



Northeastern Iowa Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Profile

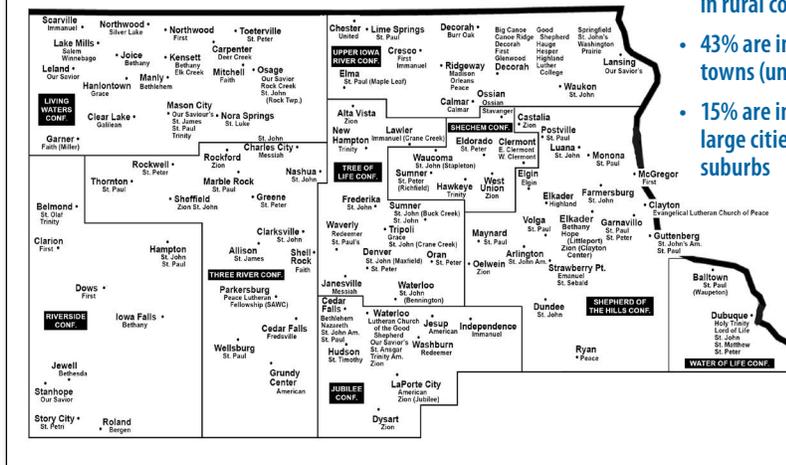
A resource to use for the bishop election at the 2020 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly on June 12-14, 2020.

WHO WE ARE

The Northeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA is made up of 145 congregations, one synodically authorized worshiping community and more than 69,278 baptized members walking together to strengthen the witness and service of the whole church.

In addition, one ELCA seminary and two ELCA-affiliated colleges are located within the Northeastern Iowa Synod, as well as two outdoor Bible camp ministries and a campus ministry.

We are organized into nine conferences serving 24 counties in Northeastern Iowa.



SIZE OF THE COMMUNITIES WE LIVE IN:

- 42% of congregations are in rural communities
- 43% are in small cities or towns (under 10,000)
- 15% are in medium to large cities and their suburbs

CURRENT ISSUES

At its most recent assembly, the Northeastern Iowa Synod adopted resolutions for minimum salary guidelines, proposed mission goals, and support for refugee children.

It also adopted resolutions to encourage congregations to post and/or publish Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's pastoral letter dated May 30, 2019, on the topic of abortion and to hold public conversations regarding the contents and conclusions of the ELCA Social Statement Abortion (1991); and memorialized the Churchwide Assembly to adopt the social statement *Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*.

An ongoing barrier to achieving our mission goals has been our struggle with matters of sexuality and sexual misconduct of our clergy.

WHAT WE DO

The Northeastern Iowa Synod makes Christ known by strengthening the witness and service of the whole church.

WE SUPPORT AND DEVELOP LEADERS

- **Candidacy** supports and mentors candidates who have been called to serve in a rostered ministry.
- **H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Endowment** provides scholarships for seminary students.
- **First Call Theological Education** supports pastors during the first three years of their first calls.
- **Colleague Groups** are formed around common interests, such as first call pastors, geographical location, senior pastors, and interim ministries.
- **Fall Theological Conference** provides rostered ministers and spouses time to relax, rejuvenate and be refreshed with their colleagues.

- **Day of Renewal** is an annual mini-retreat that gives rostered ministers a day to step away from Lenten schedules and responsibilities.
- **Living Waters Retreat**

Centers offer rostered leaders and their families a place to renew physically, emotionally and spiritually.

- **Youth Ministry Network** works to develop and support professional youth leaders in congregations.
- **"Bread for the Day"** is given to all rostered and congregational leadership in the call process.

ROSTERED MINISTERS SYNOD STATISTICS

Word & Sacrament:	215
• Active:	104
• Retired:	103
• On leave from call:	8
Word & Service:	13
• Active parish:	3
• Retired:	9
• On leave from call:	1

