

**THIRTY-EIGHTTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
of the
EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA
HOLIDAY INN - FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 7th & 8th, 2025**

MINUTES FOR REVIEW BY SYNOD ASSEMBLY

“GRACE UPON GRACE”

Saturday, June 7th, 2025

Voting Member Registration opened from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. Friday, June 6th and re-opened at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 7th.

OPENING WORSHIP – 9:00 a.m.

Synod Assembly opened with worship, with Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth preaching on John 1:1-5,14, 16. Worship leadership was provided by Rev. Amy Kippen and musicians from Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo. Offerings given at both the opening and closing worships will be designated to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic for education priorities including the high school library and computer lab.

PLENARY ONE – 9:53 a.m.

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth formally opened the Assembly at 9:56 a.m.

FIRST CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Julie Johnson, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the first report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Rostered Leaders</i>	62
<i>Lay</i>	176
Total Voting Members	238

Note: *The Credentials Committee also reported that there were 15 visitors present, bringing the total attendance to 253.*

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth declared a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

SA.25.06.01 The Eastern North Dakota Synod Council moved to adopt the Agenda, so no second is required. **MOTION CARRIED** see *attached*

SA.25.06.02 The Eastern North Dakota Synod Council moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure as presented, so no second is required. **MOTION CARRIED** see *attached*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth recognized Rev. Janelle Hansen, Rev. Sue Peterson-Koesterman, Rev. Linda Molitor, Rev. Steven Dunkel, Rev. Amy Eisenmann, Rev. Louis Moehlman, and Rev. Steve DeKrey. She also recognized the work of Dr. Phyllis Johnson who serves as an intern in the Synod.

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth also led a time of remembrance for Rostered Ministers who died in the last year, naming Rev. Galen Kuhens, Rev. Wilbur Fisher, Rev. Roger Livdahl, Rev. Harold Vold, and Rev. James Alger.

The Synod gave thanks for the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchville (9/8/2024), Ascension Lutheran Church, Emerado (9/8/2024), Elim Lutheran Church, Fargo (12/15/2024), Walcott Lutheran Church (4/27/2025), and Hickson Lutheran Church (5/18/2025) that experienced Holy Closure in the past year.

Finally, Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth welcomed guests to the Assembly, and recognized the Synod Council and Staff.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS/NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Rev. Louis Moehlman presented the Election and Nominating Committees' report.

The Nominating Committee presented the following names for the Eastern North Dakota Synod Committee on Discipline: Rev. Nancy Monke (Rostered).

The Synod Council has nominated Nancy Farnham for Synod Secretary.

The Synod Council has nominated Ron Twedt for Synod Treasurer.

The Nominating Committee presented the following name for Youth Representative to the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council: Clara Kjelland.

The Nominating Committee presented the following name for Multicultural Representative to the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council: Merlyn Greene.

All of these positions require election from the assembly. Elections for these roles will take place during Plenary Two.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

Rev. Kristina Weber, Interim Secretary to the Synod, presented the minutes from the 2024 Synod Assembly and thanked the past and current year's Minutes Committees for their work. A Summary of Actions of the Synod Council since last year's Assembly can be found in the Voting Member Packet.

SA.25.06.03 The Eastern North Dakota Synod Council moved to accept the minutes of the 2024 Synod Assembly as presented, so no second is required. **MOTION CARRIED** see *attached*

BREAK – 10:15 a.m.

CONFERENCE CAUCUSING – 10:45 a.m.

KEYNOTE – 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Timothy Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship, presented the first keynote of the Assembly. He invited attendees to share stories answering the question: who taught you to be generous? In the waters of baptism, we are taught to live for wisdom and understanding, live for self-giving love, live for peace, and live for justice. He encouraged attendees to tell stories of lives changed and mission activated by generosity in our congregations and communities.

LUNCH BREAK – 12:25 p.m.

STATE OF THE SYNOD – 1:15 p.m.

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth reported on the state of the Synod using themes drawn out during the Strategic Planning Process: investing in robust, diverse, and well-equipped leadership for each ministry; radically connecting the people of God; living with extravagant grace as the Body of Christ; and flourishing as a vital church into the future.

