All contents can be downloaded from the Synod website – nisynod.org/assembly

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Official Notice

Twenty-Ninth
Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Northern Illinois Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

To: All Laity Voting Members, Clergy, Diaconal Ministers and Associates in Ministry of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Please be advised that the Twenty-Ninth Annual Synod Assembly of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be held at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, beginning on Thursday afternoon, June 16, 2016 and concluding on Saturday afternoon, June 18, 2016.

Date of Notice: May 16, 2016

The Rev. Mark Luepke

Synod Secretary
Proposed Rules for
the Twenty-Ninth Annual NIS Assembly

Items indicated with "A" are items not currently covered by any Constitution, Bylaw, or Continuing Resolution and hence require action by the Assembly. Constitution, Bylaw, or Resolution references are indicated following each item.

**Key:**
+ = Required Provision found in the Synod Constitution
*italics* = bylaws found in the Synod Constitution
*underline* = continuing resolutions found in the Synod Constitution

**A SA1 CALL OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY.**

SA1.01 Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this Synod. (S7.13.)

SA1.02 Notice of time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be made not less than five (5) days and no more than forty (40) days prior to the meeting of the Synod Assembly. (S7.13.A87.)

**A SA2 VOTING MEMBERS.**

SA2.01 The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows: (+S7.21.a.)

a. All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members. (+S7.21.a.)

b. All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers under call on the official lay rosters of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be lay voting members. (Note: Similar Provision +S7.21.b.)

c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female. (+S7.21.c.)

d. The lay officers of this Synod shall not be counted as additional lay representatives in order to have at least 60% of the voting membership of the Assembly composed of lay persons. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod. (+S7.21.d.)

e. Retired ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, on the official rosters of this Synod shall be voting members of the
Assembly if they have pre-registered by the date and in the manner provided by the Synod Council. Such guidelines shall provide for pre-registration sufficiently in advance of the Assembly so as to allow the Synod to comply with provisions of Section +S7.21. of the Synod Constitution regarding the percentage relationship of clergy to lay membership at the Assembly. (S7.22.01.)

f. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with +S7.21. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church. (S7.26.)

g. Ordained ministers serving a congregation as an interim pastor or a pastor under contract shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly. In addition, those who have been licensed for Word and Sacrament ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod or intern pastors (but only intern pastors who have been licensed for Word and Sacrament ministry) shall also be voting members of the Synod Assembly. (Note: Similar provision S14.17.)

h. All candidates for ordination, consecration, and commissioning at this assembly shall have voice and vote.

SA2.02 The Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) president, or designee, shall be a voting member of the Synod Assembly. (S7.27.A00)

SA2.03 Voting members are authorized by size of congregation. The listed baptized membership figures of all the Northern Illinois Synod congregations, as reported to the ELCA through each congregation’s year-end report (parochial report) as of 12/31/2014, is the basis for determining the number of lay voting members selected to attend the Synod Assembly. The baptized membership formula consists of the top 10% of our congregations receiving four (4) lay voting members, the next 10% of our congregations receiving three (3) lay voting members, and the remainder of our congregations receiving two (2) lay voting members.

SA2.04 In order to implement continuing resolution +6.04.B09, each congregation may elect 1 additional youth (a voting member who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service) or 1 young adult (a voting member between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service). (S7.21.A11)

SA2.05 Every congregation shall send in the credentials of its voting members to the Synod Office at least 60 days prior to the opening of the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. (S7.21.01.)

SA2.06 The voting members are required to announce their presence upon their arrival at the Synod Assembly through the medium of registrations. (S7.21.02.)
Proposed Rules

SA2.07  Compliance with the constitution lay voting member percentage requirement for Synod Assemblies shall be established for all purposes at an Assembly by certification of the Credentials Committee that at least sixty percent (60%) of registered voting members to the Assembly are lay persons. (S.7.21.03.)

SA2.08  It is the intention of this Synod that normally there shall be no more than one voting member of the Synod Assembly from a single household. (S7.21.A87.)

A SA2.09  Voting members shall not absent themselves from any Assembly business without good cause.

A SA3  QUORUM.

SA3.01  Fifty percent (50%) of the registered voting members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum. (S7.14.)

A SA4  RIGHT OF VOICE AND VOTE.

A SA4.01  All retired ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, whose names appear on the rosters of this Synod, not pre-registered by the date and in the manner provided by the Synod Council shall have the privilege of voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. (Note: Similar Provision S7.22.01. & S7.23.)

A SA4.02  All ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, on leave from call, whose names appear on the rosters of this Synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. (Note: similar Provision S7.23.)

A SA4.03  Registered visitors shall not have voice or vote.

A SA4.04  The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time as well as Synod standing committee members, shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Bishop, Synod Council, or the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.

A SA4.05  Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this Synod. (+S7.31.)

A SA4.06  Length of time of individual voice may be restricted by the chair to facilitate completion of business on schedule. Three (3) minutes per speaker shall be the standing rule. Challenges to the chair's ruling shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of attending voting members.

A SA4.07  Identical or similar resolutions (as determined by the Resolutions Committee) received will be shared with the assembly but will be bundled together as one (1) resolution for debate and vote.

A SA4.08  To assist voting members who wish to speak on an issue before the Assembly, colored cards are provided. These colored cards should be used in the Assembly during the resolution sessions, as well as to vote when there is a division of the house. They are to be used as listed below:
a. If a voting member wishes to vote or speak for a resolution, the green card should be raised.

b. If a voting member wishes to vote or speak against a resolution, the red card should be raised.

c. If a voting member wishes to abstain, or has a question, or a point of order, the white card should be raised.

The privilege to speak on a given issue still must be appropriate to Robert's Rules of Order and the adopted Rules of the Assembly.

A SA5  
ASSEMBLY OFFICERS.

A SA5.01 The Bishop of this Synod, the Rev. Dr. Gary M. Wollersheim, shall serve as Presiding Officer of the Assembly (+S8.12.g.). In the absence of the Bishop or as the course of Assembly deliberations makes appropriate, as per A SA9.07.16, when the Assembly considers business related to the election of the synod bishop in which case the Churchwide Representative shall preside, the Bishop's designee shall serve as Presiding Officer.

SA5.02 The Secretary of this Synod, the Rev. Mark Luepke, shall serve as Secretary of the Assembly. (+S8.32.a.)

A SA6  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES.

SA6.01 The following shall be the committees of the Synod Assembly:

SA6.01.01 Credentials Committee. A Committee on Credentials shall be appointed by the Synod Council, which shall consist of an ordained minister serving a congregation in the city in which the Synod Assembly convenes and at least two other persons. The duties of this committee shall be to approve the applications and credentials of Synod Assembly voting members and to report to the presiding officer. (S7.34.01.)

SA6.01.02 Election Committee. An Election Committee shall be appointed by the Synod Council to conduct the elections and report the results to the Synod Assembly. (S7.34.05.)

SA6.01.03 Resolutions Committee. A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Synod Council and shall consist of five (5) members, of whom one may be appointed the parliamentarian of the Synod Assembly. (S7.34.11.)

Duties of the Resolutions Committee shall be as follows:

a. Process all resolutions addressed to the Synod Assembly and report thereon with its recommendations.

b. Recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives.

c. Grant or deny permission to distribute printed matter or to set up displays not issuing from nor approved by the Office of the Secretary.

d. Provide such assistance to the bishop as requested during the course of the Synod Assembly.

A SA7  
RESOLUTIONS, MEMORIALS, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.
A SA7.01  To assure presentation to the Synod Assembly, resolutions must be submitted to the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Resolutions Committee, 103 West State Street, Rockford, IL 61101-1105 or faxed to Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Resolutions Committee, (815) 964-2295 not later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the Assembly. Resolutions received subsequent to that date shall not be accepted for consideration at this Assembly, unless the Resolutions Committee judges it to be a matter of sufficient importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the Assembly. The Resolutions Committee may receive resolutions relevant to matters on the Assembly agenda during the Assembly. All such resolutions and memorials shall be given by the proposer, in writing over the signature of at least ten (10) voting members, to the Resolutions Committee which shall report thereon to the Assembly with its recommendations.

When a resolution is submitted it shall contain: a) the signature of at least ten (10) Synod Assembly voting members or is channeled through a congregation council, Conference meeting, Synod Council or Committee, Subcommittee, or Task Force; b) the date on which the action was taken; c) the address of the group or person authorizing the resolution; and, if possible, d) the author's authority to edit the resolution be assigned to a voting member of the Assembly if the author is not present.

SA7.02  An amendment to the constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least ten (10) members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. (+S18.13.a.)

A SA7.03  The Resolutions Committee may: a) Recommend adoption of the resolution; b) Recommend adoption with proposed amendment; c) Recommend defeat of the resolution; d) Recommend referral to another entity; e) Forward without recommendation; f) Offer a substitute motion; or, g) Return the resolution to the submitter for clarification or editing.

A SA7.04  Memorials to the Churchwide Assembly are not the only route for a Synod to express a concern. Resolutions may be passed that are addressed to a specific Churchwide unit or to units that relate to a given concern. Resolutions may receive more immediate attention and follow a more direct route than memorials which await the Churchwide Assembly's response.

A SA8  GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE.

SA8.01  Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly (S7.32.) otherwise provided for in the constitution or the bylaws of this church or in the constitution or the bylaws of this Synod.

A SA8.02  The Presiding Officer shall have the privilege of altering the rules of this Assembly as needed to facilitate the flow of action during the Assembly. The chair may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.

A SA8.03  The Presiding Officer shall allow the report from the Election Committee to come to the floor at the earliest convenience and shall do so during the course
of the agenda.

**A SA9**

**ELECTIONS.**

**SA9.01** The Assembly shall elect such officers of this Synod and such other persons as
the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in
the bylaws. (+S9.01.)

**SA9.02** In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of
the votes cast shall be necessary for election. (S9.02.)

**SA9.03** Whenever nominations are in order, the Nominating Committee will provide a
minimum of two nominees, when possible, for each elected position.
Nominations from the floor shall require ten (10) signatures of voting members
to the Assembly.

**SA9.04** In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the
highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes
cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of
two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a
majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election (S9.08.)

**SA9.05** Based on Synod Council action of September 11, 1999, the result of each general
election ballot will not be announced in detail to the Assembly due to time
constraints. However, a written report will be distributed to the Assembly in
the Fifth Plenary Session and, after the Second Ballot, if a Second Ballot is
necessary, later in the Fifth Plenary Session of the Assembly. (Note: Similar
Provision S9.09.)

**SA9.06** With the exception of ordained ministers rostered in synods other than synod
of residence, each voting member of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council,
committee, board, or other organizational unit of this Synod shall be a voting
member of a congregation of this Synod. (S9.14.)

