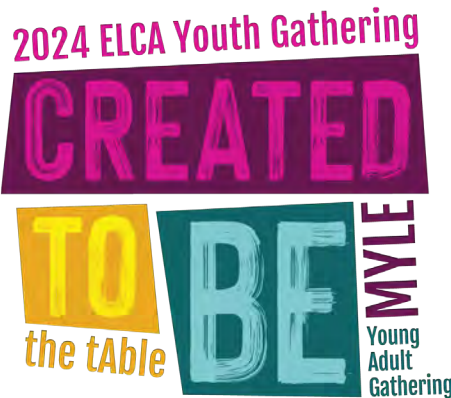




Registration to begin for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

by Marcia Hahn

After a two-year delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, registration for the next ELCA Youth Gathering is set to begin in September.



High-school age Lutherans and their adult leaders from the Northeastern Iowa Synod will join thousands of others from across the ELCA in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024, for five days of faith formation at the Youth Gathering. With the theme “Created to Be,” the Gathering will offer learning experiences, worship, fellowship, accompaniment, mass gatherings and opportunities to take in the sights and sounds of New Orleans.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

Individuals who will be ages 18 to 35 at the time of the Gathering are invited to attend the first-ever Young Adult Gathering, which will coincide with the Youth Gathering. The Young Adult Gathering will offer separate programming, aside

from the Mass Gathering, with the young-adult participants divided into cohorts based on age. All young-adult participants will undergo background checks prior to arriving on-site and will be housed in a separate hotel from youth participants. Learn more at www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering.

REGISTRATION BEGINS SEPT. 15

Alison Pettit, who serves as administrative assistant for the Northeastern Iowa Synod, has attended four Youth Gatherings as an adult leader. This year she takes on the role of Gathering Synod Champion, which means she is this synod’s primary resource to help congregations prepare for registration, arrange shared transportation, connect with resources, and receive answers and updates about the Gathering.

Earlier this year, Pettit led several informational meetings about the Youth Gathering and resources to help congregations prepare for registration, which is open to youth who will be in grades eighth to 12th this fall. Congregations that register the majority of their youth during priority registration—Sept. 15 to Nov. 1—will pay a lower registration fee and are more likely to be given their preferences for hotel location, hotel price range, and theme for their Accompaniment Day.

The cost to attend the Gathering is \$375 per person if registered by Nov. 1. If registering later, the fees are \$425 by Feb. 14, 2024, and \$475 by April 15, 2024. Hotel, meals and travel costs are not included in this registration fee.



Alison Pettit

Pettit explains that congregation groups will each rotate through a day of Interactive Learning, Synod Day and Accompaniment Day, which is when groups will go out into the New Orleans community to connect and work together with organizations. Congregations

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will be assigned a project for their Accompaniment Day, but they can rank these choices in order of their preference when registering:

Advocacy — Work with people who make justice-centered change and learn how to work with changemakers back home.

Awareness — Learn about the culture of New Orleans and its people by meeting with a chef to learn about their food, visiting a museum to learn about their history or other interaction.

Action — Work on a hands-on project with a local organization that has relationships with the people of the city.

“The expectation in the past has been to get our hands dirty with service work, but the focus has now shifted from mission work to accompaniment,” Pettit says.

On their day for interactive learning, youth will explore the variety of stations that will be set up in the convention center to try hands-on projects, service work, arts and crafts, games and other fun activities.

“In the past there have been rope courses and bumper cars, opportunities to donate blood and hair, and build walls for Habitat for Humanity homes,” Pettit says.

For Synod Day, youth from the Northeastern Iowa Synod will worship together with Bishop Kevin Jones and explore the city of New Orleans.

“Our synod day will include worship together in the hotel ballroom and time for us to get out into the city in

YOUTH GATHERING MEMORIES

NICOLE KIEFER

Nicole Kiefer attended her first ELCA Youth Gathering in 2015 as a high school student and member of St. Paul, Marble Rock. She says attending that Gathering reaffirmed the call she was already feeling toward ministry.

Kiefer went on to volunteer as a servant companion for the 2018 Gathering in Houston, and she has applied to volunteer for the 2024 Gathering as well. If that doesn't work out, Kiefer says she will likely register for the Young Adult Gathering.

“The Gathering is super fun and I have always felt super close to God during and after each Gathering,” says Kiefer, who is now in her third year of seminary. “To this



Nicole Kiefer at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston

day, the servant companions I was in a group with in 2018 still talk to each other.”

smaller groups to explore museums, parks and a cultural experience,” Pettit says.

YOUTH GATHERING RESOURCES

Pettit recommends that congregations take advantage of the numerous free resources that can be downloaded to help their groups prepare for the Gathering and promote it to their congregation members.

gLearn Courses

Adult leaders attending the Gathering are required to complete the “gLearn Courses,” which give a deeper look at the Gathering schedule and programming; ideas for fundraising, budgeting and promoting the Gathering; and ways to build

relationships in the group,

“I think it's really helpful information,” Pettit says. “Even if you have experienced a Gathering before, it's good for everyone to go through it all.”

Getting Ready Curriculum

The “Getting Ready” curriculum offers 10 lessons to help groups ponder the “Created to Be” Gathering theme and the five daily themes: created to be brave, to be authentic, to be free, to be disruptive and to be disciples. The lessons use Bible studies and activities to help group members build relationships with one another, connect with the culture and history of New

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Grateful for everyone who helped with Synod Assembly

"The Holy Spirit is moving in our hearts and in our actions. Thanks be to God!"

Attending synod assemblies for more than 28 years as a pastor, I knew that there was a lot of organization that was required. Having now been on the planning side for two assemblies, I realize that I had no idea how much work goes into it. It's a bit like folks who come to worship on Sunday but don't know how many hours of planning, and how many people are involved in making it go well.

I am so grateful for all the people who make the Assembly a good experience for the people of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Assembly Manager Jan Glaspie begins the process more than a year in advance (reserving facilities etc.). The synod staff are all in, doing whatever is needed, especially as the assembly draws nearer.