During her report, she spoke of the Synod as an ecosystem through which we are interconnected in leadership, connectivity, grace and vitality.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Brad Skogen led the recognition of congregational milestones and ordination anniversaries as listed below:

<p style="text-align: center;">10 Years of Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Natalie Carlson Rev. Lori Pankratz Rev. Susan Anderson Deacon Erin Power</p>
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<p>25 Years of Service</p> <p>Rev. Erick J Thompson Rev. Beth Peterson Rev. Gwenn Bazajou Rev. Thea Monson</p>
<p>50 Years of Service</p> <p>Rev. Harold Ovre Rev. Jeffry Macejkovic Rev. Randall Schlecht</p>
<p>60 Years of Service</p> <p>Rev. John Jorgensen</p>
<p>125 Years of Ministry</p> <p>Bethel Lutheran Church, Rogers Lakota Lutheran Church, Lakota Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Fredonia St. John Lutheran Church, Embden</p>
<p>75 Years of Ministry</p> <p>Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fargo Our Saviour's Lutheran, Sanborn University Lutheran Church, Grand Forks</p>

BREAK – 2:15 p.m.

PLENARY TWO – 2:30 p.m.

SECOND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Julie Johnson, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the second report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Rostered Leaders</i>	69
<i>Lay</i>	176
Total Voting Members	245

Note: The Credentials Committee also reported that there were 16 visitors present, bringing the total attendance to 261.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Mr. Joe Askew, Synod Treasurer, gave a report on the Endowment, Synod funding and expenditures, the Mission Plan for Fiscal Year End (FYE) January 31st, 2025, and the current Mission Plan.

The combined Eastern North Dakota Synod Endowments held a balance of \$5,139,245 as of January 31st, 2025. The 2024 Vital Leaders Endowment Fund disbursed \$175,904 in five areas: Internship Site Grants, Leadership Development, Loan Repayment Grants, Pension Equity, and Seminary Student Aid.

The annual audit has been performed by Widmer Roel, CPA's and Business Advisors. The synod received an unmodified opinion for our last fiscal year. An unmodified opinion provides a reasonable level of assurance from the auditor that the financial statements present a true and fair reflection of our results for the time period reported. This is the highest opinion obtainable. The Synod received this opinion for the past eight years.

Joe Askew shared the approved, revised, and audited Mission Plan for FYE January 31st, 2025.

The year ended with a \$29,812 deficit. The Synod Council voted to transfer \$29,812 of restricted funds from the Native American Ministries account and Campus Ministries to cover the deficits in those areas. A more detailed walkthrough of the balance sheet and Mission Plan will be held during this afternoon's workshops.

SA.25.06.04 Rev. Kyle Giermann, Kindred Lutheran, Kindred, moved and it was seconded to receive the Treasurer's Report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 PROPOSED MISSION PLAN:

Mr. Joe Askew, Treasurer to the Synod, presented the 2026 (FYE 1/31/27) Proposed Synod Mission Plan, which will be voted on during Plenary Three.

Areas of note for the 2026 Proposed Mission Plan include:

- Thanks to congregations for giving more than in the previous year.
- A challenge to congregations to prayerfully consider an increase in your support of mission together.
- Synod Ministry Partner Support remains consistent with the previous year.
- Maintained Churchwide Mission support at 44%.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS/NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Rev. Louis Moehlman presented the Election and Nominating Committees' report and the final ballot for the Synod Secretary, Synod Treasurer, Synod Council, and the Committee on Discipline. The nominees are reflected below:

NOMINEE FOR SYNOD SECRETARY (four-year term):

+S8.31. *The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.*

Nancy Farnham

NOMINEE FOR SYNOD TREASURER (four-year term):

+S8.41. *The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.*

Ron Twedt

NOMINEES FOR EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD COUNCIL (two-year term):

S10.07.01.b. *One minister of Word and Sacrament and/or minister of Word and Service and one lay person from each conference nominated at the Conference Assembly and elected by the Synod Assembly. The terms of conference representatives shall be two years, with term of office arranged so that half of the terms expire annually. Each representative shall be eligible for two consecutive re-elections.*

Prairie Rose Conference: Rev. Gary Lundberg (Rostered)

Spirit Lake Conference: Richard Persky (Lay)

Fargo Conference: Kim Thompson (Lay)

Grafton Conference: Rev. Beth Peterson (Rostered)

Grand Forks Conference: Julie Pedersen (Lay)

Jamestown Conference: Rev. Lucinda Lien (Rostered)

Mayville Conference: Christopher Larson (Lay) and Rev. Rachael Puttbrese (Rostered)

NOMINEE FOR YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE TO SYNOD COUNCIL (one-year term):

S10.07.01.c. *Each youth member of the Synod Council shall be a voting member, elected by the Synod Assembly for a one-year term and eligible for two consecutive re-elections.*

Clara Kjelland

NOMINEE FOR MULTICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SYNOD COUNCIL (two-year term):

S10.07.01.e. *Two lay representatives who are persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English. These representatives shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a two-year term. Each representative shall be eligible for two consecutive re-elections.*

Merlyn Greene

NOMINEES FOR EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE (six-year term):

+S11.03. *The **Committee on Discipline** of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.*

Rev. Nancy Monke

Voting will be done electronically. Go to the business table if you do not have a personal device. You must use your voting ID Number found on your name tag. Ballot is open until 6:00 pm tonight. Voting members may only vote once.