**A SA9.07 The Election of a Synod Bishop**

**A SA9.07.01** In accordance with S9.04 of the Synod Constitution, the Election of a Bishop
shall be by ecclesiastical ballot. There shall be no spoken nominations from the
floor. A nominee’s name must be written on the First Ballot in order for that
person to be nominated. Any ordained minister in the ELCA is eligible for
nomination for Bishop.

A voting member of the Assembly who plans to nominate on the First Ballot
someone outside of the Northern Illinois Synod should determine that said
person is open to the call to the Office of Bishop; provide said person’s contact
information, such as address, phone number, e-mail, etc., to the Chair/Co-Chair
of the Election Committee; make said person aware of the need for biographical
information and the requirements of background checks as set forth in these
Rules. Persons outside of the Northern Illinois Synod who are nominated for
Bishop are expected to provide biographical information as set forth in these
rules.

**A SA9.07.02** Each voting member may place the name of one person on the First Ballot. All
properly registered and credentialed voting members of the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly (cf. SA2.04 and SA2.05) shall be eligible to cast a ballot. The registration and credentialing process will be suspended one-half (1/2) hour prior to each ballot. Registration for the First Ballot must be completed by **3:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2016.**

A SA9.07.03 The First Ballot for Bishop shall be by paper ballot which shall be prepared by the Elections Committee to be distributed at the time of the balloting. All subsequent ballots will use scan cards to be tabulated electronically. All ballots for election of a Bishop shall be destroyed following the conclusion of Synod Assembly.

SA9.07.04 Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the First Ballot shall be necessary for the election of a Bishop. (S9.04.)

SA9.07.05 If no election occurs, the First Ballot is the Nominating Ballot. (S9.04.) This ballot becomes the total slate of nominees for a possible election on subsequent ballots. No additional nominations are permitted.

A SA9.07.06 Ordained Ministers who are nominated on this Nominating Ballot and desire that their name be retained on subsequent ballots shall submit a completed Part 1 of the **Biographical Information Form** to the Chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee by **11:45 a.m. on Friday, June 17, 2016.** This form may also be submitted prior to the Synod Assembly via the Northern Illinois Synod website by midnight Tuesday, June 14, 2016; be downloaded from the Synod website for later use; or a blank copy obtained at the Assembly from the Chair/co-Chair of the Election Committee.

Part 1 of the **Biographical Information Form** for each nominee on the ballot will be distributed to all voting members prior to the Second Ballot. A completed Part 2 of the **Biographical Information Form** shall be submitted to the Chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee by **1:45 p.m. on Friday June 17, 2016.** This form may also be submitted prior to the Synod Assembly via the Northern Illinois Synod website by midnight Tuesday, June 14, 2016; be downloaded from the Synod website for later use; or a blank copy obtained at the Assembly from the Chair/co-Chair of the Election Committee.

A SA9.07.07 Ordained Ministers nominated on the First Ballot shall have the right to withdraw their names from subsequent ballots before, and only before, the casting of the Second Ballot. A **Request for Withdrawal Form** must be submitted to the Chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee by **11:45 a.m. on Friday, June 17, 2016.** This form may also be submitted prior to the Synod Assembly via the Northern Illinois Synod website by midnight Tuesday, June 14, 2016; be downloaded from the Synod website for later use; or a blank copy obtained at the Assembly from the Chair/co-Chair of the Election Committee.

A SA9.07.08 On the Second and all subsequent Ballots, the names with vote totals shall be listed from the greatest number of votes received to the least. Ties shall be listed alphabetically.

SA9.07.09 Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the Second Ballot shall be necessary for election. (S9.04)

A SA9.07.10 Following the Report of the Second Ballot, Part 2 of the **Biographical Information Form** for the seven nominees (plus ties), who receive the greatest
number of votes cast on the Second Ballot, shall be distributed to all voting members. The seven nominees (plus ties) shall complete the Disclosure Form for Nominees and the Authorization and Release for Background Checks and Screening Form and return them to the Synod Vice-President or designee by Friday evening, June 17, at 5:15 pm. These forms will be available on the Synod website when registration materials become available. The background checks shall be done only for the person elected Bishop and shall be done as soon as practical after the conclusion of the Synod Assembly. Failure to submit a Disclosure Form for Nominees and the Authorization and Release for Background Checks and Screening Form would be cause for removal from the Third Ballot and no longer be eligible to participate in the nominee speeches.

A SA9.07.11 Before the casting of the Third Ballot, the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes cast on the Second Ballot shall be invited to the podium and introduced by name to the members of the assembly. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each individual introduction. The seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes cast on the Second Ballot will be invited to address the assembly on a subject of their own choosing, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the Assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf or may choose to address the Assembly through telephonic communication. A timekeeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot. There shall be no applause before, during, or after individual speeches; only after all have spoken is there to be such affirmation. There shall be time allotted after these speeches for voting members to engage in prayer and reflection on the speeches before the third ballot is cast.

SA9.07.12 Two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the Third Ballot. (S9.04.)

A SA9.07.13 Prior to the Fourth Ballot for Synodical Bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the Third Ballot will be invited to participate in a Question-and-Answer time. The period shall be moderated by the Churchwide Representative. The same questions shall be asked of each of the nominees. The order that the nominees who are asked questions shall be determined by lot, and the order of questions for the nominees shall be rotated among them. Each nominee shall have a maximum of two minutes to respond to each question. If any nominee is not present at the Assembly, that individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to answer on her or his behalf or may choose to answer the questions using telephonic communication. A timekeeper will indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of allotted time and when the allotted time has ended. The questions to be asked shall be determined by a committee appointed by Synod Council. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each answer; only after the Question-and-Answer time has come to an end is there to be such affirmation.

A SA9.07.14 Prior to the Fourth Ballot, there shall be time for prayer and reflection by the voting members on the responses of the nominees.

SA9.07.15 Sixty (60%) percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the Fourth Ballot. (S9.04.)
On the Fifth and Sixth Ballots, the ballots shall be limited to the two nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes cast. A majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the Fifth and Sixth ballots. (S9.04.)

The results of each ballot shall be recorded and announced to the assembly. (S9.09)

The results of each Ballot for Synodical Bishop shall be provided to all Voting Members orally, via paper and projected via the Assembly Screens, as able.

The results of each Ballot for Synodical Bishop shall include the following:

- Number of votes cast: XXX
- Number of illegal votes cast: X
- Number of votes legal votes cast: XXX
- Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (i.e. 75%, 66%, etc.): XXX

Persons open to the possibility of a call to the Office of Bishop are encouraged to come to the Synod Assembly with the Biographical Information Form, previously approved by the Synod Council, completed and available to be shared with the Assembly. The forms will be available on the Synod website when registration materials are available, by request from the Synod Office and may also be secured from the Chair/ Co-Chair of the Election Committee during the Synod Assembly.

There shall be no information circulated or distributed by a nominee for Bishop or on behalf of a nominee for Bishop whether communicated by written, oral or electronic means during Synod Assembly, except as provided in the Rules of the Assembly.

The Churchwide Representative shall preside over the Assembly whenever the Assembly is in session and considering business related to the election of the Synodical Bishop, or when the Assembly is casting ballots in this election. Upon conclusion of balloting or of the specific business related to the election, the Bishop shall resume as the presiding officer of the Assembly.

All persons eligible to vote for the election of Bishop shall be present in the assembly hall at the time of the balloting. There shall be no absentee balloting and no balloting by proxy. (+S.7.31)

All communication by or on behalf of a nominee for Bishop shall be in accordance with the Rules of the Assembly. There shall be no videos, no trailers, no pictures and no third persons who will speak for or on behalf of a candidate except as provided by these Rules.

The Credentials Committee shall report to the assembly before each ballot the number of registered and credentialed voters eligible to vote, and the registration shall be suspended thirty minutes before each ballot. Anyone attempting to register as a voting member less than thirty minutes prior to each ballot shall not be able to register until the time following said balloting.

Any nominee for Bishop who is not present at the Synod Assembly who would be entitled to address the assembly pursuant to Rule A SA9.07.11 above and to
answer the questions under A SA9.07.13 above shall be permitted to do so by any available electronic means such as Skype, email, text, or audio via telephone/cell phone. Such person shall also be permitted to submit the Disclosure Form for Nominees and the Authorization and Release for Background Checks and Screening Form and the Biographical Information Form required by these Rules by any electronic communication means acceptable to the Chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee and the Synod Vice-President, consistent with the time parameters found in these Rules (cf. A SA9.07.01)

A SA9.07.27 If there is a question of whether a nominee is eligible to be elected Bishop, the ELCA roster of pastors shall be determinative of said person's eligibility as determined by the Synod Vice-President, in consultation with the Chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee and the Churchwide Representative

SA9.07.28 Persons eligible to register as voting members of the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly are those set forth in the Northern Illinois Synod Constitution S7.21 through S7.33.

A SA10 DISPLAYS, SPACE, DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS, AND PERFORMANCES

A SA10.1 Only materials authorized by the Resolutions Committee, Bishop, and/or the Assembly Co-chairpersons will be distributed to voting members of the Assembly during the Assembly.

A SA10.02 Display space exists only for church related organizations approved by the Resolutions Committee, Bishop, and/or the Assembly Co-chairpersons.

A SA10.03 Inclusion of Synod Assembly packet material from related institutions, agencies, and organizations must be approved by the Resolutions Committee, Bishop, and/or the Assembly Co-chairpersons.

A SA10.04 No display space or meeting facilities are provided to organizations that have no official relationship to this church.

A SA10.05 No commercial displays or sales booths are permitted without the approval of the Bishop and/or the Assembly Co-chairpersons.

A SA10.06 Space for meetings or meal functions must be approved by the Bishop and/or the Assembly Co-chairpersons.