Our Assembly planning team and committees for elections, worship, resolutions, registrations, and hospitality are brought in months before we get to campus. Speakers, tech help, parliamentarian, and musicians all put in hours of prep and rehearsal. The staff and administration at our church colleges work behind the scenes to provide a hospitable space for us to stay, fellowship, and do the work of the synod.



I was so pleased to see the comments on our post-assembly survey reflect a positive experience by so many in attendance. The three talks on Growing Together in Faith, Hope, and Love received some of the best comments I've ever seen. They showed how our church is alive and growing even when membership and worship attendance figures are not. The Holy Spirit is moving in our hearts and in our actions. Thanks be to God!



BISHOPS RIDE AGAINST HUNGER

I write this on my last day in the office before we start our ride. Last night my

bike odometer rolled past the 1000 mile mark for this year. The distance won't get me but perhaps the hills will. We'll see.

I also learned yesterday that we have received over \$30,000 in donations already from across the state. Thank you! That leaves \$20,000 to reach our goal. We will continue to receive donations into the fall so if you haven't had a chance to give or have a special offering planned for August or September, it's not too late.

Following the ride, we will be highlighting 50 anti-hunger programs from the three Iowa Synods. Those will be found on our e-news, Facebook, and the Bishop's RAGBRAI website, <https://sites.google.com/se-iasynod.org/bishops-ragbrai/home>. Not only will you find ideas that might inspire you or your congregation, but you will again see evidence of the living Spirit of God at work in our communities, both large and small.

God is at work in us and through us. Thanks for being part of the team!



To donate to the Bishops Ride Against Hunger and to learn more, visit www.neiasynod.org/2023/07/bishops-ride.

Register for Men's Retreat

Nov. 3-5, 2023

Ewalu, Strawberry Point

Registration is open for the "One Year to Live" men's retreat set for Nov. 3-5 at Ewalu Camp & Retreat Center, Strawberry Point. The retreat starts at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and ends at 3 p.m. Sunday.



This 45-hour spiritual boot camp uses small group discussions and activities to help men who yearn for a closer relationship with Christ to band together to examine their life and priorities, and discover how God has equipped them to live. It is presented by Lutheran Men in Mission, in partnership with the Northeastern Iowa Synod and Camp Ewalu.

Those who register by Oct. 9 receive the discounted rate of \$175. Standard registration is due by Oct. 23 for \$200. To download the brochure and register, visit www.neiasynod.org/2023/06/one-year-to-live-mens-retreat.

SAVE THE DATES!

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

Oct. 6-7, 2023 - UNI, Cedar Falls

Registration will open Aug. 15. Watch for more information coming soon!

FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Oct. 15-17, 2023

Holiday Inn/Bien VenU, Cedar Falls

The presenter will be Jessica Noonan, associate director of LEAD Ministry, a nonprofit organization that works with rostered ministers and congregations to develop leadership and connect congregations to their neighborhoods.

This event is open to all rostered ministers actively serving in the Northeastern Iowa Synod; seminary interns; CL, TEEM and SAM students; and retired rostered ministers serving as interims or contracted supply. Registration will open mid-August. Watch for more information coming soon!

The *Star* is going bimonthly

The *Star* newsletter will now be published every other month, with the September/October 2023 issue coming out by Oct. 1. It will continue to be delivered as a digital newsletter.

In addition, time-sensitive announcements about upcoming events and other updates will be delivered as needed through emails and through the synod's weekly *E-News* digital newsletter. News updates will also be posted on Facebook and on the synod website, www.neiasynod.org.

Sign up to receive the weekly *E-News* digital newsletter at www.neiasynod.org/blog/e-news. Follow the Northeastern Iowa Synod Facebook page at www.facebook.com/neiasynod.



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Send news for the September/October 2023 issue to Marcia Hahn by Sept. 5.

Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated for use in synod congregations and organizations, with credit to the *Star* newsletter.

Please notify the synod office with name and address changes. The *Star* can be downloaded at www.neiasynod.org/blog/newsletter. To request a printed version, call the synod office.



www.neiasynod.org

Synod to offer Mental Health First Aid Training

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is offering a series of Mental Health First Aid training sessions to help people learn how to identify, understand and respond to someone who is showing signs of mental illness or a substance use disorder.

Just as CPR training helps a person with no clinical training assist an individual following a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid training helps a person provide initial help and support to someone experiencing a mental health crisis until appropriate professional help arrives. The training can benefit any congregation member, especially clergy members, staff, volunteers, parents, and those who work with youth.

Three different in-person sessions will be offered, led by instructors trained through the National Council for

Mental Wellbeing:

Mental Health First Aid for Rural Communities

Monday, Sept. 25, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Bethany Lutheran, Iowa Falls

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Thursday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Decorah Lutheran, Decorah

Adult Mental Health First Aid

Saturday, Sept. 30, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. John Lutheran, Guttenberg, with 2 hours of online pre-work

Each course covers the common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges, how to interact with a person in crisis, how to connect a person with help, and other information about trauma, substance use and self-care. The youth course will also talk about challenges related to that age group, such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, and social media and bullying.

Participants will learn how to respond to a variety of situations, including when someone is experiencing a panic attack, suicidal thoughts or



behaviors, self-injury, hallucinations or delusions, overdose or withdrawal from alcohol or drug use, or reaction to a traumatic event. An important component of each course is the opportunity to practice the intervention strategy, rather than just learn about it, which can make it easier to apply in a real-life situation.

"This class gave me confidence to speak directly without judgment to people who are experiencing mental health issues and help them find appropriate resources to meet their immediate needs," said Bishop Kevin Jones.

REGISTER BY SEPT. 11

The cost to attend is \$30 per person for each session. To learn more and to register online, visit www.neiasynod.org/2023/08/mental-health-first-aid-training.

Learn more about Mental Health First Aid Training at www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org.

CLERGY APPRECIATION

October is observed as National Clergy Appreciation Month, with Sunday, Oct. 8, set aside as the day to honor rostered ministers. Many congregations use this time to express their gratitude to their pastors, deacons and lay ministers for their contributions and services.

