

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2017 Synod Assembly

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire, WI

Theme: Get the Word Out

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Opening of the Assembly

The Synod Assembly day began with worship at 9am. Thank you to Rev Lori Peper, the Apple River Conference and Dr Shirley Sands for coordinating and leading worship this morning. Ordinations, anniversaries, and retirements were recognized during worship as follows:

Ordination Anniversaries of 25 years:

Rev. Susan Anderson

Rev. Sarah Kerkes

Rev. Russ Leeper

Rev. Peter Muschinske

Rev. Michael Rozumalski

Rev. Mark Peters

Rev. Joanne Sorenson

Ordination Anniversaries of 50 years:

Rev. William Montgomery

Rev. Charles Arndt

Rev. C. Dale Harrison

Rev. Ralph Marquardt

Rev. Michael Meier

Rev. Omar Nelson

Rev. Dale Seffrood

Rev. Donald Wlsner

Retirements Recognized

Rev. Joanne Sorenson

Rev. Matt Saaram

Rev. Ralph Thompson

Rev. Neal Weltzin

Refreshment Break - 10:00

Plenary 1 - 10:30am

Opening and Orientation

The 2017 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin(NWSWI) Assembly opened with a welcome from Bishop Rick Hoyme using the dialogue as presented on screen.

Bishop Hoyme introduced those seated on the dais as follows: Lynn Fering, Vice President of the Synod; Lori Peper, Synod Secretary; John Levi, Synod Treasurer; and Leslie Frost, Parliamentarian.

Bishop Hoyme welcomed voting members and visitors, giving instructions on how to use the electronic voting device.

SA17.04.29.01

VOTED A motion to approve the agenda as printed on page 3 of the assembly booklet.
Adopted

SA17.04.29.02

VOTED A motion to approve the assembly guidelines as printed on page 18-19 of the assembly booklet. **Adopted**

Minutes

Note: The 2016 Synod Assembly minutes were approved by the Synod Council in September 17, 2016.

Introduction of the Synod Staff

Rev. Greg Kaufmann - Assistant to the Bishop
Rev. John Sutherland - Assistant to the Bishop
Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson - Assistant to the Bishop
Liz Bartsch - Assistant to the Bishop (Administration)
Gail Brown - Synod Bookkeeper
Laura Ramlow - Synod Communicator

Assembly welcomed Assistant to the Bishop, Rev Laurie Skow-Anderson to the podium.
~ Sticky Note Invitation - Introduced pledge to invite 500 more for the 500th anniversary of the reformation along with refrigerator Magnets: Get the Word Out
~ Thanks to the Apple River Conference pastors for leading worship this morning.
~ 4 pastors whose churches have grown in worship attendance in the last 5 years will give TED type talks throughout the assembly.

Morning Credentials Report

Clergy Voting Members 122
Retired Clergy 2
On Leave from Call 1
Lay Voting Members 239 (142 female, 101 male)
Young Adult Voting Members 3
Youth Voting Member 1
Total Voting Members 368

Ted TypeTalk #1 - 10: 50

Rev Brad Peterson, Trinity Lutheran in Boyceville

Our church is growing. Why? Because people feel welcome. We are who we are, authentic and trust that the Holy Spirit is busy and active among us. It leaves room for the Spirit, and the Gospel.

11:05 Guests and Resolutions

Rev Kathy Schibler and Brooks Rankin from Portico shared video greetings from Portico and its commitment to the ELCA and its members.

Synod Women's Organization Report

President, Sue Saraam presented. 521 local ministries benefited from the \$76,000 raised by W/ELCA in our synod. \$32,000 went to world hunger, \$2,000 to LSS, \$20,00 into synod women's account. They also shared 8800 quilts, 142 fabric kits, 2000 bars of soap. 10th Triennial assembly in Minneapolis this July. Will vote on a resolution regarding domestic violence that came from this synod. Hand Warmers will be given out by our synod women.

Resolutions

Rev Ramie Bakken of the resolutions committee presented Resolution 4 as printed on page 28 of the assembly booklet. Discussion held. 3 synod youth board members spoke in favor.

Resolution 4: Resolution Against Racial Injustice

SA 17.4.29.03

VOTED. A motion was made to call for a vote on Resolution 4. **Adopted.**

Rev Ramie Bakken of the resolutions committee presented Resolution 1 as printed on pages 25-26 in synod assembly booklet. John Levi, synod treasurer explained. Discussion held. Suggestion was made and noted to provide a narrative mission plan at next year's assembly.