A SA10.07 Individuals and/or groups wishing to appear in relation to or at the Assembly must secure permission from the Bishop and/or Co-chairpersons of the Assembly. (revised 5/3/11)
Twenty-Ninth Annual
Synod Assembly Agenda

We Are Lutheran

June 16-18, 2016
Augustana College, Rock Island, IL
Assembly Host Congregation: St. Paul, Orion

A Prayer Chapel will be available throughout the Synod Assembly in Bergendoff Hall (Room 113)
Thursday - June 16

11:30 a.m. Registration .............................................Centennial Hall (Lobby)
1:30 p.m. Orientation for Voting Members .......................Bergendoff Hall (Larson Hall)
1:30 p.m. Resolutions Committee Forum ..........................Bergendoff Hall (Room 113)

**Plenary Session I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:55 p.m.</td>
<td>Gathering Hymn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Order for Opening of Assembly: The Rev. Dr. Gary M. Wollersheim, Bishop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greetings and Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credentials Committee Report: Mr. Russ Zeskey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adoption of Rules of Assembly</td>
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<td>Assembly Committee Appointments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Bishop’s Report: The Rev. Dr. Gary M. Wollersheim, Bishop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:50 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Installation of Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board</strong></td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Report of the Vice-President: Mr. Bill Bartlett</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3:10 p.m. Deadline for Registration to be eligible to vote the First Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:10 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to and Explanation of the Process of the Elections: ELCA Secretary Wm. Chris Boerger</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Credentials Committee Report: Mr. Russ Zeskey</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Prayer Prior to the First Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Distribution of First Ballot for Synodical Bishop: Secretary Boerger</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Collection of First Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Announcements: Vice-President Bill Bartlett</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Closing Prayer: Ms. Marti Bein, Associate in Ministry</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

End of Plenary Session I

**Celebration of the Ministry of Bishop Gary and Polly Wollersheim**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:35 p.m.</td>
<td>Celebration ..................................................................Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner ........................................................................Gerber Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shuttle service will be available between Centennial Hall and the Gerber Center from 6–9:15 p.m. Dinner will be available until 8 p.m., with coffee, water and soda available until 9 p.m.
Friday - June 17

7:15 a.m. Breakfast ........................................ Gerber Center (Located in the Tredway Library)
8:00 a.m. Registration Open ................................................................. Centennial Hall (Lobby)
9:00 a.m. Holy Communion ................. Centennial Hall (Auditorium)

Plenary Session II

Centennial Hall (Auditorium)

10:30 a.m. Credentials Committee Report: Mr. Russ Zeskey

Report of the First Ballot for Synodical Bishop (Pastors who wish to withdraw their name from consideration must turn a completed Request for Withdrawal Form to the Chair/Co-Chair of the Elections Committee at the registration table prior to 11:45 a.m. today; Pastors who wish their name to go forward must turn in a completed part 1 of the Biographical Information Form to the Chair/Co-Chair of the Elections Committee at the registration table prior to 11:45 a.m. today.)

Nominating Committee Report: Member of Nominating Committee

Election Committee Report: Ms. Shirley Anderson

Explanation of Balloting Process and Distribution of the Ballot
(The ballot for General Elections will be collected at 6:55 p.m. this afternoon)

11:00 a.m. Bible Study: “Jesus, the Pray-er, in the Gospel of Luke, pt. 1”: Bishop S. John Roth

11:35 a.m. Announcements: Vice-President Bartlett

Closing Prayer: Ms. Shari Trotter, Diaconal Minister

► 11:45 a.m. “Request for Withdrawal Form” due to Chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee by those pastors nominated for the Office of Bishop on the First Ballot who do not wish their name to appear on the Second Ballot; Part 1 (questions 1 – 8) of the “Biographical Information Form” due to the chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee by those pastors nominated for the Office of Bishop on the First Ballot who do wish their name to appear on the Second Ballot.

End of Plenary Session II

11:45 a.m. - 1:10 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ........................................ Bergendoff Hall (Larson Hall)

► Note: Lunch is Box Lunches, available in Centennial Hall Lobby and Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room; Choir members pick up their lunch there and go to Larson Hall for the rehearsal).

Lunch Forums

► Choose one of the following two lunch/forum options:

OPTION A

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Box Lunch ........................................ Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room)
12:40 - 1:10 p.m. Forum: Mr. Mark Stutrud, LSSI ............ Centennial Hall (Auditorium)

or OPTION B

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Forum: Mr. Mark Stutrud, LSSI ............ Centennial Hall (Auditorium)
12:40 - 1:10 p.m. Box Lunch ........................................ Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room)
Part 1 of the Nominees’ Biographical Information form will be available at the Elections Table in the Centennial Hall Lobby at 1 p.m. today. They will also be distributed as participants enter for Plenary III.

Resolutions must be in by 3:30 p.m. today. Only resolutions which are germane to discussion on floor of Assembly will be considered.

The Ballot for General Elections will be collected at 6:55 p.m. this evening.

Completed “Questions for the Churchwide Representative” form is to be turned in to the box in the Centennial Hall Lobby by 6:00 p.m. this evening.

1:00 p.m. Deadline for Registration to be eligible to vote the 2nd Ballot for Synodical Bishop

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### Plenary Session III

**Centennial Hall (Auditorium)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1:25 p.m. | Gathering Hymn  
Opening Prayer: Ms. Ruth Anderson, Associate in Ministry  
Credentials Committee Report: Mr. Russ Zeskey |
| 1:30 p.m. | Prayer Prior to the Second Ballot for Synodical Bishop Sec. Boerger  
Distribution of the Second Ballot for Synodical Bishop and time for completion of the Ballot |
| 1:40 p.m. | Collection of Second Ballot for Synodical Bishop  
1:45 p.m. Part 2 of the “Biographical Information Form” (questions 9 – 11) due to the chair/Co-Chair of the Election Committee by those pastors nominated for the Office of Bishop on the First Ballot who allowed their name to appear on the Second Ballot. |
| 1:45 p.m. | Welcome Pastors New to the Synod: Bishop Wollersheim  
Recognition of Leaders who have retired in the past year  
Anniversaries of Rostered Leaders  
50 Year Ordination Anniversary Recognition |
| 2:05 p.m. | Treasurer’s Report: Ms. Tammie Farley  
First Reading of the 2017 Proposed Budget: Ms. Tammie Farley |
| 2:10 p.m. | Secretary’s Report: The Rev. Mark Luepke  
Certification of 2015 Synod Assembly Minutes: Member of 2015 Minutes Review Committee  
Synod Council Report: The Rev. Mark Luepke |
| 2:20 p.m. | “Portico Pause”: Ms. Jennifer Prinz |
| 2:25 p.m. | Churchwide Representative: Secretary Boerger |
| 3:00 p.m. | Report of the Second Ballot for Synodical Bishop |
| 3:10 p.m. | Resolutions Committee: Dr. Randy Mullin |
| 3:25 p.m. | Announcements: Vice-President Bartlett  
Closing Prayer: Dr. Denise Rode |

End of Plenary Session III
► The second page of the Biographical Information Form for the seven remaining Nominees will be handed out by the end of Plenary Session III. The completed Disclosure Form for Nominees and the Authorization and Release for Background Checks and Screening Form from each of the seven remaining Nominees is due on Friday evening, June 17, no later than 5:15 p.m., to the Vice-President or designee, in the Centennial Hall Lobby.

3:40 p.m. Time for Visiting Assembly Display Area .....................Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room)

► Display area is in Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room).

3:40 – 4:40 p.m. Choir Rehearsal .............................................Bergendoff Hall (Larson Hall)

3:40-4:25 p.m. Friday Afternoon Forums

Budget Meeting/Synod Council .................. Denkmann Memorial Hall (Wallenberg Hall)
Congregational Life Committee .................................Old Main (Room 303)
Global Mission Committee ........................................Old Main (Room 21)
LYO/Youth Ministry ...................................................Old Main (Room 132)
Ministry Support Committee ................................. Old Main (Room 117)
Outreach Committee – “Outreach through Social Media” .......... Old Main (Room 329)
Portico Benefits ......................................................... Old Main (Room 28)
Social Ministry Committee – “Seeing Refugees” .................. Old Main (Room 5)
Multicultural Ministries/Racial Justice Task Force ..............Old Main (Room 310)
“Stretch & Pray” Wellness Sub-Committee ..................Old Main (Forum on the 2nd floor)
(due to space limitations, this forum will be limited to 25 participants)
“Walk for Water,” sponsored by World Hunger Sub-Com. ..... front of Bergendoff Hall

4:35- 5:20 p.m. Friday Afternoon Forums

Conversation with the Churchwide Representative
Secretary Boerger ........................................Denkmann Hall (Wallenberg Hall)
Congregational Life Committee .................................Old Main (Room 303)
Global Mission Committee ........................................Old Main (Room 21)
LYO/Youth ..........................................................Old Main (Room 132)
Ministry Support Committee ................................. Old Main (Room 117)
Outreach Committee – “Outreach through Social Media” .......... Old Main (Room 329)
Portico Benefits ......................................................... Old Main (Room 28)
Social Ministry Committee – “Refugee Resettlement” ..................Old Main (Room 5)
Multicultural Ministries/Racial Justice Task Force ..............Old Main (Room 310)
“Dance Fitness” with the Wellness Sub-Com. ..............Old Main (Forum on the 2nd floor)
(due to space limitations, this forum will be limited to 25 participants)
“Walk for Water,” sponsored by World Hunger Sub-Com. ..... front of Bergendoff Hall

4:30 p.m. Worship Rehearsal for Saturday’s Holy Communion with Ordination
(Presiders, Assisting Ministers, and Communion Assistants)........ Centennial Hall (Auditorium)
4:40 p.m. Ordination Rehearsal (Ordinands and Sponsors) .............. Centennial Hall (Auditorium)
► 5:15 p.m. The completed Disclosure Form for Nominees and the Authorization and Release for Background Checks and Screening Form from each of the seven remaining Nominees is due to the Vice-President or designee at the Registration Table, Centennial Hall Lobby.

5:30 p.m. Dinner ......................... The Gerber Center (Located in the Tredway Library)
► Shuttle service will be available between Centennial Hall and Gerber Center from 5:15–7 pm

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**Plenary Session IV**  
Centennial Hall (Auditorium)

6:50 p.m. **Gathering Hymn**  
Opening Prayer: Mr. Chuck Hoening

6:55 p.m. **Credentials Committee Report**: Mr. Russ Zeskey  
Collection of Ballot for General Elections

7:05 p.m. **Speeches by the Remaining Seven Candidates for Synodal Bishop**  
► 7:20 p.m. Deadline for Registration to be eligible to vote the Third Ballot for Synodal Bishop)

7:50 p.m. **Credentials Committee Report**: Mr. Russ Zeskey  
Prayer Prior to the Third Ballot for Synodal Bishop: Sec. Boerger  
Distribution of the Third Ballot for Synodal Bishop

8:05 p.m. **Collection of the Third Ballot for Synodal Bishop**

8:10 p.m. **Announcements**: Vice-President Bartlett  
Closing Prayer: Mr. Kent Kindelsperger

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End of Plenary Session IV
Saturday - June 18

7:15 a.m. Breakfast .................................. Gerber Center (Located in the Tredway Library)

**8:30 a.m. Prayers of Remembrance** ............................ Centennial Hall (Auditorium)
*Ms. Carla Vanatta, Associate in Ministry*

