



EMBRACE
God's Mission
EQUIP
God's People



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2017 Synod Assembly
June 9-10, 2017
Gustavus Adolphus College,
St. Peter, MN

Greetings,

*¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And **remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**'** Matthew 28

We are thankful you have been called to serve as a voting member at this year's synod assembly.

We are even more thankful that we have a God who not only calls us to faith, equips us and sends us for ministry in our daily life. Our God equips and calls us together in communities of faith so we can be to gather around God's word and sacrament.

In our assembly we will worship God together, enjoy fellowship together, make decisions together and learn together.

Our God has a mission for this whole world. That mission has a church in which we are a part. As we gather, we look forward to having Victoria Flood with us from our churchwide offices. We also will hear from Pastors Harvey and Jon Nelson as our Bible Study leaders.

In addition to the important work of gathering around our theme of "Embrace God's Mission† Equip God's People: Congregational Vitality," we will elect leaders, make decisions, be equipped for ministry and mission, learn about our churchwide organization and learn about your synod.

I hope you are getting excited. It will soon be time to gather and celebrate.

God is at work in Christ Jesus saving us and equipping us to live out our baptismal call to be ministers in Jesus name. Our lives are the great song of praise we share together in response to God's love. Our Lord promises to be with us through it all "always."

+Bishop Jon V. Anderson

Greetings from the Synod Staff!

We welcome you, the people of Southwestern Minnesota Synod, to our offices in Redwood Falls. As the administrative office for the 244 congregations and other ministries of the synod, many activities take place here such as synod meetings, interviews and private discussions. Other days are quieter in the office as the bishop and synod ministers meet with pastors, church councils and lay leadership in their various churches.



*By God's grace,
together we have what we need.*

Synod Staff:

Rev Jon V Anderson, Bishop
Rev Dr Kathryn Skoglund, Synod Minister
Rev Linda Pedersen, Synod Minister
Rev Larry Streng, Director for Evangelical Mission
Tammy Sather, Administrative Assistant to Bishop
Carla Klawitter, Financial Administrator
Kristin Bakeberg, Communications
Caitlin Kodet, Accounts Receivable
Sarah Hausken, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Andrew Hermodson-Olsen, Director of the Lilly Project
Deb Hess, Administrative Assistant to the Lilly Project and Funding Initiative

2017 Synod Assembly Team:

Crow River: **Ron Johnson**, Hutchinson
 Glacial Ridge: **Judi Morton**, Glenwood
 Great River: **Pr. Tim Wittwer**, Foley
 Lakeland: **Rachel Rundquist**, Blomkest
 Lac qui Parle: **Gary Boraas**, Madison
 MN Valley: **Deitra Paulsen**, Buffalo Lake
 Prairie: **Cheryl Norquist**, Canby
 Scenic Valley: **Pr. Shannon Wachter**, Redwood Falls
 Shetek: **Pr. Bailey Fossum**, Worthington
 Watonwan River: **Chair - Pr. Maggie Cumings**,
 St James

Synod Assembly Personnel:

Synod Vice President: **Gwen Arneson**, Cottonwood
 Synod Secretary: **Pr. Julie Anderson**, Becker
 Synod Treasurer: **Chuck Engebretson**, Sartell
 Assembly Coordinator: **Tammy Sather**, Morgan
 Clerk & Note Taker: **Carla Klawitter**, Morgan
 Assembly Communications: **Kristin Bakeberg**, Redwood Falls
 Assembly Registrar: **Caitlin Kodet**, Morton
 Parliamentarian: **Pr. Stephen Cook**, St Cloud