Resolution 1: Resolution 2018 Operating Mission Budget and Plan.

SA 17.4.29.04

VOTED A motion was made to call for a vote on Resolution 1. **Adopted.**

Assembly Welcomed Rev Erik Bakken - Representing NW Synod of WI at church wide ELCA World Hunger gatherings.

ELCA World Hunger sets the Gold Standard among others doing similar work. We have an A+ rating, only 8% administration costs. God gives us enough. God has been generous and we are called to be, too. As a synod, our participation in ELCA's fight to end world hunger can be better.

Ted Type Talk #2 - 11:45

Rev Ned Lenhart, Living Water, Cameron, WI.

Why are we growing? 1) We have a great mission statement: Serving others through Christ. 2) Relentless hospitality. 3) Family worship. Excited to have received a grant to create a satellite worship broadcast from Living Water.

Lunch Recess - 12pm

1pm - The Synod Assembly reconvened.

Plenary 2

Assembly welcomed chaplains Keith and Peter Muchinski: Hidden Heroes

Hidden Heroes now offers a tool kit to help churches care for veterans and their families. Thank you, NW Synod of WI for your service to the men and women of our nation's military.

Nominations Committee Report

Barbara Solsaa of the nominations committee presented nominees for disciplinary committee, and synod council members as listed on page 21ff of the assembly booklet. Biographical information included.

Afternoon Credentials Report

Clergy Voting Members: 121
Retired Voting Members 2
On Leave of Call Member 1
Lay voting members: 230 Female, 132. Male, 98.
Young Adult Voting Member 3
Youth Voting Member 1
Total Voting Members 358

Bishop's Report:

Theme this year, Getting the Word Out!

"Lasting Impact" coffees through out the synod with bishop/staff.

Capitol campaign update. The Bold Generosity campaign is designed to help people.

Raised so far, \$218, 829. Five Basic Categories of Support.

Equip - i.e. Walking Together

Learn - i.e. Leadership development, scholarships

Support - i.e. Financial Health of seminary graduates

Partner - i.e. Malawi. We can make food scarcity disappear in Malawi!

Share - 10% will go to the ELCA Capitol Appeal.

~~Future Synod Assembly dates chosen: April 28, 2018. June 7-8, 2019(Due to Bishop Election in 2019, will be held at UW Eau Claire).

Rev Ramie Bakken of the resolutions committee presented Resolution 5 as printed in assembly booklet on pages 28-29.

Resolution 5: Non Required Provisions: Changes to the Synod Constitution.

SA 17.4.29.05

VOTED A motion to call for a vote on Resolution 5. **Adopted.**

TED Type Talk #3

Keith Anderson - Zion Lutheran Church.

Why are we growing? Families like to do things together so, we created worship/ education opportunities where families can connect. Now they are happily hearing the sweet sound of families around their building and in worship.

Rev Ramie Bakken of the resolutions committee presented Resolution 2 as presented on page 27 of the assemblies booklet.

Resolution 2: 2018 Minimum Standards for Compensation and Benefits. Rev Kathy Pennington made explanation.

Motion was made to amend Resolution 2 as follows: *Serving a parish with more than 1 congregation, a solo pastor with no program staff should receive an additional thousand dollars to compensation and reflect the additional demands placed upon them.*

Seconded by Rev Sandy Johnson.

LIZ: (I had something in my notes about section 1, compensation 1, 3 of the online reassembly materials, Amendment E.)

SA 17.4.29.06

VOTED A motion to call for a vote on the amended Resolution 2 as printed above.

Adopted.

Rev Ramie Bakken of the resolution committee presented Resolution 3 as printed on page 27 of the assembly booklet.

Resolution 3: The acceptance of St Stephen Lutheran church of Edgar WI as a new congregation of the NW Synod of WI to be effective immediately. Discussion Held.

Pastor Gail Sole, who has served St John of Edgar for the past 2 years, offered to also serve St Stephen.

SA 17.4.29.07

VOTED A motion to call for a vote on Resolution 3. **Adopted.**

Recognition

With appreciation, the synod recognizes the efforts of Rev Lowell Bolstad for serving 43 intentional interims, and the synod as congregational constitution expert.