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**Plenary Session V**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Reconvne Synod Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:55 a.m.</td>
<td>Report of the Third Ballot for Synodical Bishop</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Election Committee Report of General Ballot:</strong> <em>Ms. Shirley Anderson</em></td>
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<td>(Distribute Second Ballot, if needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:05 a.m.</td>
<td>Bible Study, “Jesus, the Pray-er, in the Gospel of Luke, pt. 2”: <em>Bp. Roth</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>►9:15 a.m. <strong>Deadline for Registration to be eligible to vote the Fourth Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Question-and-Answer Time with the Three Candidates</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Credentials Committee Report:</strong> <em>Mr. Russ Zeskey</em>**</td>
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<td><strong>Prayer Prior to the Fourth Ballot for Synodical Bishop:</strong> <em>Sec. Boerger</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Distribution of the Fourth Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:25 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Collection of the Fourth Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Second General Election Ballot Collected</strong> (if needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Action on 2017 Proposed Budget:</strong> <em>Ms. Tammie Farley</em>**</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Churchwide Representative:</strong> <em>Secretary Boerger</em>**</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Resolutions Committee:</strong> <em>Dr. Randy Mullin</em>**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>►11:20 a.m. <strong>Deadline for Registration to be eligible to vote the Fifth Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Recognition of Synod Council Members Completing their Terms:</strong> <em>Bishop Wollersheim</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Report of the Fourth Ballot for Synodical Bishop and Second General Election Ballot</strong> (if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Credentials Committee Report:</strong> <em>Mr. Russ Zeskey</em>** (if a Fifth Ballot is needed)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Prayer Prior to the Fifth Ballot for Synodical Bishop:</strong> <em>Sec. Boerger</em> (if a Fifth Ballot is needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Distribution of the Fifth Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong> (if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Collection of the Fifth Ballot for Synodical Bishop</strong> (if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td><strong>Courtesy Committee Report:</strong> <em>Pastor Rebecca Gordon</em>**</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Announcements:</strong> <em>Vice-President Bill Bartlett</em>**</td>
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<td><strong>Closing Prayer:</strong> <em>Ms. Amy Laurin</em>**</td>
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</tbody>
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*End of Plenary Session V*

► Note: Lunch is Box Lunches, available in Centennial Hall Lobby and Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room)
Lunch Forums

► Choose one of the following two lunch/forum options:

**OPTION A**

12:20-12:50 p.m. *Special Interest Forum A* ........... (choose from Forums A list below)
1:00 -1:30 p.m. **Box Lunch** .................................................. Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room)

or **OPTION B**

12:20-12:50 p.m. **Box Lunch** .................................................. Bergendoff Hall (ER Band Room)
1:00 -1:30 p.m. *Special Interest Forum B* ........... (choose from Forums B list below)

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**Special Interest Forums A - 12:20 - 12:50 p.m.**

- Conversation/Questions with Bishop Wollersheim. Denkmann Hall (Wallenberg Hall)
- Campus Ministries ........................................................................... Old Main (Room 303)
  - Grace Place at Northern Illinois University (NIU)
  - Augustana College Campus Ministry
- diakonia™ Program ........................................................................... Old Main (Room 21)
- Stewardship ..................................................................................... Old Main (Room 5)
- World Hunger ................................................................................... Old Main (Room 117)
- Climate Change Task Force: Guest Speaker ........................................ Old Main (Room 223)

**Special Interest Forums B - 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

- Conversation with the Churchwide Representative
  - Secretary Boerger ................................................................. Denkmann Hall (Wallenberg Hall)
- diakonia™ Program ........................................................................... Old Main (Room 21)
- Outdoor Camping Ministries ............................................................. Old Main (Room 303)
  - Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center
  - Lutherdale Ministries
- Stewardship ..................................................................................... Old Main (Room 5)
- NIS Women of the ELCA ............................................................... Old Main (Room 310)
- World Hunger ................................................................................... Old Main (Room 117)
- Climate Change Task Force: Resources ............................................. Old Main (Room 223)
Plenary Session VI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Gathering Hymn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Reception of Freedom Lutheran Church, Oregon, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Report of the Fifth Ballot for Synodical Bishop (if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Holy Communion with Ordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing of Synod Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Plenary Session VI

3:30 p.m. Reception for Newly-Elected Synodical Bishop

The offering is designated to be divided between the “Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leaders Educational Debt Reduction Fund” and the “Polly Wollersheim Fund for Literacy – Arcot Lutheran Church, India.” Please make checks payable to “Northern Illinois Synod” and note at bottom of check for “Synod Assembly Offering.”

Mark your calendars:
Northern Illinois Synod - Thirtieth Annual Synod Assembly
June 16-17, 2017
Letter from the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton
ELCA Presiding Bishop

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”
– John 3:16

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

John 3:16, perhaps one of the most quoted passages in the New Testament, hangs on bed sheets in football stadiums; it is almost ubiquitous. It is also true. If God so loves the world, we should too. Lutherans show up – as Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and as The Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

We are church for the sake of the world.

In our congregations we address hunger and poverty through food pantries and community gardens, in health care clinics and job training programs. We foster unity among the children of God in relationship with our ecumenical and inter-religious partners. Together, with our companions in Central America, we are working with unaccompanied minors and the conditions in their countries of origin that force these children to flee. Through LWF, we support Syrian refugees in Jordan who are living in Za’atari camp, provide education and child protection assistance to Sudanese refugees, and offer specialty care at the Augusta Victoria Hospital for Palestinians.

We have surpassed our fundraising commitment to eradicate malaria and bring about lasting change. Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA will emphasize ELCA World Hunger this year to support our comprehensive approach to solve challenges that perpetuate hunger and poverty. All of this good and hard, sometimes dangerous, work is the work we are able to do because we are church abiding in Christ – God’s beloved people gathered around word and sacrament.

We are church for the sake of the world.

In preparation for the 500th anniversary observance of the Reformation, I encourage you to visit ELCA500.org for more information and resources. One of the featured events for the 500th anniversary is the Grace Gathering in conjunction with the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Come experience a churchwide assembly, be centered in God's word, participate in experiential learning, hear Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee, attend workshops to equip you in observing the 500th anniversary in your local ministry setting and much more! You can register today at ELCA.org/GraceGathering.

On Sept. 11, our country will be remembering the lives lost and the lives forever changed by the tragic events 15 years ago. The events affected all of us, and it will be an important moment for us to be together as a church and with all people of faith.
Part of our “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday on Sept. 11 is a chance for us to show up as Lutherans, freed and renewed in Christ, to serve and love our neighbor.

We are church for the sake of the world.

As we gather in our assemblies, let us be a faithful witness to God's work in our local communities, across the country and around the world. I am hopeful that our time together in assembly will be an opportunity for us to get to know each other and come together as a church. This is a good time for us to talk about the priorities and future directions of the ELCA.

I will be leading a process endorsed by the ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to discern in faith the future of the ELCA. Through an initiative titled Called Forward Together in Christ, we'll be assessing where we are as God's people and working to understand what God has in store for us. I am inviting you to take part in a conversation about the future of this church. For more information or to get involved, visit ELCA.org/future.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement. As I am out and about in my travels, I am reminded that no one of us does God’s work alone, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a partner with you in that service. Thank you for your leadership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

God's blessings to you as you gather as the living body of Christ. May you be guided by the Spirit as you do God’s will for God’s people.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Report of the Rev. Dr. Gary M. Wollersheim, Bishop

In this, my last report to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, I wish to take the opportunity to give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings which I have received while serving as your bishop for the last 18 years.

I give God thanks for the pastors and congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod who have very faithfully proclaimed the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

I give God thanks for the great generosity of congregations and individuals who have enabled the synod to maintain a 55% Mission Support level so that Christ could be proclaimed throughout the synod, the ELCA, our companion synods in Africa and India and beyond through the Lutheran World Federation across the entire world.

I give God thanks for the Churchwide Organization of the ELCA and for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Secretary Chis Boeger and for all the staff.

I give God thanks for our companion synod relationships with the North Central Diocese of Tanzania, and the Arcot Lutheran Church in India. We have learned much from our colleagues, and we have been encouraged in our mutual mission.

I give God thanks for the Agencies and Institutions of the Church, especially: Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Augustana College, our Seminaries, and Lutheran Campus Ministries.

I give God thanks for your prayers which have uplifted the work of the synod and your prayers for the staff, Polly and me. I think I will miss this the most.

I give God thanks for the leaders in the synod: Conference Deans, synod committee members, and the Synod Council. Especially to the synod officers, Vice President Bill Bartlett, Secretary Mark Luepke, and Treasurer Tammie Farley.

I give God thanks for the outstanding and dedicated synod staff:

Full-time Assistants: Pastor Jeff Clements and Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann.

Assistant to the Bishop and Director, Evangelical Mission: Pastor Gary Erickson (deployed by the Churchwide organization).

Part-time Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship & Development: Pastor Kurt Nordby.


Part-time Communication Director: Ms. Karin Graddy, Associate in Ministry.

Administrative Staff: Ms. June Cain, Bookkeeper & Administrative Assistant; Ms. Nancy Corey, Synod Registrar & Office Manager, Rock Island; and Ms. Julie Lewis, Executive Secretary to the Bishop/Office Manager.

I give God thanks for God's call to serve as pastor of this wonderful synod and for what that has been: joyous, difficult, humbling and amazing.

I give God thanks for my partner in this work and in life, Polly. I could not have done it without her love and support. The first time I saw Presiding Bishop Eaton after I announced my retirement she hugged me and said, “Gary, don't go, don't go, don't go; but if you must retire, can we keep Polly?”

Finally, these words written by St. Paul to the church at Philippi apply to you.
Report of the Bishop

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1: 3-6

In Christ,

Gary Wollersheim, Bishop

Anniversaries of Rostered Leaders

30 Years  The Rev. Michael Lawyer and The Rev. Roger Hurlbut
50 Years  The Rev. Dell Olson and The Rev. Richard Housman
65 Years  The Rev. Milton Whitney

Rostered Leaders Who Have Retired in the Past Year

The Rev. Bruce Booher  34 Years  The Rev. Keith Killinger  40 Years
The Rev. Garry Briesacher  37 Years  The Rev. Jeffrey King  31 Years
The Rev, Kathy Burkleimer  26 Years  The Rev. Henrietta Milner  35 Years
The Rev. Paul Carlson  40 Years  Ms. Bette Mohr  32 Years
The Rev. John Heins  45 Years  The Rev. Roger Schneider  50 Years
The Rev. Roger Helgren  30 Years  The Rev. David Vidler  49 Years
The Rev. Tom Jacoby  20 Years  The Rev. Dorothy Wilcox  10 Years
Report of the Synod Vice President

This year has been very interesting and extremely busy. The election of a new bishop has taken up a lot of time and energy. We still had to do all of the normal work of the synod and at the same time plan for an election, a celebration for the outgoing bishop and a celebration for the new bishop and the installation of the new bishop. I’m sure some of you have heard a lot about this over the last year. I can assure you of one thing: nobody has heard more about it than the folks on the transition team. These folks have worked tirelessly to make sure that this election is totally transparent and that people in our synod are kept informed about the process. If you see them at assembly or in your congregation, please take the time to tell them thank you for their hard work. The people on the transition team are as follows; Ms. Shirley Anderson, Pr. Marilyn Hanson, Pr. Troy Hedrick, Dr. Randy Mullin, Ms. Nancy Oehlert, Pr. Nord Swanson, Pr. Don Knowles, Pr. Andy Tyrell and Ds. Cheryl Erdmann (staff liaison), Ms. Julie Lewis (ex-officio), and Ms. Karin Graddy (ex-officio).

