

Everyday Spirituality



*⁹ I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous;
do not be frightened or dismayed
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Joshua 1:9 NRSV

Thanks for all the ways you live out your faith in your daily life and in your many callings. Thanks, as well, for being willing to serve as a voting member at this year's synod assembly. 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.

Our assembly will focus on "Everyday Spirituality." In our world full of change, challenges, and opportunities we are thankful God is with us through it all. We are excited about our keynote speaker, Dr. Deanna Thompson, from Hamline University who will explore our theme and God's gifts that make us resilient disciples along with her journey. We are also excited to have Rev. Brenda Smith, from our churchwide offices, with us to share the story of our larger church and also teach out of her area of work on faith practices.

In our assembly we will...

- worship God together,
- enjoy fellowship together,
- make decisions together and,
- learn together.

We trust that you will return home feeling grateful for the experience of participating at our assembly. We trust that God will build up your faith, deepen your understanding of God's whole church and our synod in particular.

Normally the best part of an assembly is the opportunity to meet people from other congregations and learn what God is up to in their lives. Often there are ideas to bring home. We trust you will also share what you have been learning and doing in your congregation with others.

You are all synod ministers as you live out your baptism callings and live your daily mission trip in daily life. The Holy Spirit continues to "develop servant leaders" in all kinds of ways.

In addition to the important work of gathering around our theme of "Everyday Spirituality," we will elect a new Synod Vice President and Secretary as well as other leaders.

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 Stephen Cook, 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
Deacon Sarah Hausken, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Rev. Andrew Hermodson-Olsen, Director of the Lilly Project
Rev. Dwaine Bruns, Co-Director of the Lilly Project

2019 Synod Assembly Team:

Crow River: **Chair - Pr. Tim Wheatley**, Cokato
Glacial Ridge: **Judi Morton**, Glenwood
Lakeland: **Rachel Rundquist**, Blomkest
Lac qui Parle: **Pr. Matt Philaya**, Montevideo
MN Valley: **Deitra Paulsen**, Buffalo Lake
Prairie: **Pr. Lisa Meshke**, Tyler
Scenic Valley: **Pr. Shannon Wachter**, Redwood Falls
Watonwan River: **Nicole Stevermer**, Sleepy Eye

Synod Assembly Personnel:

Synod Vice President: **Gwen Arneson**, Cottonwood
Synod Secretary: **Pr. Ann Zastrow**, Becker
Synod Treasurer: **Chuck Engebretson**, Sartell
Assembly Coordinator: **Tammy Sather**, Morgan
Clerk & Note Taker: **Carla Klawitter**, Morgan
Assembly Support Staff: **Maggie Berggren**, Redwood Falls
Parliamentarian: **Tom Gilbertson**, Willmar
Linden Olson, Worthington