Tim Schroeder, Portico Regional Representative, addressed the Assembly. He is available to answer questions at the Sunday workshop or at the display table.

RESOLUTION:

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth invited Rev. Beth Peterson from the Committee on Reference and Counsel to the stage to present Resolution #1 for consideration and adoption.

RESOLUTION #1: 2026 Compensation and Policy Guidelines for Rostered Ministers & Lay Paid Staff

WHEREAS, congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod request and appreciate the aid and counsel of their companion congregations in this synod and synod leadership in ascertaining fair, equitable, and adequate compensation and benefits for Rostered Ministers and professional staff; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council has discussed and approved these guidelines and commends them to the 2025 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly and to the congregations of this synod for deliberation and use; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2025 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly adopt, approve, and commend to the congregations of this synod these guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly approve the publication and distribution of these "Guidelines" to congregations of this synod through the usual and appropriate means employed by the synod office.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council

SA.25.06.05 The Eastern North Dakota Synod Council moved to adopt Resolution #1, so no second is required. After discussion and amendments to the addendum, the **MOTION CARRIED** see amended addendum: *Proposed 2026 Compensation and Policy Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Lay Paid Staff*

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth invited Pastor Cassie Borges to lead the Assembly in prayer.

STATE OF THE ELCA – 3:25 p.m.

Rev. Timothy Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship, gave the state of the ELCA presentation. He brought greetings from the Alaska Synod and the ELCA Churchwide Office and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

In 2024, ELCA World Hunger recognized 50 years of working together to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world. God's Love Made Real is shorthand for the ELCA's vision statement and encompasses all the ways our congregations, synods and ministries are helping the world around us know the love of God in Jesus. At the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, voting members will address the social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Additionally, the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) will present their recommendations reconsidering the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of the church and the principles of its organizational structure. The Churchwide Assembly will recognize the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. The presentation closed with a video greeting from the ELCA Churchwide Office and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

MISSION PLAN FORUM – 3:47 p.m.

The forum provided an opportunity for voting members to ask questions about the proposed Mission Plan.

BREAK – 4:00 p.m.

WORKSHOPS – 4:30 p.m.

The Assembly was encouraged to attend one of the following workshops:

Narrative Budgets: Telling the Story Behind Each Line Item (Saturday and Sunday)

Presented by: Pastor Lexy Steinle

Some things are easier to fund than others. The local homeless shelter seems more in line for what Jesus calls us to give to than lights, floor wax, and water bills. And yet, even these "less attractive" line items help tell the story of the church's mission in the world today. This workshop will introduce Narrative Budgets, show multiple examples of ways this tool can be used in a variety of contexts, and walk through what putting together one in your church could look like! Lay and clergy members will find helpful tools for ministries of all sizes.

Synod Lay Ministry Cohort in Sargent County (Saturday and Sunday)

Presented by: Cohort Participants

Come to hear the story that started as a conversation at Nazareth Lutheran in Cogswell and now has 12 Synod Lay Ministers from 5 congregations! Congregations in Sargent County partnered with the synod to provide local training for Synod Lay Ministry over the past two years. The story continues to unfold, and we hope to be able to share Part II in the future.

Disability Dialogue: A Conversation (Saturday and Sunday)

Presented by: Hannah Papenfuss and Pastor Nicholas Rohde

Join us for a conversation about our experiences and reflections around disability and the church as well as actions and next steps for congregations and leaders. This workshop will be podcast style for a future resource and will include a disability dialogue, a time for “clunky questions”, a brief dive into healing narratives, and finishing with what we can do next.

Finance Forum (Saturday only)

Presented by: Joe Askew, Synod Treasurer

Join our synod treasurer to take a closer look at the financial report that will be shared during Plenary 2. This will be a great opportunity to ask questions, take a closer look at the material, and learn more. There will also be time to walk through the proposed Mission Plan, (budget) for FYE 1- 31-27.