Our new bishop will inherit a synod on firm financial ground with a strong staff and synod council with wonderful leaders across the synod who understand what it means to be the church. There are numerous challenges to be sure: declining numbers a shortage of pastors etc. But we are on firm ground and God will guide us where God wants us to go. As Bishop Wollersheim has said many times, “This is God’s Church not ours” and at the end of the day things will be OK.

Bishop Chris Boerger will be chairing the election process at our assembly and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be installing our new bishop on September 24 at 10:00 A.M. at First Lutheran in Rockford.

This is a very important time in our Church. The person we elect at this year’s Assembly will lead us for at least the next six years, possibly longer. Please pray for our team, the voting members, the Assembly, and our synod as we go through this spirit-led and spirit-driven process.

Peace,

Bill Bartlett
Report of the Secretary

It continues to be a pleasure to serve the Lord and the Church in and through the office of Secretary of the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. My primary responsibilities continue to consist of serving on and contributing to the work of the Synod Council and Executive Committee of the synod, taking minutes of the proceedings of these meetings and the Synod Assembly, drafting and sending letters of correspondence and business on behalf of the Council, signing letters of call from the Synod Council to specialized positions of ministry within the synod, and providing reports of the actions of the Synod Council to those attending the assemblies of the synod.

It is always a blessing to work with the staff of the Northern Illinois Synod, and I am very thankful for their work that supports the work I have been elected to do. Additionally, as Bishop Wollersheim’s final term of service comes to an end, I give special thanks for his leadership. I give thanks not only for his leadership of the Northern Illinois Synod, but also for his guidance and support of me as a parish pastor, as a Synod Council member, and, in these past six years, as the secretary of the synod.

*When I was installed as the pastor of the congregation I currently serve, just over twenty years ago, then Assistant to the Bishop Gary Wollersheim gifted me with a book written by William C. Martin entitled “The Art of Pastoring: Contemplative Reflections.” The brief reflections within this book have been helpful at different times throughout the years. I now share one of these reflections with gratitude for and thoughts of our bishop as he nears the conclusion of his eighteen years of service as our bishop.*

“Power will not make the people holy. You cannot impose anything. Impose happiness and people are miserable. Impose great dreams, and people feel like failures. Impose righteousness, and people become sinners.

Merely serve as an example. Your tolerance and acceptance create serenity and comfort. Your straightforwardness creates security and honesty. Your light shines, but never blinds. It illuminates others, and is not seen of itself.”

In gratitude for the opportunity to serve in the light and name of Jesus Christ,

Pastor Mark S. Luepke
Secretary of the Synod
2015 NIS Assembly Minutes

Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Twenty-Eighth Annual Assembly
June 19-20, 2015
Centennial Hall, Augustana College
Rock Island, Illinois

First Plenary Session – Friday, June 19, 2015
(Note: the abbreviation “BOR” indicates the “Bulletin of Reports.” Resolutions are noted with an “R” followed by a number. The actions of the Assembly are indexed, with the index of actions located at the end of the minutes.)

Opening of the Assembly – After a time of worship that began at 10:00 a.m., Bishop Gary Wollersheim led the “Order for Opening of a Synod Assembly” and declared the Assembly to be in session. He then shared a word of welcome and a bit about what he sees as the purposes and function of a Synod Assembly, as well as some logistical changes this year.

Introductions – Before introducing some special guests and partners in ministry, Bishop Wollersheim introduced Steven Bahls, President of Augustana College. President Bahls welcomed the Assembly to Augustana and shared some of what has been happening and will be happening at Augustana.

Bishop Wollersheim then introduced the following:

Churchwide Representative: Bishop Wilma Kuchar, Slovak Zion Synod
Bible Study Leader: The Reverend Dr. James Nieman, President of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Portico Benefit Services: Ms. Jennifer Prinz, Regional Representative
Interns serving in the Northern Illinois Synod
diakonia™: Dr. Denise Rode, Chairperson
ELCA Region 5: The Rev. Ramie Bakken, Coordinator for Missional Leadership
ELCA Foundation: Mr. Michael Dixon, Regional Gift Planner
Illowa Lutheran Coalition: The Reverend Ron Ferrell, Director
Lutherdale Ministries: Mr. Jeff Bluhm, Executive Director
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center: Mr. Russ Senti, Executive Director and Mr. Jesse Klosterboer, Development Director
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois: Mr. Mark Stutrud, Chief Executive Officer
Mosaic: Ms. Brook Genna, Community Relations Manager
Northern Illinois Synod Women’s Organization: Mrs. Pat Msseemaa, President
ELCA Church Council Representative: Mr. Vernon Veal, St. John’s Bloomington, Central/Southern Illinois Synod
Host Congregations: Salem Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran, and First Lutheran Churches of Moline
Grace Place@ NIU: The Reverend Amy Fallon, Campus Pastor
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago: Mr. Clyde Walter, Campaign Director & Major Gift Officer
Wartburg Theological Seminary: Ms. Janelle Koepke, Vice President for Mission Support
Head Table: Mr. Bill Bartlett (NIS Vice-President); Mr. Dave Klintworth (NIS Treasurer); Pastor Mark Luepke (NIS Secretary); Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann (Assistant to the Bishop); Pastor Pat Esker (Parliamentarian)

Credentials Committee Report – Pr. Janet Lepp, chair of the Credentials Committee, thanked the members of the committee and reported that the following were in attendance: 93 active ordained and 18 retired for a total of 111 ordained; one diaconal minister; eight Associates in Ministry and three retired Associates in Ministry; 226 lay members; eighteen youth and young adult voting members; for a total of 256 non-ordained. 58 visitors and two “on-leave-from-call” rostered leaders. 30.2% ordained and 69.8% lay voting members. Grand total in attendance: 427.

Adoption of the Rules of the Assembly – Secretary Mark Luepke, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved the adoption of the rules of the Assembly, as found on pages two through seven in the BOR. Bishop Wollersheim and Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Jeffrey Clements, shared an example of how the microphones and some parliamentary procedure works.

ACTION SA-15-06-01 – The rules of the Assembly were adopted without objection.

Assembly Committee Appointments – Secretary Luepke was called upon to share the names of the Assembly’s committee appointments, as follows.

Courtesy Committee: The Rev. Christine Schoon (chair) and Mr. Richard Brynteson

Election Committee: Mr. Karl Bronn, the Rev. Lisa Burbank, the Rev. Jana Howson, the Rev. Nord Swanstrom (chair) and Dr. David Renneke (advisor)

Parliamentarian: The Rev. Pat Esker

Credentials Committee: The Rev. Janet Lepp (chair), Mr. Joel Thoreson and Mr. Ivan Guldenpfennig

Minutes Review Committee: The Rev. Linda Winkelman (chair) and Mr. Charles Dix

Resolutions Committee: Ms. Sue Dirks, Mr. Brandon Graves, the Rev. Pam Marolla, Dr. Randy Mullin (chair), the Rev. Pat Esker (parliamentarian), the Rev. Jeffrey Clements (staff liaison)

Adoption of the Agenda – Secretary Luepke, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the agenda for the Synod Assembly, prepared by the council and found on pages 8-15 of the BOR be adopted as the agenda for the 2015 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly.

ACTION SA-15-06-02 – The motion to adopt the agenda was approved.

Installation of LYO Officers – The bishop called on Pr. Jeffrey Clements to introduce the new officers of the LYO and their adult sponsors. President: Sabrina Webb; Vice-President: Faith Garnhart; Secretary: Julianna Johnson; Adult Supervisors: Audrey Adams, George Davis, Peg Miller. Bishop Wollersheim and Pr. Clements then led a liturgy of installation of the LYO officers and the Assembly gave their affirmation through applause. Vice-President Bartlett shared a gift with each LYO member and the youth, in turn, gave the bishop an NIS LYO t-shirt for Synod Day at the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Nominating Committee Report – The Nominating Committee Chair, Mr. Andy Bellavia, was called upon for the committee’s report. The Assembly was directed to page 98 of the BOR for the report and the list of nominations printed in the subsequent pages of the BOR. Nominees for positions in the following categories
were then read: Synod Council, Congregational Life Committee, Global Mission Committee, Ministry Support Committee, Outreach Committee, Social Ministry Committee, Consultation Committee, Discipline Committee, and Churchwide Assembly voting members.

Bishop Wollersheim then called for nominations from the floor and received none. Mr. Bellavia then moved the nominations from the Nominating Committee as the official ballot of the Assembly.

**ACTION SA-15-06-03** – The nominations presented by the Nominating Committee were approved by the Assembly as the official ballot of the Synod Assembly.

**Distribution of the Ballot** – Pr. Nord Swanstrom was called forward to provide an explanation of the balloting process and the bishop directed the tellers to distribute the ballots. The bishop expressed his gratitude for those willing to serve.

**Announcements and Closing Prayer** – Bishop Wollersheim then declared Plenary Session #1 closed at 11:55 a.m. Pr. Jeffrey Clements shared some announcements and Pr. Lucy Wynard, (Open Arms, Rockton), led a closing prayer.

### Second Plenary Session – Friday, June 19, 2015

**Gathering Hymn and Prayer** – After the Assembly sang “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”, Pr. Zachary Wagner, (Grace, Wilmington), led the Assembly in prayer. Bishop Wollersheim declared Plenary Session #2 to be open for business at 1:30 p.m.

**Credentials Committee Report** – Pr. Janet Lepp reported that 407 voting members were present; 135 ordained (33.2%) and 272 lay members (66.8%). The bishop declared a quorum was present.

Deaconess Erdmann was called forth for an announcement regarding the election process and some discrepancies in how the nominees’ biographical information and numbering was listed. New ballots were distributed.

**Bishop’s Report** – Bishop Wollersheim called on Vice-President Bartlett to take the chair as the bishop shared the bishop’s report. He started with some reflections on the heart-breaking, tragic killings at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. He asked pastors and congregations to lift up this congregation and the families in their prayers and to address racism in the congregations of the synod. He then led the Assembly in prayer. The bishop then shared a video report which focused on giving thanks and recognizing challenges.

Bishop Wollersheim introduced Mr. Mark Stutrud, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Mr. Stutrud addressed the Assembly, briefly sharing some of the history, “vocation”, challenges and priorities of LSSI. His remarks were received with applause.

Bishop Wollersheim and Pr. Clements welcomed pastors and rostered leaders new to the synod in the past year. These include: The Reverends Lisa Burbank, Jill Flynn, Jamie Gallagher, Katie Gallagher, Kristen Glass Perez, Rebekkah Lohrmann, Vincent Marolla, Wanda McNeill, David Turner, Zachary Wagner, Lucy Wynard, Ms. Linda Schmidt and the Reverend-elect Julane Nease.

