

“We are Church Together, Feeding & Equipping Leaders”

Observations from the 2018 East Central Synod Assembly

The 2018 East Central Synod Assembly was held May 17th, 18th and 19th at the Oshkosh Convention Center and attended by 319 delegates, pastors and additional rostered leaders. It was an uplifting and energizing experience for us to learn all that is being done by our National Church body; The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), our East Central Synod (123 churches in Northeastern Wisconsin and our individual churches like Prince of Peace. The three are our Lutheran Church Together.

Here are some highlights of the sessions:

- I. Powerful and inspiring worship services that were filled with the Holy Spirit. These included Opening Worship on Friday morning with Bishop Gerald Mansholt preaching on John 15:26-27, 16:4-15. A Healing Service on Friday Afternoon, A Saturday morning worship service with Secretary of the ELCA Pastor Chris Boerger preaching a dynamic sermon on Mathew 14:13-21.
- II. Informative and idea sharing sessions led by James LaDoux of Vibrant Faith including:
 - a. Becoming a Vital and Vibrant Faith Community
 - b. Faith Formation for all the Seasons of Adulthood
 - c. Discovering and Living One’s Calling
 - d. Bringing the Vision to Life in Your Congregation
- III. A synod update by Bishop Mansholt
- IV. An ELCA report by Secretary Chris Boerger.
- V. An input session for Lutheran Social Services conducted by CEO Hector Colon where LSS asked congregation’s to identify needs in their communities that LSS could provide help and support.
- VI. An update on Crossways and their upcoming capital campaign by Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer.
- VII. Commissioning of the South African Companion Travelers from our Synod and of those attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer.
- VIII. Passed the 2019 Synod Budget and updates to the Synod Constitution.
- IX. Elected new Synod Council representatives including Ms. Kerry Arnold from Prince of Peace.
- X. Elected voting members from the East Central Synod to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee. Andrew Skowanderson and Nancy Jones were elected from Prince of Peace.
- XI. Passed 2019 Compensation Guidelines for East Central Synod clergy and deacons.
- XII. Passed resolutions that our Synod members support ELCA World Hunger initiatives and that each congregation choose one or more global ministries to receive special attention over the coming year.
- XIII. Introduction of a Synod Endowment Campaign which will be chaired by Tom and Nancy Scheuerman of Prince of Peace. Nancy was also recognized for her service on the Synod Council.
- XIV. Recognized Pastors with 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 years of service. The pastor with 60 years of service just retired at age 90. He was calling on home bound and shut-ins until the end of last year! What a lifetime of service! Pastor Jennifer was recognized for 25 years of ministry.

So much was shared with us in two days that we will be providing snapshots of what we learned about being a “Church Together,” The ELCA, The East Central Wisconsin Synod and about our own Prince of Peach congregation which all together in 2017 gave \$1.75 billion in unrestricted offerings to support God’s mission and ministry.

Blessings,

Dick Nicolaison, Bruce Piette, Al Peckham, delegates