



What is a Synod Assembly?

About 700 persons from throughout our synod will meet to **worship** God, in whose name we gather; to **deliberate** carefully and faithfully about God's mission in our synod; to **learn** from God's Word about the life and mission God has given us; and to **enjoy fellowship** with God's people from across southwestern Minnesota.

The assembly will begin with registration on Friday, June 8, at **8:00 a.m.** in **The Link** at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Assembly plenary sessions will be held in the **Field House**. The assembly is scheduled to conclude Saturday afternoon, June 9, with worship in the **Performing Arts Center**.

What is the theme for our 2018 Synod Assembly?

Theme: "Do Not Be Afraid. It is I. Come..." •

Theme Text: Matthew 14:27 •

Theme Hymn: "You Are Mine" • ELW 581 •

Who will be our primary speakers?

We are blessed to have Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, as our ELCA representative this year. Rev. Rift is on the Board of Directors for Bread for the World whose mission is to urge our nations decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Military Chaplain Jeffrey Zust will be our Bible study leader. Chaplain Zust will invite us to think (or rethink) into these three faith narratives, 1) Christ's call to get in and out of the boat, 2) Christ's invitation to grow on the waves, 3) Christ's presence after the storm.

How can our congregation prepare?

The enclosed materials will assist you in registering members of your congregation for the assembly. The *registration information sheet* gives complete instructions for filling out the ONLINE REGISTRATION form and paying the appropriate fees.

How can our congregation save money?

There are two ways your congregation can save significant monies. First, when you register your voting members **prior to May 18**, you save **\$50 per registration**. Registrations received **after May 18** will be charged the regular rate. Additionally, if you register a **lay young adult** under the **age of 35**, you will receive **\$50 off his/her registration**.

NOTE: *You are responsible* for making your own housing arrangements this year. Please see page 4 for more information.

All of this information is posted on our website at: www.swmnelca.org/Assembly.

QUESTIONS? If you have questions about the 2018 Synod Assembly, please call

Tammy Sather in the Synod Office at 507.627.9041 or email her at tammy.sather@swmnelca.org.



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

Registration Information for Voting Assembly Participants

The following persons are eligible to serve as **voting members** of the assembly:

- **Pastors** on the roster of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod who are **under call**.
- **Deacons** on the roster of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod who are **under call**.
- **Two retired pastors** elected by their peers to represent the retired pastors on the roster of the SW MN Synod.
- **Lay members of the Synod Council**.
- **Lay voting members** from congregations of the synod.
- **Lay conference chairpersons** who are not congregational voting members.
- **Retired pastors** on the synod roster **serving as interim pastors** in congregations of the Synod **during the Synod Assembly**.
- **Retired or on-leave-from-call Deacons** **elected by their congregation** as voting members.
- Persons serving in a **Synodically Authorized Ministry** (more than half time) in congregations of the Synod **during the Synod Assembly**.

Congregation Size*	Voting Member #	Gender
0 - 174	1 or 2	If only one registers, either a male or a female. If two register, it must be one male and one female.
175 - 500	2	1 male, 1 female
501 - 1,000	3	1 male, 1 female + 1 either male or female
1,001 - 1,500	4	2 male, 2 female
1,501 - 2,000	5	2 male, 2 female + 1 either male or female
2,001 - 2,500	6	3 male, 3 female
2,501 - 3,000	7	3 male, 3 female + 1 either male or female
3,001 - 3,500	8	4 male, 4 female

**Numbers represent BAPTIZED membership.
More than 3,500 baptized members, add one voting member for every additional 500 baptized members.*

Registration Information for Non-Voting Assembly Participants

Advisory members of the assembly have **voice but not vote** during business sessions. Such persons must register and pay the appropriate fee, which entitles them to all activities and meals. **Those wanting the materials printed for them should add \$25 to the registration fee.** Persons who may register as advisory members include: ELCA churchwide staff, representatives of synodical shared ministries, retired rostered persons (with the exception of the two retired pastors elected to vote), and rostered persons **not** currently under call. Advisory members may attend all days of the assembly.