Pr. Clements then shared the names of those celebrating ordinations and commissionings – in five-year increments. They were invited to stand and were affirmed with the applause of the Assembly.
Vice-President’s Report – Mr. Bill Bartlett gave thanks for the Assembly participants’ presence and commitment. He asked past officers to stand as he gave thanks for their work in the Northern Illinois Synod. He invited increased participation in the workings of the Assembly and, learning more about the mission and ministry of the ELCA, hoped that all would give thanks to God. He encouraged each individual to go home and tell the story of the ministry of the Northern Illinois Synod and the ELCA. He then invited the Assembly to join with him in singing “I Love to Tell the Story.”

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Dave Klintworth shared that the synod needs funds to support its various ministries. He thanked the staff, especially June Cain, for their help and support. He directed attention to his report on page 41 of the BOR and a pie chart on page 44 that showed how monies are distributed. He reported that outside auditors have given the synod a “clear opinion.” He directed the Assembly member’s attention to the balance sheet on page 42 of the BOR and gave some explanation. He briefly touched on the budget as shared on page 43 of the BOR and the budget explanation notes on pages 45-48. The bishop thanked Mr. Klintworth for his service in his term as treasurer and the Assembly joined in giving thanks with their applause.

Secretary Luepke, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the report of the Treasurer be received with thanks. The report was again received with thanks.

First Reading of the 2016 Proposed Budget – Secretary Luepke, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the budget prepared by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Synod Council, as it appears on page 43 in the BOR, be adopted as the budget for fiscal year 2016 for the Northern Illinois Synod. It was announced that this motion would be acted on later within the Assembly.

Secretary’s Report – Secretary Luepke indicated that his report could be found on page 24 of the BOR.

Certification of the 2014 Synod Assembly Minutes – Ms. Judy Engebretson reported that the Minutes Review Committee had reviewed the minutes and found them to be a fair and accurate representation of the proceedings of the 2014 Assembly. Bishop Wollersheim invited questions or corrections from the floor.

Dr. Ann Boaden (St. John’s, Rock Island) pointed out that Steven Bahl’s name is spelled with a “v” and not a “ph”. The bishop invited this correction to be made with unanimous consent.

Reverend-elect Julane Nease noted that, while a member of Zion, Belvidere, her internship was served at Zion, Rockford. This also was corrected by unanimous consent.

ACTION SA-15-06-04 – The minutes of the 2014 Synod Assembly were adopted as corrected.

Synod Council Report – Secretary Luepke presented the report of the Synod Council as found on pages 37-40 of the BOR. The Bishop declared that this report, a history of the actions of God through the Council, was received.

Bible Study – Rev. Dr. James Nieman was called on to continue to speak on “vocation” – continuing what he had shared in the lunchtime forums – with an emphasis this time on “discipleship.” His address was received with applause.

Bishop Wollersheim then announced that if individuals had not received a second ballot, they should come forward to receive one from Pr. Nord Swanstrom.
The bishop then introduced Ms. Jennifer Prinz, Regional Representative of Portico Benefit Services. She shared a bit of what Portico does to serve ELCA leaders and how congregations can help to do so. Her remarks were received with applause.

**Churchwide Representative** – Bishop Wollersheim introduced Bishop Wilma Kucharek, Bishop of the Slovak Zion Synod. She spoke of God’s call to Abraham and Sarah to “get up and go.” Also, God’s call to Samuel and Samuel’s answer “Here I am.” And Jesus’ call to “Go and make disciples.” The church is called to get up and go, here I am, send me. “We are Church.” She also thanked Bishop and Polly Wollersheim for their faithful service in the Northern Illinois Synod. She noted that people, congregations, and synods are distinctly different – giving thanks for the mission support gifts and faithfulness of the Northern Illinois Synod. She then lifted up a number of ministries that are funded by and supported by NIS congregations and individuals.

A “We Are Church” video was shown, narrated by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Bishop Kucharek then lifted up “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sundays; the ELCA Malaria Campaign; the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit; the ELCA’s observance of the upcoming 500-year anniversary of the Reformation; new congregations and new ministries; seminary support; missionaries and young adults in global mission; scholarships for young international leaders; ELCA World Hunger programs and projects; and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Encouraging the members of the Synod to not just be keepers of the aquarium, but to be out there fishing, Bishop Kucharek brought her remarks to a close with prayer. She was thanked with the Assembly's applause.

**Resolutions Committee** – Bishop Wollersheim invited Dr. Randy Mullin to come forward to present one of the resolutions coming through the Resolutions Committee. Dr. Mullin then read the three resolves of R-1 – “Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in Illinois – Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University.” Dr. Mullin indicated that adoption of this resolution (as follows) is recommended by the committee.

**R-1 - Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in Illinois**

**Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University**

**WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites in Illinois:

- provide vital ministry and loving community to university campuses across the state; and
- invite people in academic settings more deeply into Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples; and
- offer a welcoming presence to all; and

**WHEREAS**, these sites are providing an important voice of faith and grace to students, staff, and faculty at Northern Illinois University, University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Illinois State University, South Loop Universities, and the University of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of professional leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America cite Lutheran Campus Ministry as instrumental in assisting them in discerning their call to professional ministry in this church; and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA Social Statement on Education, Our Calling in Education, adopted as amended by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly by a vote of 949-35, reminds
us that Martin Luther “taught that education served the common good of Church and society:” and

**WHEREAS**, Our Calling in Education “calls the ELCA in light of our faith to engage, deliberate, and act with respect to four contexts: home and congregation, public education, this church’s educational institutions, and public colleges and universities,” and, in relation to that calling to “support public higher education to serve the common good and rejoice in the faithful presence of campus ministry in public colleges and universities”; and

**WHEREAS**, Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University and other members of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois are already actively engaged in raising additional funds to sustain these vital ministries; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of Northern Illinois Synod congregations consider making a second-mile gift to Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois (which supports sites across the state); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod encourage its congregations to hold a Campus Ministry Sunday at least once a year to lift up campus pastors, campus ministries, and the cooperating congregations across the state of Illinois who minister to and with the students, faculty, and staff of Illinois colleges and universities with a focus on Grace Place Campus Ministry at NIU; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod and the Synod Council be commended for their efforts to seek cooperation and effective partnership in campus ministry with our full communion partners.

Pr. Tom Rogers, (Redeemer, Woodstock), spoke in favor of R-1. He noted he has witnessed the outreach of campus ministry at NIU Grace Place. He asked for continued support of this important ministry at NIU.

Seeing no one else seeking to speak, Bishop Wollersheim called for the vote.

**ACTION SA-15-06-05** – R-1 (“Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in Illinois – Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University”) was passed as written.

Dr. Mullin then read the five resolves of R-2 – “Criminal Justice Resolution 2015.” He noted that the Resolutions Committee recommended adoption of R-2.

**R-2 - Criminal Justice Resolution 2015**

**WHEREAS**, Illinois Prisons operate at 172.6% of design capacity, and are second only to Alabama in terms of being overcrowded; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Jail serves as the largest mental health care provider in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, almost 70 percent of all Illinois inmates are in prison for non-violent crime; and

**WHEREAS**, because budget cuts have eliminated services and educational programs that would prepare inmates for their reentry to society; and

**WHEREAS**, offenders face great obstacles when they return to society which make it difficult to secure housing and employment resulting in a recidivism rate higher than the U.S. average: in 2011, 51.7% of released prisoners returned to prison within three years versus the national average of 43.3%; and
WHEREAS, both the General Assembly and the Governor recognize the need for comprehensive reform: The Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee was created in the last session and was reconstituted in this session; and Governor Rauner has appointed a 28-member Criminal Justice Reform Commission; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Advocacy connects faith with public life, endeavors to further God’s work in our world by advancing the common good, and represents a valuable tool to members of the ELCA as we do advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the Social Statement on The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries was adopted in 2013 at the 13th biennial Churchwide Assembly and gives direction for action; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to read and study the Social Statement, The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations and members discuss how they might serve those involved in the Criminal Justice system, whether offenders or victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations become acquainted with the criminal justice ministries provided by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of congregations be encouraged to join Lutheran Advocacy in order to engage in this ministry more effectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of congregations encourage their lawmakers to support criminal justice legislation that focuses on the restoration of offenders to society and to oppose punitive measures that make it difficult for offenders to make successful return to society.

Pr. Paul Carlson, (New Life, Bolingbrook), spoke in favor of R-2. He shared that he is a member of Illinois Advocacy and part of their task is to speak on behalf of those who have no voice. As Christians, we need to be concerned with criminal justice issues. This resolution echoes the ELCA social statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries.” He encouraged congregations and members of the synod to help the needy in the criminal justice system.

After inviting other comments, and having no other speakers come forward, Bishop Wollersheim called for the vote.

ACTION SA-15-06-06 – R-2 (“Criminal Justice Resolution 2015”) was passed as written.

Dr. Mullin read the two resolves of R-3 – “Divestment/Investment: A Response to Climate Change.”

R-3 - Divestment/Investment: A Response to Climate Change

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change, a mega-review of 30,000 climate change studies, came out on Nov. 2, 2014 saying, “Climate change is happening. It’s almost entirely man’s fault and limiting its impacts may require reducing greenhouse gas emissions to ZERO this century for the world to have a decent chance of keeping the temperature rise below a level that many consider dangerous!” The IPCC chair said, “We have the means to limit climate change, all we need is the will to change”; and

WHEREAS, NASA top climate scientist, Dr. James Hansen, stated that 350 parts per million of CO2 would be sustainable for life on Earth. It has become 400! We continue to explore new sources of oil & gas that we cannot burn without leaving our grandchildren an untenable Creation; and
WHEREAS, we are already experiencing the impacts of climate change: rising sea levels; warmer, more acidic oceans; melting glaciers & sea ice; coastal storm surges, flooding; severe heat, drought, & wildfires; habitat & agricultural disruption; spread of disease; U.S. cities below sea level by mid-century; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC report said the costs associated with shifting our energy system to solar, wind power, and renewable sources and improving energy efficiency would reduce our economic growth ONLY by 0.06% annually!; and

WHEREAS, “the Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” Psalm 24:1. We care for God’s creation (the Glory of God) as a sacred trust, to enjoy it, see God’s presence there, and protect it from abuse. Jesus said that when you care for one of the least of these among you, you care for me. The least are the most vulnerable: the poor, the children, the indigenous people, God’s animals, plants, creatures…all at risk; and

WHEREAS, if it is wrong to damage the Creation, then it is also wrong to profit from the wreckage. This is morally reckless. We saw how divestment from South Africa during apartheid empowered a movement toward justice and reconciliation there; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod encourage its members, its congregations, and its institutions to divest from fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) and invest in renewable sources of energy and other investments that are not a threat to God’s Creation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to request that a Corporate Social Responsibility screen be developed that would exclude investment in companies that produce fossil fuels and that funds that would have been invested in these companies be invested in companies that are developing sources of renewable energy.