The synod staff would like to share ways that congregations have honored their rostered ministers in the past as part of Clergy Appreciation Month. Please email this information and any photos to hahnm@neiasynod.org.

LSI names Interim President and CEO

The Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) Board of Directors recently appointed Dan Dean, vice president of Capacity and Strategy Development, as interim president and CEO for the statewide human services agency. The Board has also established a search committee and initiated the search for the organization's next leader.

Dean has been at LSI for 27 years and has led the agency's personnel, quality improvement and compliance programs across the state. He has also been responsible for strategic planning, development, measurement and oversight of operations at all sites. He replaces John Twardos, who resigned earlier this year.

Orleans, learn about what their week will entail, and build excitement for the Gathering.

"I want people to be thinking about recruiting students, generating interest, and talking about the Gathering," Pettit says. "It's a mountaintop experience in a teen's faith formation. They will be challenged in that week in a lot of different ways, but it is also a lot of fun."

gNews

Parents, youth and adult leaders can receive Gathering updates by signing up for "gNews," a monthly e-newsletter designed to equip and inform those interested in and attending the ELCA Youth Gathering.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Pettit says there are a number of ways that congregations can support their youth in the coming year leading up to the Gathering, including prayers and financial support. The Gathering is not an inexpensive trip, so supporting the youth in their fundraising efforts can help a lot with costs.

"This is a great time for congregation members to engage with the youth and to share about their own experiences attending a Gathering in the past," Pettit says.

To learn more about the Youth Gathering and to download resources, visit www.elca.church/gathering.

To view a video of the online informational meeting hosted by the Northeastern Iowa Synod, visit the **Northeastern Iowa Synod YouTube** page.

YOUTH GATHERING MEMORIES

JARED MCLEY

Jared Mcley attended his first Youth Gathering in 2018 at Houston as part of the youth group from St. Paul's, Waverly.

"For me, the most impactful memory was at the big evening worship," Mcley says. "My favorite evening worship memory was singing 'Jesus Loves Me' with 30,000 people, but I also had a lot of fun during the day with my friends from youth group. I went to the Youth Gathering the summer of my senior year, so it was the last thing I did as a youth with my church."

Mcley plans to attend the 2024 Gathering with youth from St. John (Crane Creek), Tripoli, and St. John (Maxfield), Denver, where he serves as lay ministry through the collaborative learning program at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

AMY EISENMANN

Pastor Amy Eisenmann, who serves Bethlehem Lutheran, Cedar Falls, has been to multiple Youth Gatherings, and she says that a large part of the memories and blessings come in the travel to there and home again. Eisenmann will travel with her youth group to the 2024 Gathering in New Orleans, with a stop in Tennessee for a few days of mission with a Service Learning Camp.

"It isn't about just getting there as fast as we can, but it is about building relationships and learning about the culture and people we meet along the way."



Jared Mcley, right, at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston with fellow group members from St. Paul's, Waverly.

Eisenmann says that the last time she took a youth group to a Gathering in New Orleans, they learned people's stories about Hurricane Katrina.

"This time, after having some of our youth attend WIYLDE, I am hopeful that the Peer Ministry skills they learned will enable and empower them to learn more about the people they will meet there."

ALISON PETTIT

Alison Pettit has attended two Gatherings in New Orleans, but one experience in 2009 stood out. Pettit was part of a group that was finishing outdoor clean up for a homeowner's house and lawn, including pulling out seashells from the lawn four years after Hurricane Katrina. The homeowner was a single woman who lived there with her disabled adult child, and she was exhausted.

"She cried because she was so thankful to see so many things getting done," Pettit recalls. "Our group went from feeling good to be helping out, to being honored to be part of her story."

Youth learn Good Samaritan skills at WIYLDE 2023

by Pastor Kristen Rod

Ten youth from the Northeastern Iowa Synod learned how to live like the Good Samaritan at this year's WIYLDE (Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipleship Event), which met June 19-22 at Camp Ewalu. With the theme "WIYLDE Samaritans," the event featured Peer Ministry Leadership Training from Lyle Griner, National Peer Ministry Director.

The youth and adult leaders studied the story of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10, and through the PML training learned relationship skills to listen, help, welcome and care for those around them. For example, they learned how to use the "WHEAT" acronym to spark deeper conversations with people: Ask "Where" they are from, ask about their "Hobbies," ask about exciting "Experiences" they have had, ask about interesting "Acquaintances" they have made, and ask about their "Travels."

The WIYLDE group practiced skills to become better listeners by using the imagery of mirrors to remind them to reflect what they are hearing so they listen to understand, rather than to respond. They also learned skills to support people who are facing challenging situations or difficult choices,

such as listening for their values, helping them think through their options, and supporting them as they move forward.

The WIYLDE youth and adult leaders also joined in some of the camp activities at Ewalu, including the low ropes and high ropes courses, a service project, and a disc golf course.

Special guests during the week were Bishop Kevin Jones, who led a Bible

study about the Good Samaritan; seminary student Brittany Barkus, who talked about the ELCA Young Adults programs and led a Taize-style worship service; campus minister Robin Kime, who led games, talked about ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministry at UNI, and shared how people can learn from whales; and Alisha Stiles, a WIYLDE alum who guided everyone in creating paintings that affirm their God-given gifts and how they can share them.



Synod Assembly highlights how the church is growing

by Marcia Hahn

Some 274 voting members and visitors gathered June 9-10 at Luther College in Decorah for the 2023 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, with the theme “Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love.” Seventy percent of the voting members were laity and 30 percent were rostered ministers.

Voting members adopted five resolutions, including a resolution to address people of color in the call process and a resolution for synod-wide greenhouse gas emissions goals. (See insert.) In addition, voting members elected new committee members, Synod Council members, and voting members and alternatives to attend the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Around 140 people attended the optional Friday night activities, which included an opening worship service with Pastor Kristen Rod preaching. Saturday’s activities included an opening prayer service, ministry exhibits and three plenary sessions. Bishop Kevin Jones preached at the closing worship service.