Election of Synod Council Members

SA 17.4.29.08

VOTED a motion was made to vote once for all 7 unopposed council members by consensus. Seconded by all. **Adopted.**

Election of Synod Council Members as follows:

Apple River Conference, Lay Female Kim Patterson
Chequamegon Conference Clergy Rev Brian Campbell
Dairyland Conference Lay Male Ed Johnson
Heart of the North Conference Lay Female, Karyn Hullinger
Lake Superior Conference Lay Male, Thomas Potterton
St Croix Valley Conference Lay Male, Ralph Van Keulen
Youth, Lexi Fortin, Dominic Caroon

SA 17.4.29.09

VOTED. Chippewa Valley Conference Clergy Synod Council representative, Rev Lucy Schottelkorb. **Adopted**

SA 17.4.29.10

VOTED a motion was made to vote once for 4 unopposed Discipline Committee members by consensus of the assembly. Seconded by all. **Adopted.**

Discipline Committee Members as follows:

Kathi Peters, James Thomas, Rev Melissa Carmack and Rev Lisa Watson Hill.

Assembly Welcomes Bishop's Assistant Rev Laurie Skow-Anderson

50% of people in your county are unchurched. How many of you have a plan to talk to those people? Can you think of a way to use \$500 to help invite them to your church? Our churches will grow by invitation.... Write a grant application to help. Raft table gave away \$7000 to get the word out. God's work, our voice. How will we help our congregations get the word out? We are the leaders. Think of innovative and creative ways to get the word out. Create a 3-5 minute video that tells the story of how lives were changed through your new ministry. Door hangers, put out a welcoming banner, invite them to eat. Soup in the Coop. Baby Blessing Bags. This is our church, Come on in. Are there any needs in our communities that our church should address. We collected prayer requisitions and made followup plans. Created Deadline is June 1 to apply. Our synod received a grant from the ELCA to do this. We are all in this together to help people know and love Jesus.

Rev Ramie Bakken of the resolution committee presented Resolution 6 as printed on page 31 of the assembly booklet.

Resolution 6: Recognition of Rev David Larson, Lutheran Social Services

SA 17.4.29.11

VOTED This synod recognizes, affirms and celebrates Rev David N Larson for his service as president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Rev Larson accepts. **Adopted**

3pm Break for Coffee/Treats/Luther Rose

Assembly Welcomes Bishop's Assistant Rev John Sutherland

Malawi update - "If I give all that I possess and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." Malawi, the warm heart of Africa because of their known hospitality. We are connected by the River of Life that was established in 1992, officially 1999. 72 parishes, 372 congregations, and preaching points. 9 Deaneries, 53 pastors including the bishop, 105, 000 total membership. NWSWI Malawi famine relief effort officially over. Currently, Malawi pastors need motor cycles, and people need water. Girls spend their whole day carrying water. Let's help! Each well costs \$11,000. This year's Walking Together event was once again very successful.

ELCA Churchwide Report by Rev Ron Glusenkamp

Video Greeting from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Comprehensive ministry directives of the ELCA.

- 500th Anniversary of the reformation
- How many new starts? 125 in the last 2 years, 325 in development.
- Fund for leaders. Received 50 million dollars
- Theological Discernment - Women's justice issues.
- Ecumenical Inter religious relations.
- Healthy Planet Initiatives.
- Congregational Vitality and Leadership
- DIP - Discernment. Placement. 170 youth wanted to give a year of their lives, could only send 93.
- International Women Leadership partners
- South Sudan, a humanitarian crisis. Check the ELCA website for more information.

TED Type Talk #4

Rev Amelia Houdek, First Lutheran, New Richmond

What makes us a growing church? Trust that God is present and already working. God wants us to grow. We're not here to be amazing but to offer salvation, healing, dignity, protection. Look at where God is already moving and, then become God's partner.

Campus Ministry Report

Rev Katie Wagner, UW Stout and Rev Lori Ruge-Jones, UW Eau Claire and pastor of University Lutheran represented the 3 campus ministry sites in our synod. Thank you for serving as church home away from home!

ELCA Youth Gathering Presentation and Challenge!

Closing of the Assembly

Bishop Rick Hoyme made final announcements and led the assembly in the closing liturgy on page 34 of the assembly booklet and declared the 2017 NWSWI Assembly closed at 5:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev Lori L Peper

Secretary, NWSWI Council