Dr. Mullin indicated that this resolution was being forwarded without recommendation by the Resolutions Committee. With the end of the current plenary session approaching, Bishop Wollersheim announced that this resolution would be discussed and acted upon the next day.

Collection of Ballots – The bishop called for the collection of the Assembly’s ballots.

Pr. Clements was called upon to share announcements. After doing so, Pr. Neal Cannon, (Christ Lutheran, Belvidere), led a closing prayer and Bishop Wollersheim declared Plenary Session #2 closed at 4:09 p.m.

Third Plenary Session – Saturday, June 20, 2015

After a time of worship at 8:30 a.m. with prayers of remembrance, Bishop Gary Wollersheim called Plenary Session #3 into session.

Credentials Committee Report – Pr. Janet Lepp reported the following were in attendance: 122 active ordained and 21 retired ordained for a total of 143 ordained; one diaconal minister, eight Associates in Ministry, three retired Associates in Ministry, 247 lay, 18 youth and young adult for a total of 277 lay members. 34% ordained and 66% lay voting members. Also 67 registered visitors, three on leave from call rostered leaders for a grand total of 490 in attendance.

Election Committee Report – Pr. Nord Swanstrom was called on to share results from the previous day’s ballot vote. The results are as follows:

Synod Council: Treasurer (4-year term) – Tamara Farley
Synod Council: Laity (3-year term) – Minnette Scott
Synod Council: Laity (3-year term) – George Davis
Synod Council: Clergy (3-year term) – Don Knowles
Synod Council: Clergy (3-year term) – Jeffrey Fricke
Synod Council: Youth Representative (1-year term) – Soraya Dorvilier
Congregational Life Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Kay Johnson
Congregational Life Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Walt Farley
Global Mission Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Art Milton
Global Mission Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Amy Nyman
Global Mission Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Daniel Wynard
Ministry Support Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Carol Swenson
Ministry Support Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Daryl Stienstra
Ministry Support Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Brandon Nelson
Outreach Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – TroyAnn Poulopolous
Outreach Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Rob James
Social Ministry Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Thomas Ekstrand
Social Ministry Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Scott Ralston
Social Ministry Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Patrick Rhody
Consultation Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Mindy Lemonholm
Consultation Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Alan Wold
Consultation Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Miranda Klosterboer
Consultation Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Nord Swanstrom
Discipline Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Cindy Loken
Discipline Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Herb Kober
Discipline Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Joy Alsop
Discipline Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Robert Franek

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – At Large

Laity Female – Youth/Young Adult: Grace Heimerdinger
Laity Female: no election; second ballot needed.
Laity Male: no election; second ballot needed.
Laity Male – Youth/Young Adult: Justin Wilson
Laity Male: Dennis Bischke
Clergy Male: Andy Tyrell
Youth/Young Adult: Brandon Graves
Person of Color/First Language Other Than English: Megan Scott

Ballots were distributed for the second ballot that was needed for two positions where no nominee received a majority vote. Completed ballots were then collected shortly after distribution.

Bible Study – Bishop Wollersheim invited the Rev. Dr. James Nieman to come forward and continue his presentation on vocation and humility. His presentation was received with applause from the Assembly. The bishop then, in appreciation for Dr. Nieman’s presentations, gave him a gift made in Tanzania.

2016 Budget Proposal – Bishop Wollersheim called on the Synod Treasurer, Mr. Dave Klintworth, as the budget was brought forward for action.

Mr. Brandon Graves, (Salem, Sycamore), offered an amendment to the budget proposal. The amendment was to change line 23 (Salaries) from $439,804 to $430,197 and line 35 (Difference Between Income & Expenses) from $0 to $9,607 and line 34 (Total Expenses) from $2,381,400 to $2,371,793. After the motion to amend was seconded, he spoke to it, sharing that he feels that many congregations can’t give staff
raises and that raises may then not be in order for the synod staff — at least not right now.

Pr. Sarah Wilson, (St. John’s, Hebron), spoke against the amendment. She feels that the staff works very hard and are the leaders of the synod. She therefore feels that it is wrong to ask for this cut in the proposed budget.

Pr. Andrew Kayes, (Emmanuel, Oregon), also spoke against the amendment. He shared that staff has been cut and current staff are being asked to do more. He also feels that, if this amendment would pass, an attitude of scarcity could trickle down to congregations and other ministries.

Mr. Bill Bartlett, (Christ Lutheran, Belvidere), also spoke against the amendment, sharing that when funds have not been available, the synod staff has not received raises. He said that we need to compensate the good folks who serve on the synod staff.

Seeing no one else ready to speak, Bishop Wollersheim called for a vote. The amendment lost on a voice vote. The vote was then taken on the 2016 budget proposal.

**ACTION SA-15-06-07** – The 2016 Proposed Budget was approved as presented.

Bishop Wollersheim made note of and recognized the retirement of Pastor Ralph Kuespert in this past year.

**2016 Salary Guidelines** – Secretary Luepke, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the 2016 Salary Guidelines for pastors, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry, recommended by the Ministry Support Committee and approved by the Synod Council, be adopted.

**ACTION SA-15-06-08** – The 2016 Salary Guidelines were approved.

**Honor 50th Ordination Anniversaries** – Bishop Wollersheim called on Pr. Jay Quinn, (Trinity, Rockford), to introduce the Rev. Howard Jacobson and the Rev. Roger Schneider in order for the Assembly to honor the 50th anniversaries of their ordination. Pr. Quinn shared some biographical and service information about each and the bishop presented them with a certificate in recognition of their years of service and ordination anniversary. They both briefly addressed the Assembly and the Assembly shared their appreciation of their service through applause.

**Second Ballot Results** – Bishop Wollersheim announced the results of the second ballot.

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – At Large
Laity Female – Marti Bein
Laity Male – Trenton Ferro

**Churchwide Representative** – Bishop Wollersheim welcomed Bishop Wilma Kucharek to the podium to answer questions as the Churchwide representative at the Assembly. She shared that two questions were submitted: 1) Why are there so many Lutheran churches in Slovakia? 2) Please share the history and explanation of the Slovak Zion Synod – a non-geographical synod of the ELCA. She shared that Lutheran Slovaks trace their heritage to Jon Huss – a pre-reformer. Lutheran once said: “We are all Hussites.” She shared some history of the heritage and development – often in the face of persecution and oppression – of the Lutheran Church in Slovakia. She also shared regarding the support of the church in Slovakia by Lutherans in the United States and through the ministry of the Slovak Zion Synod of the ELCA. Bishop
Kucharek was thanked with applause as well as a gift of appreciation from Bishop Wollersheim on behalf of the Northern Illinois Synod.

**Resolutions Committee** – Dr. Randy Mullin was called forward and R-3 – “Divestment/Investment: A Response to Climate Change” – which was introduced in Plenary Session #2, was brought forward for discussion.

Pr. Jim Roberts, (Emmanuel, Rockford), spoke in favor of the resolution. He mentioned two synods that recently voted at synod assemblies to divest of fossil fuels. There is a spiritual movement in the world to act on this issue.

Pr. Mark Oehlert, (St. John, Sterling), agreed with the spirit of the resolution. However, he shared that we currently have voting rights in corporations and boards, rights we would lose if we divested. He moved to refer this resolution to the NIS Social Ministry Committee. After this motion was seconded, he indicated that he would prefer more thought on this concern and wondered about other options.

Mr. Larry Cording, (Shepherd of the Hills, Scales Mound), felt that geothermal and hydropower also needed to be considered.

Pr. Tammy Anderson, (Immanuel, Earlville), raised a question: If this comes back to the 2016 NIS Assembly, would we have enough time to memorialize this to that summer’s Churchwide Assembly?

Bishop Wilma Kucharek responded that she believed the Northern Illinois Synod would still have time to get it to Churchwide for the Assembly. Bishop Wollersheim shared that the Synod could pre-notify the ELCA of this possible action.

Pr. Jim Roberts, (Emmanuel, Rockford), spoke against referring this resolution. He feels that studies have already been done and wondered if we are equipped to do the study needed.

Pr. Don Knowles, (Calvary, Moline), asked about the possibility of an amendment to the motion to refer R-3 to the Social Ministry Committee – to the effect that the committee would then make a recommendation to the Synod Council for action. He then offered an amendment that the Social Ministry Committee make a recommendation to the Synod Council upon which the Council could act. There was a second to the amendment.

Pr. Susan Davenport, (Christ, Stockton), spoke against the amendment to refer because she feels that this Assembly should have opportunity to speak to this resolution.

Pr. Jeff Schlesinger, (Freedom, Oregon), shared that he is in favor of this going to the Synod Council, but also wants it brought back to the Assembly so that the Assembly can discuss and vote on this. He shared this request.

Pr. Robin Caldwell, (St. John, Joliet), spoke against the amendment to refer, feeling that time is of the essence on this matter. She then spoke to the resolution itself, prompting the bishop to request that she share her thoughts when the resolution itself would be debated.

Pr. Michel Clark, (Grace, Knoxville), moved the previous question. After the bishop explained that this was a vote on ending debate on the amendment to the motion to refer, the Assembly voted to end the debate.

Pr. Scott Ralston, (Faith, Forreston), raised a point of order, seeking clarification on the motion to refer and the amendment – receiving affirmation that the motion to refer is to the Social Ministry Committee first and the amendment is that it would then be sent to the Synod Council.
Bishop Wollersheim then called for the vote on the amendment to the referral motion. Before doing so, a question was raised.

Mr. Mike Metcalf, (Cross & Crown, Roscoe), asked a question regarding what exactly the Assembly was now voting on.

Dr. Randy Mullin explained that we are voting on a second-order amendment, voting on Pastor Knowles’ amendment regarding the Synod Council.

A request was made for the wording of the amendment. Secretary Luepke was called on to share the amendment, which was that the Social Ministry Committee send this to the Synod Council with the authority to act on it. Pr. Knowles was asked to comment. He indicated that his motion was that the resolution go from the Social Ministry Committee to the Synod Council for action.

Mike Metcalf, (Cross & Crown, Roscoe), asked if this amendment was out of order because it would ultimately end up with the Synod Council from the Social Ministry Committee anyway. After consultation with the parliamentarian, the bishop ruled that the amendment was not out of order.

Jeff Schlesinger, (Freedom, Oregon), in the hope of providing clarification, re-stated the amendment and described the voting process. The bishop affirmed that Pr. Schlesinger was correct in his understanding of both.

Pr.-Elect Julane Nease, (United, Rockford), asked if the action of the Synod Council would be to recommend memorialization to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. The bishop responded that the Social Ministry Committee may recommend something different than this particular action.

Upon request, Secretary Luepke once again shared the amendment that was to be voted upon regarding referral to the Synod Council for action.

A verbal vote was taken and the Bishop declared that the motion to amend was lost. A division of the house was called for.

Mr. Russ Zeskey, (Trinity, Moline), during the course of the vote, asked what the word “action” means in the amendment.