BISHOP’S REPORT

Highlighting the assembly’s “Growing Together” theme, Bishop Jones shared how the Northeastern Iowa Synod and church can grow in ways other than attendance and engagement numbers.

Jones shared that since its beginning 35 years ago, ELCA membership has declined from 5 million to 3 million. He cited disaffiliations, declining population and birth rates, and an aging demographic as contributing factors. As a result, some communities are considering end-of-life options for their congregations.



Friday night worship service at the 2023 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly.

“We need to be able to see these as faithful finishes, not failures,” Jones said. “At the synod office we have a number of resources to help such congregations.”

Jones said he believes the church is being called collectively by God to grow closer together in spirit and wisdom. “Discovering and creating opportunities to partner in ministry where we used to compete with one another is essential for the days and years ahead.”

As the synod moves to holding synod assemblies every two years rather than annually, Jones said that partnerships with people, conferences and networks can help new ministries get started quicker, and he plans to work with the Synod Council to look at some of those options.

Jones recognized the partnerships this synod has with the Southeastern Iowa and Western Iowa Synods, such as supporting outdoor camping min-

istries and college campus ministries and riding together in RAGBRAI to highlight anti-hunger ministries and raise \$50,000 for ELCA World Hunger. He invited the assembly attendees to use the pledge cards in their registration packets to support this effort.

CHURCHWIDE REPORT

Jill Beverlin, program manager for ELCA Coaching Ministry, brought greetings from the churchwide organization and a video report about the ways the church is stronger together and how the Northeastern Iowa Synod is part of that.

In 2022, this synod gave \$363,423 to the ELCA for Mission Support, \$320,767 for Lutheran Disaster Response, and \$261,054 to ELCA World Hunger.

ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants have supported the ministries of three

>> Continued on page 9

Northeastern Iowa Synod congregations over the past three years: St. John's, Dubuque; Our Saviour's, Mason City; and St. John's, Guttenberg.

"It is easy to see the plethora of ways you are all joining in God's mission of loving and healing the world," Beverlin told the assembly.

Saturday's plenary sessions featured three TED-style talks focused on stories related to the assembly's faith, hope and love theme.

GROWING IN FAITH

Pastor Kim and Diane Wills of Zion-St. John, Sheffield, shared about the community support and faith in God that guided the development of the West Fork Food Pantry. What started in 2016 as a mobile food pantry at Zion-St. John serving 16 families each month grew into a free-standing permanent food pantry that now serves 150 families each month.

Pastor Wills said that five congregations and a lot of volunteers were involved in growing the food pantry, and three things stood out: "We have to be willing to listen to God and to one another. We have to have open and caring hearts and third, we have to follow Christ, always."

Diane added that listening for God is often through other people, and hearing the word "yes" can be even harder than hearing "no." "When God says yes, you've got to have a willing heart. You've got to be willing to say, hey, we can do this."

GROWING IN HOPE

Beverlin shared about the ELCA coaching ministry and how it can lead people to a new sense of hope and

a deeper way of serving. The coaching theology is based on Jesus's walk to Emmaus, in which Jesus walked alongside the disciples and helped them see where God's resurrection power was at work in their circumstances.

"This conversation transformed their grief and doubt, bringing new hope and compelling them to action," Beverlin said.

Beverlin told how coaching brought hope into her own life when her 20-year-old son died 10 years ago. A friend connected her to an ELCA coach and through their conversations, Beverlin said she was able to name the depth of her pain and find hope for her to live and engage in life in some meaningful way.

"My coach helped me realize that because my eyes open today, there was more that God was inviting me to do. And slowly but surely, that got me out of my own grave clothes and started me on a path which led me to being with you here today."

GROWING IN LOVE

Pastor Beth Olson of St. John Bennington, Waterloo, shared about the love and support that she and her family received from her congregation in response to her husband's injury, hospitalization and death earlier this year.

Congregation President Jeff Seamans told Olson at the time to take the time she needed to be with her family, which ended up being more than two months during the busy Lenten

season. The congregation arranged for worship leadership through synod staff and supply pastors and continued Sunday morning education. They took care of the pastor and her family with food drop-offs, visits, cards, and paid emergency family medical leave.

"Because of the council's decision to care for us as they did with grace and generosity of heart and wallet, I had less to worry about and more energy to put into our family when we got Bob home," Olson said. "We had three good weeks together."

Seamans told the assembly that this was an opportunity for the congregation to walk the walk and show appreciation for another in need. "In this case, it was a member of our leadership team, someone that we often lean on in our times of greatest need. We were given an awesome opportunity to share God's love."

GIFTS & OFFERINGS

Congregations brought 89 family care kits and other items to support Lutherans Services in Iowa's Early Childhood Services program.

The Synod Assembly offering has collected nearly \$7,000 to support the H. George Anderson Fund

for Leaders and the Bishop's Crisis Fund. Offering gifts can still be made online or by sending a check to: Northeastern Iowa Synod, 201 20th St. SW, P.O. Box 804 Waverly, IA 50677-0804.

The gifts given through this collection go far beyond the item — they go to making someone feel wanted, loved and thought of as a person of worth and cared for.

— Mike Knipp, LSI
Director of Philanthropy

TEDx Talk connects soil conservation and women's rights

from the Care for Creation Network

Women: Be inspired by Luther College professor's TEDx Talk, "Power of the Unseen."

Below is the online description given for a fascinating TEDx talk given by Dr. Jodi Enos-Berlage, professor in the Biology Department at Luther College, that has special interest for women who farm or own farmland and why it is so important to protect soil, the precious resource we have been given for growing food. To view the talk, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbEeugqrnWA>.

"In this captivating TEDx talk, Dr. Jodi Enos-Berlage shines a spotlight on the remarkable connection between microbes, soil erosion prevention, and women's rights in Iowa. Drawing from her extensive research and personal experiences, she explores the often-unseen world beneath our feet and the crucial role that microbes play in maintaining healthy soil.

