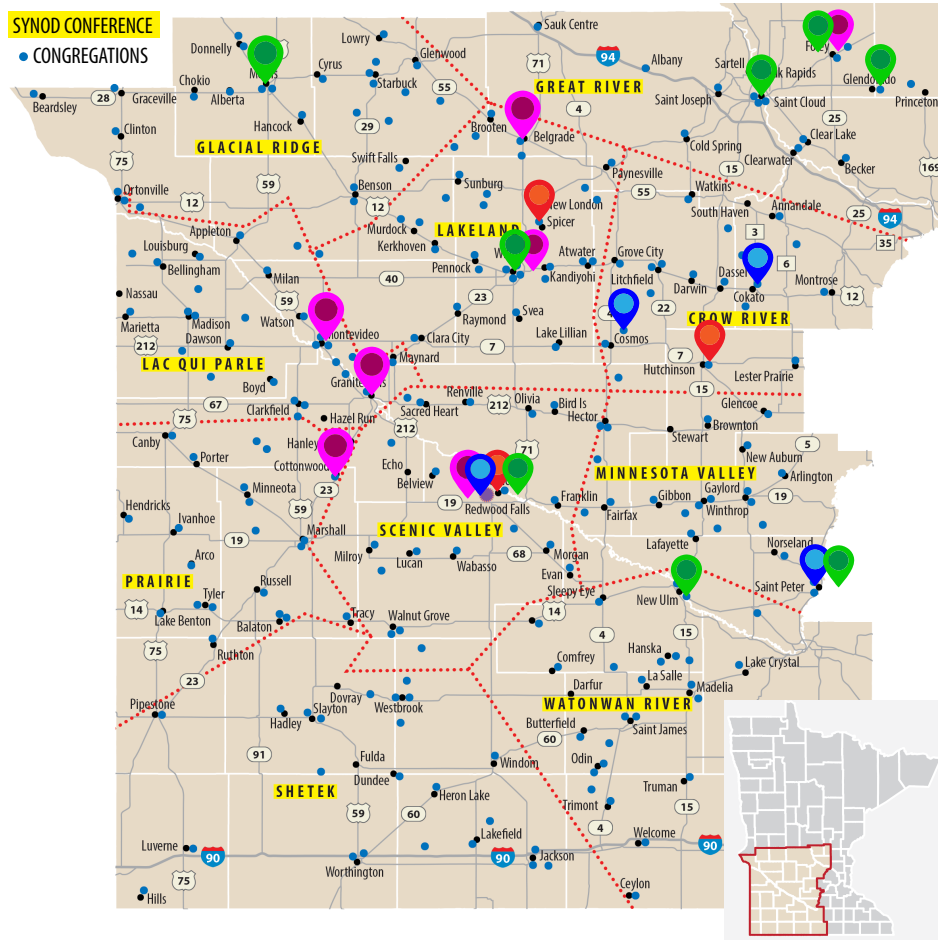



JANUARY 2026 / Synod Pastoral Staff

SYNOD CONFERENCE

• CONGREGATIONS



*“so we, though many,
are one body in Christ,
and individually
members one of another.”*
-Romans 12:5



ELCA
SW MN Synod

UPCOMING SYNOD EVENTS:

- Feb 22** Discerning Your Call: Exploring the Next Faithful Step
Oak Knoll Lutheran, Minnetonka
- Mar 5** Zoom Training: Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church
- April 10-11**.. Sr. High Youth Gathering at Gloria Dei Lutheran, Redwood Falls
- April 18**..... EcoFaith Summit at First Lutheran
Duluth and Online
- May 5** Ethics and Boundaries for Ministers Training In person
Our Savior’s, New Ulm
- June 5-6**.... Synod Assembly
Hybrid: Zoom and Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter

Pr. Heather Culuris 
Synod Minister for
Engaging Leaders

OUTINGS:
Mentor and SAM Retreat, Collegeville
Installation at Cokato Evangelical, Cokato
Ecumenical Service, St. Peter
Preached at First, Rural Cosmos
Strong start retreat with First call pastors,
Gustavus Adolphus College

PROJECTS / MEETINGS:

- Interim Pastors Monthly Zoom
- Synod Council Meeting
- Synod Assembly Planning
- Compensation Guidelines Committee
- Candidacy
- Call Process

Bishop Dee Pederson, *Synod Bishop* 


OUTINGS: Preached at God's Greater Glory Parish, Glendorado
Preached at Gustavus Adolphus, Foley
Mentor and SAM Retreat, Collegeville
Strong start retreat with First call pastors, Gustavus Adolphus College
Region 3 Archives, Luther Seminary
Great River Conference, St. Cloud
Pastoral Support in Willmar
Region 3 Quality of Call Conference for Women, Alexandria
Power & Boundaries Training, Willmar
Gustavus Board of Directors, St. Peter
Pastoral Support, Steinke Funeral, New Ulm
Pastoral Visit, Twin Cities
Congregation Council, Morris
Deans Meeting, Redwood Falls

Pr. Troy Pflibsen 
Director for Evangelical Mission

OUTINGS:
Deans Meeting, Redwood Falls
Anti-Racism Training, Hutchinson

PROJECTS / MEETINGS:

- Facilitation Fundamentals
- Interim Collaborative
- Synod Council Meeting
- Native American Ministry
- Congregational Vitality
- Waters Edge Ministries Board Meeting
- Support for House of Grace, Montrose
- Support for Reborn Lao, Waite Park

Pr. Seyward Ask 
Synod Minister for Equipping Congregation
Leaders, Ministers, Youth, & Families

OUTINGS:
Preached at Gustavus Adolphus, Foley
Preached at Trinity, Montevideo
Region 3 Quality of Call Conference for
Women, Alexandria
Lac Qui Parle Conference, Granite Falls
Prairie Conference, Cottonwood
Deans Meeting, Redwood Falls
LYO Board, Redwood Falls
Power & Boundaries Training, Willmar
Call Committee, Belgrade

PROJECTS / MEETINGS:

- Synod Council Meeting
- Interim Pastors Monthly Zoom
- Quality of Call
- Synod Assembly Planning
- Call Process
- Sr. High Youth Gathering Planning / LYO