



EMBRACE
God's Mission
EQUIP
God's People



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

2018 Synod Assembly

June 8-9, 2018

Redwood Area Community Center,
Redwood Falls, MN

Greetings,

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
Matthew 14:27

Thanks for being willing to serve as a voting member at this year's synod assembly.

In our world full of change, challenges and opportunities we are thankful God is with us through it all. Through Jesus we know we are not alone in the midst of our life's and time's storms. Our God equips and calls us together in communities of faith so we can gather around God's word and sacrament to share the Good News.

In our assembly we will worship God together, enjoy fellowship together, make decisions together and learn together. The formal work matters and the informal conversations often are even more important as God weaves our congregations and faith lives together. You are all synod ministers as you live out your baptism callings and live your daily mission trip in daily life.

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 Rev. Daniel Rift with us from our churchwide offices. We also will hear from Pastor and Colonel Jeff Züst as our Bible study leader.

In addition to the important work of gathering around our theme of "Embrace God's Mission† Equip God's People: Enhancing Local and Global Mission," 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.

+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 240 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.



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
Maggie Berggren, Support Staff
Sarah Hausken, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Andrew Hermodson-Olsen, Director of the Lilly Project (not pictured)
Deb Hess, Administrative Assistant to the Lilly Project and Funding Initiative

2018 Synod Assembly Team:

Crow River: **Pr. Tim Wheatley**, Cokato
 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: **Pr. Eunice Woodberry**, Canby
 Scenic Valley: **Pr. Shannon Wachter**, Redwood Falls
 Shetek: **Chair - Pr. Bailey Fossum**, Worthington

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 Support Staff: **Maggie Berggren**, Redwood Falls
 Parliamentarian: **Pr. Stephen Cook**, St Cloud
Linden Olson, Worthington