"Through the lens of her own family history, she shares the inspiring story of her mother's journey in overcoming societal barriers to own land and represent their family. By intertwining the narratives of microbial ecosystems and women's empowerment,

Dr. Jodi Enos-Berlage unveils the hidden power that lies within both the natural world and individuals who challenge conventions. Prepare to be captivated as she unveils the profound link between soil resilience and societal progress, leaving you with a newfound appreciation for the invisible forces that shape our environment and human rights.

"Jodi Enos-Berlage has served as a professor in the Luther College Biology Department for over 20 years, with primary areas in microbiology, immunology, and introductory cell biology. Her 10-plus years of student-centered research on water quality in Northeast Iowa have resulted in the Dry Run Creek Watershed being one of the most monitored watersheds of its size in the state.

"More recently, her teaching and research has integrated student-sourcing antibiotic discovery from microbes in Northeast Iowa soils. In the last five years, Dr. Enos-Berlage has also focused attention on student career and life design development, having co-developed, launched, and implemented a new



high impact, immersion internship program in Rochester, Minn., and served a three-year term as associate dean for Integrating Academic and Career Development, partnering with Luther's Career Center Director to lead career and life design efforts on campus."

"Dr. Enos-Berlage grew up and was actively involved in her family's Northwest Illinois cow-calf beef and crop farm and currently owns and operates a direct sale beef and hog farm outside of Ridgeway with husband John and family. She finds peace in flowing water, energy from walking in the wild, and joy in dancing and storytelling. Her most treasured moments have been reading out loud to her children after dinner for over two decades. People who know her well describe her as a "relentless advocate for positive change".

Synod Assembly highlights how the church is growing
<< Continued from page 9

MINISTRY FESTIVAL 2024

Next year, instead of an assembly, the synod will host its first Ministry Festival with workshops, service opportunities, networking, worship and more for members from all the congregations to attend.

Jones asked people to contact the synod office with suggestions for workshops they would like at that festival and the names of people who they think would be good to lead workshops. The festival will be at Wartburg College in Waverly in June 2024, with the date to be confirmed.

Read more about the Synod Assembly, download resources and view live-stream videos at www.neiasynod.org/2023/06/2023-synod-assembly-recap.

AUGUST EVENTS

- 3 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Zoom
- 11 Candidacy Committee Meeting, 8 a.m., Synod Office
- 15 New Synod Council Members Orientation, 7-8:30 p.m., Zoom
- 24 Youth Ministry Network, 10 a.m., Immanuel, Independence

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 4 Synod Office Closed, Labor Day
- 7 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Zoom
- 10 "God's work. Our hands." ELCA Day of Service
- 23 Synod Council, 9:30 a.m., Synod Office
- 25 Mental Health First Aid Training for Rural Communities, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Bethany, Iowa Falls
- 28 Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Decorah, Decorah
- 30 Adult Mental Health First Aid Training, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. John's, Guttenberg

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 5 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Zoom
- 6-7 Middle School Lock-In, UNI Wellness Center, Cedar Falls
- 15-17 Fall Theological Conference, Holiday Inn/Bien VenU, Cedar Falls
- 19 Youth Ministry Network, 10 a.m., St. Paul's, Postville

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 2 New to the Synod, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Synod Office
- 2 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Zoom
- 3-5 "One Year to Live" Men's Ministry Retreat, Ewalu, Strawberry Point
- 9 Dean's and Chaplain's Meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Synod Office
- 16 Youth Ministry Network, 10 a.m., St. Paul's, Waverly
- 18 Synod Council Meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.
- 23-24 Synod Office Closed, Thanksgiving

INSTALLING

Rev. Rebecca Baird, St. James, Allison, Aug. 6
 Rev. Kyle Barton, St. John (Buck Creek), Sumner & St. Peter, Oran, Aug. 13
 Rev. David Efflandt, St. Paul's, Waverly, Aug. 27
 Rev. Daniel Baldwin, Immanuel, Cresco, pending

INTERVIEWING

Decorah, Big Canoe & Highland, Rev. Waldemar Gies, contract interim
 Decorah, Decorah, staff
 Decorah, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge
 Dubuque, Holy Trinity, Rev. Jason Davis, contract pastor
 Dubuque, St. John's, Rev. Ann Fritschel, interim
*Eldorado, St. Peter**
 Garnavillo, St. Peter & Clayton, Peace, Rev. Harold McMillin, contract interim
 Greene, St. Peter
 Hampton, St. Paul
 Jesup, American & La Porte City, Zion (Jubilee)
 La Porte City, American
*Leland, Our Savior & Garner, Faith (Miller)**
 Mason City, Trinity, staff, Rev. Dan Dahl, interim
 Maynard, St. Paul
 Toeterville, St. Peter & Carpenter, Deer Creek
*Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**
*Waterloo, Our Savior's, Pastor Lisa Kruse, contract synodically authorized minister**
 Waterloo, Zion, Rev. Erika Breddin, contract pastor

SELF-STUDY

Asbury, Lord of Life
*Decorah, St. John's & Hauge**
*Dows, First, Rev. Anita Nuetzman, interim**
 Dubuque, St. Peter, staff
 Elgin, Elgin & Elkader, Highland
 Elkader, Bethany & Strawberry Point, Emanuel, Rev. Katherine Longtin Johnson, interim
*Hawkeye, Trinity**
*Janesville, Messiah**
 Lake Mills, Salem
 Osage, Our Savior's
 Ossian, Ossian
 Rockwell, St. Peter
*Thornton, St. Paul**
Washburn, Redeemer
*Waterloo, Trinity**

