

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly

May 5-7, 2017  
Lutheran Ministry Center, Tulsa, OK

# Words of Reformation

## The Lutheran Movement at 500

**...be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
so that you may discern what is the will of God...**

**Romans 12:2**

It is said that, almost 500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany and touched off the Reformation in Europe. In truth, Luther never intended to start a revolution. He merely wanted to call the faculty of the university in Wittenberg to a discussion of some of the practices within the Church that concerned him. In his study of the scriptures, he had learned that words like faith and grace defined the relationship between the believer and God. For Luther, the wonder of what God had done in Jesus Christ overcame his fear of judgement, and transformed the way he looked at his faith, his church and his world.

This year, as we observe the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded that the Church of Jesus Christ is always being called to renewal, renovation and transformation as we seek to live out the Gospel and proclaim the Good News in each new age. Still moved to wonder by the gift of God's grace and drawn to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, we lean forward to discern what God is calling us to do and to be as God's children in this time and place. The Reformation continues!

### Friday, May 5, 2017

11:00 AM	Elections Committee Orientation	Downstairs Conference Room
12:00 noon – 2:00 PM	Synod Assembly Registration	Office Hall
12:00 PM	Prayer Chapel Open	Upstairs Classroom
	Words of Reformation Art Exhibit Opens	Upstairs Hallway
	Displays Open	Downstairs Hallway
1:00 PM	Reference and Counsel Committee Orientation	Downstairs (small) Conference Room

**Locations during the assembly: Business and presentations - Jordan Hall,**

**Worship - Ascension Chapel**

**Meals - Tent**

## Assembly Session 1

Jordan Hall

2:00-2:30 PM	Opening of the Assembly	Bishop Mike
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Greeting</li><li>• Order for the Opening of the Assembly</li><li>• Instructions to the Assembly</li><li>• Registration and Credentials Report</li><li>• Adoption of the <i>Special Rules of Order</i> for this Assembly</li><li>• Adoption of the Agenda</li><li>• Nominations, Elections and Resolutions Information</li><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Housekeeping Notes</li></ul>	
2:30-3:15	Procedure for the Election of a Bishop	Mr. William Horne II ELCA Vice-President
	Registration and Credential Report Nominating Ballot for Bishop	
3:15-3:30	Break	Hall
3:30-4:30	Keynote	Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin Bishop, Southwest California Synod ELCA
4:30-4:45	Words from our Partners	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oaks Indian Mission</li><li>• Lutheran Planned Giving</li><li>• Portico Benefits Services</li></ul>	
4:45-5:00	Elections Committee Report	
	<p>NOTE: <i>Unlike past practice, following the nominating ballot, those who would like their name to go forward to the second ballot must affirm <u>in writing</u> their willingness to so stand. Acceptances must be received by 7 PM this evening.</i></p>	
	Announcements	
	Prayer	

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5:00-7:00

Dinner sponsored by Comunidad de Esperanza  
**Reservation required**

and/or

Words of Reformation Art Exhibit Reception  
w/ dessert.

Upstairs Conference Room

### **Assembly Session 2**

Ascension Chapel

6:30 – 7:00

Worship Rehearsal

7:00 – 8:30

Celebration Worship

Presiding: Bishop Mike  
Preaching: William Horne III

Tonight's offering will be divided between our Tanzania Partnership and the Canopy Refugee Resettlement Ministry in NW Arkansas.

Anniversaries and Recognitions

### **Saturday, May 6, 2017**

Breakfast on your own.

7:30 AM

Registration Continues

Office Hall

**NOTE: All nominations from the floor for positions other than the bishop, and all "late" resolutions must be submitted in writing to Secretary Holly Lantagne by 9:00 AM. See Guidebook for guidelines.**

9:00 PM

Participants in the Lutheran Youth Organization Assembly Lock-in begin to arrive at First Lutheran, Tulsa.