Congregations Considering or Providing a Community Social Ministry (Saturday only)

Presented by: Murray Sagsveen, Western North Dakota Synod Attorney

Synod Attorney Murray Sagsveen, Western North Dakota Synod, will address organizational, risk management, volunteer management, legal, corporate, and other issues for congregations that are considering or are providing a ministry to their community, such as a food bank, thrift store, weekend backpack program, and care for cemeteries. He will explain key concepts, then answer questions from the participants.

Strategic Plan Information Session (Saturday only)

Presented by: Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth

The synod spoke and a strategic plan was created! Come to learn more about what hundreds of people across the synod said was important for our shared ministry and life together in Eastern North Dakota and how we are living into it. There will be an opportunity for questions.

CREATION CELEBRATION – 6:00 p.m.

Synod Assembly participants are invited to participate in a Creation Celebration, hosted at St. John's Lutheran Church. Activities include yard games, upcycled crafts, food provided by Tee's Tacos, and a variety of booths including beekeeping, vegetarian cooking, tiny homes, community gardens, and native plant gardens.

Sunday, June 8th, 2025

COFFEE SOCIAL – 8:00 a.m.

KEYNOTE – 8:30 a.m.

Rev. Timothy Brown, presented the second keynote of the Assembly. Drawing from Acts 4:32-37, Genesis 2:1-24, Matthew 2:1-12, and Luke 19:1-10, Rev. Brown invited the Assembly to explore stories in the Bible as stewardship stories asking the questions: what are they doing (in this story) and why are they doing it? He encouraged the assembly to frame what happens in the congregation (lives changed) as a thank you to God.

PLENARY THREE – 9:30 a.m.

THIRD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Julie Johnson, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the third report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Rostered Leaders</i>	70
<i>Lay</i>	177
Total Voting Members	247

Note: *The Credentials Committee also reported that there were 16 visitors present, bringing the total attendance to 263.*

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Elna Solvang gave the report of the Synod Vice President. Drawing from John 1:16 (grace upon grace) and Ecclesiastes 2:23 (even at night their minds do not rest), Dr. Solvang emphasized the commitment to dignity and trustworthiness in congregations in times of joy and challenge, gave thanks to volunteers and synod staff, and reminded the assembly of our invitation to walk together with all persons created in the image of God.

ADOPTION OF THE 2026 SYNOD MISSION PLAN:

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth invited Mr. Joe Askew to the stage to answer questions pertinent to the proposed 2026 Mission Plan.

SA 25.06.06 The Eastern North Dakota Synod Council moved to adopt the 2026 Synod Mission Plan (FYE 1/31/2027), so no second is required. After discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED** as presented. see *attached*

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth expressed gratitude to Joe Askew for his 8 years of service to the synod as Treasurer tending to the financial well-being of the synod.

\$4,000 was donated to the Endowment Sustaining Fund in honor of Joe's service.

Joe shared his gratitude through stories and words of appreciation.

ELECTION RESULTS:

Rev. Louis Moehlman shared the results from the first common ballot.

Note: Vote totals for each candidate are reflected in bold and parenthesis. There were 220 total ballots cast. 14 were invalid. There were 206 valid ballots cast.

NOMINEE FOR SYNOD SECRETARY (four-year term):

+S8.31. *The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.*

Nancy Farnham (205)

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth declared that Nancy Farnham was elected Eastern North Dakota Synod Secretary.

NOMINEE FOR SYNOD TREASURER (four-year term):

+S8.41. *The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.*

Ron Twedt (206)

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth declared that Ron Twedt was elected Eastern North Dakota Synod Treasurer.

NOMINEES FOR EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD COUNCIL (two-year term):

S10.07.01 b. *One minister of Word and Sacrament and/or minister of Word and Service and one lay person from each conference nominated at the Conference Assembly and elected by the Synod Assembly. The terms of conference representatives shall be two years, with term of office arranged so that half of the terms expire annually. Each representative shall be eligible for two consecutive re-elections.*

Prairie Rose Conference: Rev. Gary Lundberg (Rostered) (201)

Spirit Lake Conference: Richard Persky (Lay) (202)

Fargo Conference: Kim Thompson (Lay) (203)

Grafton Conference: Rev. Beth Peterson (Rostered) (202)
Grand Forks Conference: Julie Pedersen (Lay) (203)
Jamestown Conference: Rev. Lucinda Lien (Rostered) (202)
Mayville Conference: Rev. Rachael Puttbrese (Rostered) (201)
Mayville Conference: Christopher Larson (Lay) (201)

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth declared that Gary Lundberg, Richard Persky, Kim Thompson, Rev. Beth Peterson, Julie Pedersen, Rev. Lucinda Lien, Rev. Rachael Puttbrese, and Christopher Larson were elected to the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council as Conference Representatives.