ROSTER CHANGES

Rev. Joel Guttormson, retired

**Part-time Call*

PRAYER CALENDAR

AUGUST 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Rev. John W. Gannett, Mason City 1	Rev. Rebecca M. Sogge, Northwood Rev. Bradley C. Hanson, Decorah 2	Bethany, Joice 3	Bethany, Kensett 4	Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann, Dubuque 5
Rev. Daniel R. Christensen, Lime Springs 6	Rev. Dr. Ann Fritschel, Dubuque 7	Rev. Charles R. Underwood, Clarksville 8	Elk Creek, Kensett 9	Zion (Jubilee), La Porte City 10	Rev. Randy S. Nielsen, Mason City Rev. Nancy Solomonson, Decorah Rev. Brian T. Julin-McCleary, Cedar Falls 11	American, La Porte City 12
Winnebago, Lake Mills 13	Salem, Lake Mills 14	Our Savior's, Lansing 15	Our Savior, Leland 16	Middle East Peace St. Paul, Lime Springs 17	St. John, Luana 18	Rev. Thomas C. Jones, Independence 19
Bethlehem, Manly 20	St. Paul, Marble Rock 21	St. James, Mason City 22	Rev. A. Dean Williams, West Des Moines 23	Trinity, Mason City 24	Our Saviour's, Mason City 25	St. Paul, Mason City 26
St. Paul, Maynard 27	First Evangelical, McGregor 28	Rev. Sidney W. Bohls, Mason City 29	St. Paul, Monona 30	St. John, Nashua 31		

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Trinity, New Hampton 1	St. Luke, Nora Springs 52
Rev. Robert A. Scheurer, Rockford 3	First, Northwood 4	Silver Lake, Northwood 5	Amy B. Wrightsman, Decorah Rev. Joel C. Nye, Osage 6	Edna Kamper, Algona Marcia Hahn, Cedar Falls 7	Zion, Oelwein 8	Rev. O. Paul Hougen, Decorah 9
Rev. Selmer G. Hernes, Forest City 10	St. Peter, Oran 11	St. John (Rock Twp), Osage 12	Rock Creek, Osage 13	Jan Glaspie, Cedar Falls 14	Rev. James E. Klosterboer, McGregor 15	Rev. Katie Pals, Belmond 16
Middle East Peace Rev. Joshua L. Schunk, Oelwein 17	Faith (Mitchell), Osage 18	Rev. David R. Nelson, Decorah 19	Rev. Elizabeth E. Bell, Waverly 20	Our Savior's, Osage 21	Stavanger, Ossian 22	Ossian, Ossian 23
Rev. Erika J. Lenth, Monona Rev. John G. Largen, Dubuque 24	Kathy Liddle, Tripoli 25	Rev. Paul C. Nelson, Waverly 26	St. Paul, Postville 27	Deacon Susan A. Garbes, Nashua 28	Peace, Ryan 29	Rev. James H. Carpenter, Waverly Rev. Kathryn H. Wicks, West St. Paul, Minn. Rev. Michael G. Ashman, Guttenberg 30



Good News

July/ August
2023

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

From our President

As I step down as your Synodical President I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone and especially to the best set of board members a person could ask for. And also a special thank you to Diane Wills and Anna Jetson for their help and support also. It does take a village. Best of luck to the new president Sondra Nelson and the old and new board members.

It is important for us to continue as our purpose statement states "engaged in ministry and action." Keeping with that the totals of in-kind gifts at our SWO Convention on June 17th we collected 1035 items plus \$150.00 and for Hopes of Wright County we collected 201 items and \$350.00. A big thanks to all who gave to these well deserving nonprofits.

It is bittersweet as I start to prepare for the transitional meeting later this year. With prayers and help from our units may we continue to do our good work on promoting the Women of the ELCA, it is an uncertain future at best. Taking a bold step to help ensure the future by holding every other year events and the other year a business meeting is a starting point. More on that later.

Blessings to each one of you and prayers for your health and well-being. As my husband faces surgery in July, I ask for your prayers for him and his surgeon. Again thank you for the honor of being your president.

God's Blessings
Cindy Pogge

Discipleship Committee

Most of us are familiar with GPS (Global Positioning Systems) to get us to our destinations for a trip. In the past we used maps or an atlas. However, a few years ago I found that GPS wasn't always correct, as it directed me to turn the wrong way on a one way street, which I chose not to do.

We find that being in relationships with one another can be messy. It would be wonderful if life and being a disciple were easy but it is not. Jesus taught his disciples how they needed to live and to teach his people to be his followers. To be able to do this we need JPS (Jesus Positioning Systems), found in your Bible.

Submitted by Carolyn Loftaas

Stewardship Committee

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

Matthew 6:26-27

Recently, I was sitting on the back deck at my neighbor, Judy's, enjoying the morning sunshine. Our back yards are filled with trees and many of our neighbors have bird feeders they keep filled that attract birds of all sorts. As we sat there, sipping our morning coffee, we were so conscious of the beautiful sounds the birds were making. The birds were busy in conversation, busy building nests, busy eating to strengthen their little bodies. Judy is a strong Christian woman and many times our conversations focus on the blessings and good works our God has done in our lives. That morning we talked about being blessed with sight and hearing and being in an environment without fear of violence sitting on the back deck.

Stewardship is a way to honor all that God provides: the clean air, the little birds, the grass, good neighbor relationships, and nature. We receive wonderful gifts from God to use for his pleasure and ours to preserve for God and for future generations. All that we have – we have been given by God.

In your home congregations, you may be given the opportunity to become involved with Care for Creation, in recognition of the need to begin to live more environmentally friendly to better care for this beautiful world. This is not a warning to worry, because as verse 27 tells us, *Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?* Caring for the creation we have been placed in, is a proactive reaction to harm being done to God's earth.

Submitted by Donna Busch

CALENDAR

July 22	Little Flock Board Meeting
TBD	Transitional Board Meeting
Aug 1	Deadline for September Good News
Sept 18	2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering
Oct 14	C/E/H LWR Ingathering @ Redeemer, Waverly LWR Ingathering @ Albert Lea
Nov 4	B/D/I LWR Ingathering @ Decorah

Spring LWR Totals

Waverly total - Sat **15 April 2023**. Quilts-2341, School-81, Personal-433, Baby-247, Fabric-59, Blanket-8.

Mason City total -Mon **17April 2023**- Quilts-853, School-190, Personal-586, Baby -70, Fabric -6, Blanket-40.