### Assembly Session 3

Jordan Hall

8:00-8:15 AM	Morning Prayer	
9:00 AM	Lutheran Youth Organization participants arrive at the Lutheran Ministry Center	
8:15-9:45 AM	Business Session	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registration and Credentials Report</li><li>• Second Ballot for Bishop</li><li>• ELCA Churchwide Report</li></ul>	Mr. William Horne II ELCA Vice President
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report of the Director of Evangelical Mission And Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Family Ministry</li></ul>	Rev. Liz Albertson
9:45-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:00	Keynote	Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin Bishop, Southwest California Synod ELCA
11:00-11:30	Treasurer's Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report on Synod Mission Budget FYE2017 (2016)</li><li>• Revised Synod Mission Budget FYE2018 (2017)</li><li>• Proposed Synod Mission Budget FYE2019 (2018)</li><li>• Resolutions to Adopt the Synod Mission Budget</li></ul>	
11:30 AM -12:00 PM	Elections Committee Report	
	First Ballot for Synod Positions	
	Announcements	
	Table Prayer	
12:00 PM	Lutheran Youth Organization Gathering Begins	Upstairs Conference Room

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12:00-1:15 PM

Lunch – Sponsored by AR-OK Via de Cristo

Tent

**Reservation required**

“Affinity Groups” gather at tables around common interests.

### **Assembly Session 4**

Jordan Hall

1:15-2:15

Opening Prayer

Registration and Credentials Report

Distribution of Biographical Information for 7 Finalists for Bishop

Second Ballot for Synod Positions (If needed)

ELCA Church Council Report

Cynthia Gustafson

Living God’s Abundance Report

Words from our Partners

- Bethany College
- Wartburg Seminary
- Lutheran School of Theology

2:15-3:15

Five Minute Presentations by 7 Finalists for Bishop

Third Ballot for Bishop

3:15-3:30

Break

Hall

3:30-4:30

Keynote

Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin  
Bishop, Southwest California Synod  
ELCA

4:30-5:15

Elections Committee Report

Question and Response with 3 Finalists for Bishop

Fourth Ballot for Bishop

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5:15-5:30	Announcements	
	Table Prayer	Lutheran Youth Organization
5:30-6:00	Break	
6:00	Final Bids for Art due	
6:00-8:00	Reformation BBQ and Picnic sponsored by Servant's Table/Cluster 5 Beer (and Root Beer) and Hymns <i>Reservations required</i>	Biergarten (Tent)

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**

Breakfast on your own.

**Assembly Session 5**

Ascension Chapel

7:30 – 8:00 AM	Worship Rehearsal	
8:00-9:15	Sunday Eucharist – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	
	Presiding: Rev. Liz Albertson, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Preaching: Bishop Mike Girlinghouse, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod	
	This morning's offering will be divided between our Tanzania Partnership and the Canopy Refugee Resettlement Ministry in NW Arkansas.	

9:15-9:30	Break	Hall
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**Assembly Session 6**

Jordan Hall

9:30-9:45	Elections Committee Report	
	Fifth Ballot for Bishop	

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9:45-11:45

Business Session

- Lutheran Youth Organization Report
- Constitutional Changes
- Global Mission and World Hunger Report
- Elections Committee Report
- Building Bridges Update
- Centurion Connections
- 2016 Resolution Updates
- Resolutions

11:45-12:00

Words from our Partners

- Mission Investment Fund
- Prison Ministry
- Campus Ministry

Table Prayer

12:00-1:15

Box Lunches sponsored by Cluster 5 Quilt Group  
*Reservations required*

Tent

**Assembly Session 7**

Jordan Hall

1:15-2:15

Business Session

- Report of the Bishop
- Resolutions
- Unfinished Business

2:15-2:30

Order for the Closing of the Assembly

Updated 03/26/2017

**Go in peace! Remember the poor!  
Share God's Grace with everyone!  
Thanks be to God!**

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2018:**

**Building Bridges: Race, Diversity and Justice  
May 4-6, 2018  
Lutheran Ministry Center, Tulsa, OK**

**See YOU there!**