Visitors for the assembly have **neither voice nor vote** during business sessions. Any interested members of congregations of the Synod may register as visitors and pay the appropriate fee, which entitles them to all the activities and meals. **Visitors must sit in a separate designated area during the business session.**

If you have questions about the 2018 Synod Assembly, please call **Tammy Sather** in the Synod Office at 507.627.9041 or email her at tammy.sather@swmnelca.org.

Registration Procedures and Costs

Registration is **online only**. Please go to www.swmnelca.org to register **the pastor(s), deacon(s), and the elected lay voting members** from your congregation. Please register each person attending the assembly prior to Friday, **May 18**, to take advantage of the early bird rate.

BY 5.18.18

AFTER

Voting Member	\$180.00 (facilities/meals)*	\$230.00 (facilities/meals)*
Advisory/Visitor	\$ 95.00 (facilities/meals)*	\$145.00 (facilities/meals)*

** If printed materials are needed, \$25 will be added to the registration fee.*

REFUNDS

- Refund Policy:**
- Cancellations by June 3: **100% Refund**
 - Cancellations after June 3 or Non-Attendance without Cancellation: **No Refund**

PRE-Assembly Reports

The *Pre-Assembly Reports and Proposals to the Congregations* book will be available for download on our website and via our **Guidebook** to rostered persons and lay voting members who are **registered** for the assembly **the week of May 1** or thereafter for late registrants. Please visit: www.swmnelca.org/Assembly. If you would like this information printed out and sent to you, please check the additional printed materials box upon registration and we will do that for an additional charge. Thank you.

We encourage taking advantage of the early bird registration fee. **Registering by May 18** not only means that you pay a considerably lower registration rate, but it also assures that your voting members will have ample time to review the *Pre-Assembly Reports and Proposals to the Congregations*. These reports and resolutions will form the basis for discussion and decisions at the assembly.

Please remember registration for your 2018 Synod Assembly is only available online through our website: www.swmnelca.org/Assembly. If you have any questions or need help, please contact **Tammy Sather** at 507.627.9041 or tammy.sather@swmnelca.org.

Peace,
Tammy Sather, *Synod Assembly Coordinator*

Housing/Hotel Information

Housing Information

Many synod assembly voting members will commute to the assembly in Redwood Falls. Others will want to stay in a nearby hotel or campsite. Redwood Falls is a beautiful city and there is a lot going on in the area that weekend! If you are interested in staying in the greater Redwood Falls area, here is some valuable information:

1. Rooms have been reserved at various hotels around the area. However, the synod does not promote, recommend, or endorse any of them. It is the responsibility of the congregation/individual to determine an acceptable place to stay.
2. The Synod Assembly registration fee **does not** include housing. This is completely separate. Congregations/individuals can decide if they want to book rooms at 2 or 4 people per room.
3. Availability of rooms is a first-come/first-serve basis. Make your reservations now if you plan to stay in the area. There are many big events happening in the Redwood Falls Area that weekend.
4. All rooms are held for June 7-8, 2018. However, you do not have to stay both nights.
5. When you call to make reservations, please reference the SW MN Synod Assembly.
6. All hotel rooms have a release date. Therefore, make your reservations early!

Hotel	Contact Info	Price	Amenities	Release date
Quality Inn Redwood Falls	507.644.4444 www.choicehotels.com	\$69/night	Free WiFi Continental Breakfast	May 8, 2018
Americas Best Value Inn Morton, MN	507.697.6205	\$72/night		May 15, 2018
Redwood Lodge Redwood Falls	507.644.5700 www.redwoodlodge.com	\$75/night	Fitness Center Hot tub, Sauna Free breakfast	May 28, 2018
Sheep Shedde Inn Olivia, MN	320.523.5000 Maxsgrillonline.com	\$70/night	Continental Breakfast pets allowed On-site restaurant	May 9, 2018
Jackpot Junction Hotel	1.800.WIN-CASH	\$101/night	Pool, arcade, fitness center	No rooms on hold
Ramsey Park Campground	507.644.2333 Redwoodareacommunitycenter.com	\$24/Camper \$15/Tent	Electric & water hookups, showers & restrooms	Could not hold Reserve ASAP
Gilfillan Campground	507.249.2210 Redwoodhistoricalsociety.com	\$25/Camper \$10/Tent	Electric & water hookups, showers & restrooms	Could not hold Reserve ASAP