Decorah total -Sat **6 May 2023**- Quilts-1587, School-262, Personal-1202, Baby 571, Fabric 40, Blanket-18.

2023 SPRING total **Quilts-4781, School-533, Personal-2221, Baby-888, Fabric-105, Blanket-66**, donated from a total of 75 churches supplying items to ship.

Please note that the Mason City site will now use Albert Lea MN as our shipping location starting October 14, 2023.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger 641-494-7614

More LWR from Cluster B, D, & I

Saturday, May 6, 2023 was the Lutheran World Relief Spring In-Gathering day. The LWR truck was set up at Olson's Explosives in Decorah, IA and prepared to receive donations from Upper Iowa Cluster D, Little Flock Cluster B, and Shechem Cluster I. We also received donations from West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA, Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, MN, and Gloria Dei, Iowa City, IA.

At 7:30 A.M. as donations began arriving from 31 churches, workers from all three clusters were busy loading and stacking the 728 boxes in the truck. It was great having youth and adults from these churches helping.

Donations Totals:

Quilts	1587	Personal Care Kits	1202
School Kits	262	Baby Care Kits	571
Fabric Kits	40	Blankets	18

Many thanks to all who helped with the heavy lifting, to Olson's Explosives for their continued support, and especially to every individual for the countless hours spent quilting, organizing, and assembling various kits. We CAN make a difference! We DO make a difference.

Saturday, November 4, 2023 is the next date for LWR Fall In-Gathering. We always have plenty of room on the truck and would encourage any church groups to contact us about shipping L W R donations. Please call if you have any questions.

Submitted by Carol Maki

Mission Action Co-Chairperson for Cluster D

June 17th Gathering

As of June 19, monetary offerings were \$2,920.00, to be divided between CW WELCA and the Bishop's RAGBRAI ride for Hunger.

In Kind offerings for Colts Daycare were 1035 items and \$150 in cash and gift cards and for Hopes of Wright County, 201 items and \$350 in cash and gift cards. Total attendance was 51, with 28 voting members and 23 non-voting members.

Bishop Kevin Jones preached a wonderful sermon on stirring things up and Pastor Katie Pals led worship. The Bishop was also available for chatting during one of the interest sessions and the other two were given by Karen Weltzin, about Wheels for the World and Donna Rasmussen, about the Care for Creation synod network. And we ended the day with a delicious meal served by the men of Trinity and St Olaf Lutheran Churches. Thank you to Trinity in Belmond for hosting us and to all who helped to make this a fun gathering! Hope to see you all again next year!

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Sondra Nelson, President

641-909-4596, snelson502@gmail.com

Alice Greimann, Vice President

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JoAnn Brunsvold, Secretary

641-512-4236, jobvold76@yahoo.com or sjbruns@wctatel.net

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Checks payable to NE IA SWO, include Form A

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*Articles are due by 1st of the preceding month e.g.
April 1 for May issue)*

Contact Women of the ELCA:

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>
773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA



NE IA Women of the ELCA- Check us out and give a like or post about your church's activities!

Living Faith @



The month of July is going by fast - isn't it odd how once July 4th has gone by, the rest of the summer goes very quickly. Many vacations will be coming to an end - ball games are winding up the season - the people on RAGBRAI are pedaling across the state during some of summer's hottest days - county fairs are occurring - people are looking to August when schedules will change from summer busy to school busy with the all the fall activities.

In the meantime, the month of August gives us the opportunity to plan and implement the remainder of the summer-time endeavors. Bible school, ice cream socials, and other fundraisers are happening within congregations. Personally, there might be books to read, crafts to finish, go to the movies, plan a picnic with fresh produce from the farmer's market, and/or go camping either in the backyard or in a campground near water so you can take a dip to cool off during the hot days. August gives us the time to spend time with family before the hustle of fall begins.



Family time is important, not only for personal growth of communication skills between parents and children and learning problem-solving skills, but also for studying more about Jesus, reading the Bible, and praying together.

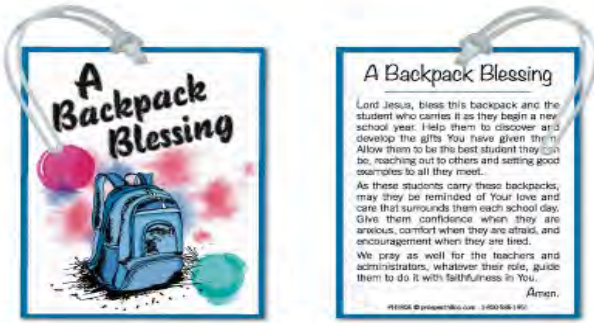
This information is prepared for you by the **Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network** for use by families and local congregations. Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network ELCA](#)



Find us on
Facebook

Planning for Fall and Faith Formation

August is just around the corner which means school is starting soon – many schools in Iowa start classes the third week in August. That means it's time to start preparing for all the fall programs. There are some things to think about **now** so that you are ready, especially if you are a pastor, a faith formation leader, or volunteer.



Blessing of the Backpacks – One fun way to send the kids off to school knowing that God is watching over them. Start letting everyone know now so they will bring their backpacks on the Sunday you designate. Here is an example of one backpack tag that can be used.

- **Plan a Rally Day for the beginning of Fall activities** – A rally celebration doesn't have to be complex – create a simple theme and focus your activities on that. Here are a few ideas: Tie-Dye, Superhero, Neon Colors, Camouflage, Sweets.
- **Plan a Mission Project for the school year** – Start out the year with a planned mission or outreach project for the whole congregation to focus on. It can be supporting a local cause such as a food bank or some other charitable organization, or a world-wide cause such as Lutheran World Relief. You can visit our Synod website for mission ideas: <https://www.neiasynod.org/ministries/>
- **Decorate Church Bulletin Boards for Fall** – Invite some children or families to come and decorate church bulletin boards - make them welcoming and inviting! Make it a party and have snacks or a light lunch available.
- **Plan for ways that children, youth and families can assist during worship service** Children love to feel that they are an important part of the congregation and they love to participate in worship! Find some simple ways for them to help with ushering, reading scripture, praying, acolyting, and helping with communion and worship offerings. Put out a signup sheet now and start encouraging families and children to sign up.
- **Organize Worship Activity Bags** - for children to use during the worship service. Make sure they are clean and that broken crayons, marked up activity/coloring books, & etc. are replaced and updated.
- **Pray special prayers for the beginning of the school year** – for our children and families, for teachers, for all those who are involved in the care and education of our youth.