NOMINEE FOR YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE TO SYNOD COUNCIL (one-year term):

S10.07.01.c. Each youth member of the Synod Council shall be a voting member, elected by the Synod Assembly for a one-year term and eligible for two consecutive re-elections.

Clara Kjelland (203)

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth declared that Clara Kjelland was elected to the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council.

NOMINEE FOR MULTICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SYNOD COUNCIL (two-year term):

S10.07.01.e. Two lay representatives who are persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English. These representatives shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a two-year term. Each representative shall be eligible for two consecutive re-elections.

Merlyn Greene (203)

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth declared that Merlyn Greene was elected to the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council.

NOMINEE FOR EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE (six-year term):

*+S11.03. The **Committee on Discipline** of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.*

Rev. Nancy Monke (201)

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth declared that Rev. Nancy Monke was elected to the Eastern North Dakota Synod Committee on Discipline.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS – 10:15 a.m.

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth invited Ryu Kroshus to the stage to present the 2025 Bread of Life Award to Faith Lutheran, Hannaford. The following churches were also recognized for their generosity to hunger ministries:

Washington Lutheran, Northwood
Trinity Lutheran, Binford

Trinity Lutheran, Marion
St. John Lutheran, Fargo

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth invited Dr. Phyllis Johnson to the stage to present the Care for Creation Award to Faith Lutheran, Valley City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Deacon Laura Carson thanked Rev. Cassie Anderson, Rev. Kayla Hill, Rev. Brooke Phelps, Alice Senechal, worship planners and leaders Rev. Robert Franek, Rev. Ella Moehlman, and Rev. Val Teppo, volunteers, and Synod Staff for their leadership during Assembly. She also thanked the Assembly production team, Livewire, for their handling of all video, sound, lighting, staging, and streaming logistics. Next year's Assembly will be held June 5th–7th, 2026.

BREAK 10:25

WORKSHOPS – 10:30 a.m.

The Assembly was encouraged to attend one of the workshops described previously or one of the workshops listed below:

Narrative Budgets: Telling the Story Behind Each Line Item (Saturday and Sunday)

Presented by: Pastor Lexy Steinle

Synod Lay Ministry Cohort in Sargent County (Saturday and Sunday)

Presented by: Cohort Participants

Disability Dialogue: A Conversation (Saturday and Sunday)

Presented by: Hannah Papenfuss and Pastor Nicholas Rohde

Portico Benefits Q & A (Sunday only)

Presented by: Pastor Tim Schroeder, Regional Representative

Do you have questions about upcoming health plan changes? Are you thinking about retirement in the next few years and haven't been able to attend a pre-retirement workshop? Or are you just hoping to learn a new thing about making the most of your benefits? Bring your questions and have our Regional Representative, Rev. Tim Schroeder, help with some answers!

Best Practices for Congregation Leaders (Sunday only)

Presented by: Murray Sagsveen, Western North Dakota Synod Attorney

Murray Sagsveen will address best practices for congregation leaders, particularly members of congregation councils. He will focus on constitutional responsibilities, internal controls,

adopting policies through continuing resolutions, risk management, volunteer management, organizational audits, leadership development, and other corporate issues. He will initially explain key concepts, then will answer questions from the participants.

Listening Session: Congregations without a Minister (Sunday only)

Facilitated by: Janell Regimbal (formerly of LSS-North Dakota)

Are you without a regular pastor in your congregation? What are your experiences and challenges in ministry without a regular minister? What are your future aspirations? How does this impact your ministry and what does synod leadership need to know about your experience? Come for a facilitated small group listening session to share your input. There is room for 15 attendees. Additional listening sessions will be offered this summer throughout the synod.

CLOSING WORSHIP – 11:30 a.m.

The Assembly closed its time together in worship. Rev. Timothy Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship, preached on Pentecost referring to readings from Acts 2:1-21 and John 14:8-27. Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth presided at the table, with Madi Wutzke, Glory Godwin Lekashu, and Nick Stanley assisting in worship. Breanna Briedenbach and Ryu Kroshus led music for worship.

Offerings from both opening and closing worship totaled \$10,640.27 and will be designated to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic for education priorities including the high school library and computer lab.

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth closed the assembly at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Kristina Weber, Interim Synod Secretary



Eastern North Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.