



# 2024 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly.

Welcome to the 2024 Synod Assembly! We are excited to gather this year, both **online** and **onsite**, and we hope you are too! The Synod Assembly Planning (SAP) team and synod staff are working hard to bring you a great Assembly! Please read on for important information that will make your voting member registration experience easier.

**When:** June 7-8, 2024.  
**Time:** 6:00 pm. Friday to 5:00 pm. Saturday.  
**Where:** Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter & Zoom Webinar.

The theme of the 2024 Synod Assembly is **Romans 12:5** “So we, who are many, are **ONE BODY IN CHRIST**, and individually we are members one of another.” **NRSV**.

We are honored to host Rev. Dr. Aaron Suomala Folkerds, Synod Minister for Mental Health & Wellness in Northwestern Minnesota Synod; Rev. Dr. Philip Hirsch, Executive Director, Christian Community and Leadership, ELCA.; and Bishop NkosiNathi Myaka, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa – South Eastern Diocese.

The Assembly will begin Friday evening at 6 pm. There will be hors d’ oeuvres & networking, presentations, and a short evening worship service. Saturday morning will open with worship at 9 am. A full day of business will follow. All voting members will have the opportunity to hear from our keynote speakers, including Bishop Dee Pederson, and our shared ministry partners in the form of videos. They will choose from four workshops, and vote in synod and churchwide elections. Other voting will include the 2026 Synod Budget, 2025 Compensation Guidelines and resolutions brought to the Assembly. The Assembly will recess at 5 pm.

## ELIGIBLE VOTING MEMBERS:

- Rostered ministers under call in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod.
- Lay members elected by congregations of this synod.
- Lay members of the Synod Council not elected as voting members by their congregation.
- Lay conference chairpersons not elected as voting members by their congregation.
- Retired rostered ministers serving a congregation of this synod during the Assembly.
- Retired and/or rostered ministers on the roster of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod.
- Persons serving in a Synod Authorized Ministry Site (more than half-time) of this synod during the Assembly.

*\*Numbers represent baptized membership reported to ELCA.*

CONGREGATION SIZE	VOTING MEMBER #	GENDER (as near as possible).
0 - 174	1 or 2	any
175 - 500	2	1 male, 1 female
501 - 1000	3	1 male, 1 female; 1 any
1001 - 1500	4	2 male, 2 female
1501 - 2000	5	2 male, 2 female; 1 any
2001 - 2500	6	3 male, 3 female
2501 – 3000	7	3 male, 3 female, 1 any
3001 - 3500	8	4 male, 4 female



Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION.



Register each voting member online by visiting the synod website: [www.swmnelca.org/synod-assembly](http://www.swmnelca.org/synod-assembly). Take advantage of the early rate by registering prior to April 5, 2024.

Upon registering, voting members will have the option to choose between attending the Assembly onsite (at Gustavus), or online (Zoom). Whether you attend online or onsite, each voting member will need:

- + their own personal email address that is read regularly, and
- + a tablet/laptop/iPad or smartphone for voting purposes.

Voting members will first register for the Assembly itself. Then, in April, all those registered will be sent a link to register in Zoom. Every voting member will need to register in **both** places. For all voting members, Zoom Polling will be used for voting purposes. For voting members attending online, this will also be the platform in which you will attend the Assembly.

*Assembly registration fees are processed by Vanco, a certified level 1 OCI 3.2 service provider. Congregations may pay for registrations using a debit/credit card or electronic check.*

### CONGREGATION OFFICE STAFF:

In many congregations it is the responsibility of the congregation office staff to register the elected voting members of the Synod Assembly. To better prepare you, here is a list of the information needed:

1. Full name: first and last.
2. Home address:.
3. Email address. (each voting member must have their own email that is checked regularly).
4. Phone number.
5. **Are they attending online or onsite?**
6. ALL voting members will need either a smartphone/tablet/iPad or laptop for voting purposes.
7. Housing selection. (If staying on campus).
8. If a double room is selected, they must list their roommate's name, or they will be assigned one.
9. EACH person must pay the double room rate.
10. Are they attending the Friday evening event?
11. \*You will need a credit/debit card or banking information to complete the registration.

### EARLY RATE: (Prior to 4/5/2024)

Voting Member	\$155
Retired/OLFC - not serving	\$135
Visitor	\$135

### REGULAR RATE: (After 4/5/2024)

Voting Member	\$180
Retired/OLFC – not serving	\$160
Visitor	\$160

### REGISTRATION:

**ONSITE:** Friday registration will open at 4 pm and close at 9 pm. Registration will reopen Saturday morning at 7:30 am and close promptly at 10:15 am. Voting members planning to arrive Saturday morning to attend worship must register onsite PRIOR to attending opening worship at 9 am. or they will be unable to vote in the first plenary session. Upon registration, voting members will be asked to confirm their Zoom registration. ALL VOTING MEMBERS will need to log into Zoom at the start of the first and second (if you log out) plenary session in order to vote in the Assembly.

**ONLINE:** Registration will open at 9:00 am Saturday morning and will close promptly at 10:30 am. You must log in PRIOR to 10:30 or you will be unable to vote in the first plenary session. You will have the opportunity to log into the second plenary session from noon to 1 pm.

### OPTIONAL CAMPUS HOUSING:

Campus housing may be reserved for Friday night, which also includes Saturday breakfast. It is important to keep in mind that this is dorm-style living. Those staying on campus will sleep in a dorm room, on a twin bed, and share a bathroom with others.

While a pillow, blanket, and sheet are provided, it is *strongly recommended* that you bring your own pillow and sleeping bag, along with your toiletries.

- Single Room (twin bed) NO A/C. \$30
- Single Room (twin bed) with A/C. \$54
- Double Room (two twin beds) NO A/C. \$23
- Double Room (two twin beds) with A/C. \$42

#### HOUSING NOTES:

- Only twin-size beds are available.
- Roommate preferences must be indicated in the online registration form.
- Your roommate's online registration must include the same request.
- BOTH need to mark a double room, and EACH must pay the double room rate.
- It is STRONGLY SUGGESTED that voting members staying on campus bring a pillow and sleeping bag. Additionally, bring a bathrobe, towel, and shower shoes.

#### HOTELS IN ST PETER:

- AmericInn by Wyndham, St Peter (507) 931-6554.
- Best Western Plus, St Peter (507) 519-1234.
- Konsbruck Hotel (507) 381-1089.

#### REFUNDS:

Cancellations prior to May 23 will receive a full refund. Cancellations after May 23, for any reason, including non-attendance, will receive **no refund**.

Detailed Assembly information will be provided closer to the Assembly.



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