*** Note: some of these ideas are repeats from a previous year and can be molded to fit smaller or larger congregations

2023 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly RESOLUTIONS

2024 & 2025 MINIMUM SALARY GUIDELINES

Resolution No. 2-23, Adopted with amendments

RESOLVED, That the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopt the Proposed Minimum Compensation Guidelines for 2024.

RESOLVED, That the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America authorize the Synod Council to adopt the Proposed Minimum Compensation Guidelines for 2025 to include adjusting the salary scale by the current step increase plus the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2024.

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

Addendum C- Checklist for Parsonage Use

3. The following services/utilities are being paid directly by the congregation.

Electricity, Gas/LP, Soft Water Service, Telephone (excluding personal calls), Garbage (and other city-billed services), Internet, Cable / streaming services (optional)

Addendum F- Compensation Worksheet

Compensation Worksheet 2b. Option 2: Parsonage Provided for Pastor

- i. Basic utilities to be paid by the ministry site (gas, electricity, sewer, garbage, internet). The pastor and congregation may negotiate whether ~~internet or~~ cable/satellite or streaming services are paid by the congregation.

2023 NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD MISSION GOALS

Resolution No. 3-23, Adopted

RESOLVED, That the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopt the Proposed 2024/25 Mission Goals (synod budget).

RESOLVED, That the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America authorize the Synod Council to adopt the Proposed 2025/26 Spending Plan (synod budget) and to make any adjustments to the budget, as necessary, based on the previous year's review.

AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD CONSTITUTION

Resolution No. 4-23, Adopted

RESOLVED, That the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly adopt the following amendments to the synod constitution.

To amend the Northeastern Iowa Synod Constitution to be consistent with the 2022 Model Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Amendments that are not required (i.e., those not marked by a dagger) may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under *S18.12.

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

Chapter 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- S7.14.** ~~One-half~~ One-third of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting member of the Synod Assembly being layperson in contravention of consistent with †S7.2 l.e. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.24.** Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation membership. ~~Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- 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.

Chapter 8: OFFICERS

- SS.42.** The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:
[...]
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.
- [...]
- f. ~~Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~

Chapter 11: COMMITTEES (names of other organizational units)

~~SI.1.1.0. — General Provisions~~

Chapter 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

- SI4.13.** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate ~~parochial~~ records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- SI4.15.** Each minister of Word and Sacrament 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.
- SI4.34.** 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.

A RESOLUTION FROM THE JUBILEE CONFERENCE

Resolution No. 5-23, Adopted

RESOLVED, That the Northeastern Iowa Synod make a deliberate effort to include candidates of color in their call processes, especially if the call would be available to a recent seminary graduate.

RESOLVED, That the Northeastern Iowa Synod create a taskforce to identify and address barriers within the call process that limit candidates of minoritized groups.

A RESOLUTION ON SYNOD-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS GOALS

Resolution No. 6-23, Adopted

RESOLVED, The Northeastern Iowa Synod will support the Synod's Care for Creation Network, who will together commit to assisting at least 15 congregations, educational facilities, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities every two years in reaching the goals set by churchwide for greenhouse gas reductions; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Northeastern Iowa Synod office will continue to partner with the Care for Creation Network to implement best management practices (e.g., energy efficient HVAC and lighting systems installed in 2021 and 2022) to serve as an example for its member organizations and work to further conserve energy with an updated energy audit in order to accurately measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to investigate the use of renewable energy sources (e.g., solar panels and wind turbines) and utilize them where feasible; and to manage property grounds for sequestering carbon (e.g., by planting native vegetation); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the congregations, educational institutions, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be invited to share with the Care for Creation Network and the Synod office the energy-saving steps taken and the measurable energy savings realized.

2023 Northeastern Iowa Synod Election Results

SYNOD COUNCIL

Lay Woman: **Sondra Nelson***

Lay Man: **Jared McLey***

Minister of Word & Sacrament (3-year term): **Rev. Tim Malek***

Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is not English:

OPEN NOMINATION

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lay Woman:

OPEN NOMINATION

OPEN NOMINATION

OPEN NOMINATION

Lay Man: **Dan Avenarius***
Gregg Ellingson*

Minister of Word and Sacrament: **Rev. Tyler Hoey***
Rev. Grant Woodley*
Rev. Kim Wills*

Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is not English:

OPEN NOMINATION

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Lay Man: **Jeremy Wolfe***

Lay Woman: **Sharon Droste***
Anna Jetson*

Minister of Word and Sacrament: **Rev. Josh Schunk***

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Lay Woman: **OPEN NOMINATION**

Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Sue Cira**

2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Lay Woman: **Kim Barnes***

Lay Man: **OPEN NOMINATION**
OPEN NOMINATION

Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Becky Sogge***
Rev. Dena Gable*
Rev. Erika Lenth*
Rev. Maureen Howard*
Rev. David Werges*

Youth or Young Adult: **Robin Kime**
Braunwyn Darrington

Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is not English:
OPEN NOMINATION
OPEN NOMINATION

Alternate Lay Woman: **Lisa Nelson***
NaDyne Meyer*
Jean Loger*
Anna Jetson*

Alternate Lay Man: **OPEN NOMINATION**

Alternate Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Brian Julin-McCleary***
Rev. Randy Baldwin*
Rev. Peter Kowitz*
Rev. Sue Cira*

2024 SYNOD COUNCIL

Lay Man: **Bill Stoen***

Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Charles Underwood***

Young Adult: **Robin Kime***

Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is not English:
OPEN NOMINATION

2024 DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Jeff Jacobs***
Rev. Karla Wildberger*

2024 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Nathan Wicks***