Parliamentarian Pr. Pat Esker shared that the word “action” can be interpreted in more than one way.

After the vote count, Dr. Mullin announced that the amendment was passed by a vote of 266 yes and 117 no. Discussion then resumed on the motion to refer as amended.

Mr. Timothy Park, (Emmanuel, Rockford), said that the assembly members were here to vote. He didn’t want this resolution “shunted off” to a committee.

Mr. Joel Thoreson, (Bethany, Crystal Lake), called the question.

A question was raised from the floor by Ms. Debbie DeChant, (Redeemer, Woodstock), regarding what the Social Ministry Committee would be charged to do.

However, with the question having been called for, Bishop Wollersheim called for a vote on whether to stop debate. After a voice vote, he declared the motion to stop debate as having lost. A division of the house was called for. After the vote, Dr. Mullin announced that the motion to end debate passed by more than the two-thirds required to do so.

The bishop then called for a voice vote on the motion to refer to the Social Ministry Committee which would then pass this on to the Synod Council for action. The bishop declared the motion to be lost. A division of the house was called for. Dr. Mullin
announced the results: YES-168, NO-152. The bishop declared the motion to refer to be passed, so the Assembly would not deal with R-3 as it was referred to the Social Ministry Committee.

**ACTION SA-15-06-09** – R-3 ("Divestment/Investment: A Response to Climate Change") was referred to the NIS Social Ministry Committee, which is to then send it to the Synod Council for action.

Mr. Terry Johnson, (First, Galesburg), raised a concern about the words in R-3 regarding fossil fuels and the synod’s investments

Pr. Miranda Klosterboer, (Good Shepherd, Lena), pointed out that the ELCA website has information on this matter and encouraged the Social Ministry Committee to check it out.

Pr. Robin Caldwell, (St. John, Joliet), raised a question about the vote to refer and what that means about voting on R-3. Bishop Wollersheim explained that once the vote passed to refer, R-3 is no longer before the Assembly.

**Synod Council Recognition** – Bishop Wollersheim shared words of thanks for the service of the following Synod Council members who had completed their term of service: Ms. Jan Butterfield, Pr. Donald Knowles, Mr. Patrick O’Brien, Pr. Nord Swanstrom, Ms. Jana Mueller, and Mr. Dave Klintworth. They were presented with gifts and the applause of the Assembly.

**Staff Anniversaries** – Ms. June Cain was recognized and thanked for twenty years of service on the NIS staff. After being presented with a gift, she briefly addressed the Assembly. Vice-President Bartlett then lifted up the 25th anniversary of working on the NIS staff of Bishop Gary Wollersheim.

**Courtesy Committee** – Pr. Christine Schoon, (First, Chadwick), as chair of the Courtesy Committee, was called forward to present the committee’s report, as follows:

"Praise be to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Since God has gathered and guided us in this 28th annual Synod Assembly of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and has made us aware that “We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together” let us give thanks.

To God our Father, who gives us life and the blessings of all creation; to God the Son, who redeems and calls us into a life of discipleship; and to God the Spirit, who sustains and empowers us for the work of the Kingdom.

For all who provided fine servant leadership in our assembly, including Bishop Gary Wollersheim, the assistants to the bishop, and members of the synod council and staff.

For President Steve Bahls and the staff of Augustana College for their hospitality and for all who planned and made possible the workings of this assembly, including our host congregations – Salem Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran, and First Lutheran Churches of Moline, forum leaders, assembly committee members, prayer leaders, and all the musicians and leaders of our worship services.

For the Reverend Dr. James Nieman, President of Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, for leading us in a study of God’s Word and for the Reverend Wilma Kucharek, Bishop of Slovak-Zion Synod, bringing us news about the E.L.C.A. churchwide and also greetings from our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

For the ministries of all who gave oral or written reports to this assembly, including Campus Ministry, E.L.C.A. colleges and seminaries, outdoor ministries, diakonia™, and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.
Report of the Secretary

For the stewardship program “First We Give of Ourselves - Year 1 and Year 2” developed by the Reverend Kurt Nordby.

For all voting members of this assembly, including those who brought resolutions, set up displays, shared their thoughts with us, and to those willing to stand for election to synod positions.

For all the rostered leaders of our synod, especially those observing the 50th anniversary of their ordinations:

Pastor Howard Jacobson and Pastor Roger Schneider. And for those retiring: Pr. Herb Priester, Ms. Judy Bergeson,

Pr. Dale Peterson, Pr. Ralph Kuespert, Mr. Robert Haak & Pr. Kenneth Stork.

For the calling of Julane Nease into the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

For the youth of our synod and for all of the excitement and energy that they shared with us.

And especially for the working of God in our lives, that we may all travel home safely remembering the words of the apostle Paul in Romans Chapter 12 v. 5: ‘So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.’”

The Courtesy Committee report was received with applause.

At 11:55 a.m., Bishop Wollersheim declared Plenary Session Three closed. After announcements by Pr. Jeffrey Clements, Pr. Jana Howson (United, Gardner), led a closing prayer. Pr. Clements then shared greetings from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA, meeting in Assembly at the same time as the Northern Illinois Synod.

At the conclusion of the afternoon’s ordination service of Pastor Julane Nease, Bishop Gary Wollersheim officially closed the 2015 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly.

ACTION SA-15-06-01 – Rules of the Assembly adopted
ACTION SA-15-06-02 – Assembly agenda approved
ACTION SA-15-06-03 – Ballot approved
ACTION SA-15-06-04 – 2014 Synod Assembly minutes adopted
ACTION SA-15-06-05 – R-1 (Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in Illinois – Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University) passed
ACTION SA-15-06-06 – R-2 (Criminal Justice Resolution 2015) passed
ACTION SA-15-06-07 – 2016 NIS budget proposal approved
ACTION SA-15-06-08 – 2016 Salary Guidelines adopted
ACTION SA-15-06-09 – R-3 (Divestment/Investment: A Response to Climate Change) was referred
Report of the Synod Council

May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016

Synod Officers:
Mr. Bill Bartlett, Vice President (2017)  Ms. Tammie Farley, Treasurer (2019)

Synod Council:
Ms. Soraya Dorvilier, Youth Representative (2016)  Mr. Craig Peterson (2016)

Synod Staff:
The Rev. Denver Bitner, part-time assistant to the bishop, NW Conference
Ms. June Cain, bookkeeper & administrative assistant
The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, assistant to the bishop
The Rev. Michel Clark, part-time assistant to the bishop, West Conference
Ms. Nancy Corey, registrar & administrative assistant
Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, assistant to the bishop
The Rev. Gary Erickson, assistant to the bishop
Ms. Karin Graddy, Associate in Ministry, Communication director
The Rev. Timothy Kenyon, part-time assistant to the bishop, South Conference
Ms. Julie Lewis, executive secretary to the bishop & office manager
The Rev. Kurt Nordby, part-time assistant to the bishop
The Rev. Christine Stienstra, part-time assistant to the bishop, Central Conference

Executive Committee:
Mr. Bill Bartlett  The Rev. Donald Knowles (2016)
Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann-Ex Officio  Mr. Craig Peterson (2016)
Ms. Tammie Farley  The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim, bishop
The Rev. Mark Luepke

Finance Committee:
Mr. Bill Bartlett  The Rev. Kurt Nordby-Ex Officio
Ms. June Cain-Ex Officio  The Rev. Mark Oehlert (2016)
The Rev. Jeffrey Clements-Ex Officio  Mr. Craig Peterson (2017)
Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann-Ex Officio  The Rev. Nord Swanstrom (2016)
The Rev. Gary Erickson-Ex Officio  Mr. Russell Zeskey (2018)
Ms. Tammie Farley  The Rev Dr. Gary Wollersheim, bishop
The Rev. Jeff Fricke (2018)

Appointment/Specialized Ministry Committee:
Mr. Bill Bartlett  Ms. Tammie Farley
Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann-Ex Officio
The Rev. Mark Luepke

Mr. Craig Peterson (2016)
The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim, bishop

The Rev. Donald Knowles (2016)

**Synod Council Meeting Dates and Locations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2015</td>
<td>Synod Office, Rockford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 19, 2015</td>
<td>Lutheran House, Rock Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12, 2015</td>
<td>Synod Office, Rockford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30, 2016</td>
<td>Synod Office, Rockford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9, 2016</td>
<td>Synod Office, Rockford</td>
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**A Summary of Administrative Actions**

1. Received the bishop’s report at each meeting – including reports from the bishop’s staff.
2. Received and approved Synod Council minutes at each meeting.
3. Approved changes to the constitutions and/or bylaws of the following congregations:
   a. Zion, Belvidere
   b. Alpine, Rockford
   c. All Saints, Byron
   d. Light of Christ, Algonquin
   e. Faith, Joliet
   f. St. John’s, Peru
   g. St. Paul, Sterling
   h. Trinity, Durand
   i. St. John’s, Somonauk
   j. Grace, Loves Park
   k. St. John’s, Sterling
4. Approved appointments to NIS Standing Committees, Synod Council Committees, Task Forces, and Synod Assembly Committees.
5. Approved sending an NIS delegation to the Arcot Lutheran Church in India.
6. Established a Transition Task Force and Transition Team to work with issues related to transitioning from a retiring bishop to a new bishop.
7. Received and accepted the 2015 Synod Assembly minutes.
8. Gave approval for an alternate worship site within Yorkville, relating to Immanuel of rural Yorkville.
10. Gave approval for Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Algonquin, to re-locate if and when desired.
11. Set the dates for the 2016 NIS Assembly.
12. Approved asking Secretary of the ELCA, Rev. Chris Boerger, to chair the election of the new bishop at the 2016 Synod Assembly.
13. Changed the name of the “Rostered Leaders’ Educational Debt Reduction Fund” to the “Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leaders Educational Debt Reduction Fund.”
14. Conferred the title of “Bishop Emeritus of the Northern Illinois Synod” on Bishop Gary Wollersheim, pending completion of his term.
15. Declined direct action on resolution R-3 (“Divestment/Investment: A Response to Climate Change”), which had been referred to the Social Ministry Committee and the Synod Council from the 2015 NIS Assembly, asking for a re-write of the resolution after further conversation and study.
16. Voted to establish a task force to educate and open conversation within the synod regarding global warming/climate change.

17. Voted to request that the ELCA Church Council hold a conversation on climate change and the environment and that these issues be on the agenda of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

18. Approved a minutes and action codification system recommended by Churchwide.

19. Approved pay raises for the NIS staff.

20. Approved “Rules Relating to the Election of the Northern Illinois Synod Bishop.”

21. Approved a biographical information form for nominees for bishop.

22. Approved the 2016 Synod Assembly rules, agenda, and ballot.

23. Established the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center Nursing Support Fund, established the Nursing School Task Force, authorized fund-raising and established a $100,000 goal, designated the 2017 Synod Assembly offering to this fund, and gave approval for on-going support of the students and this program.

24. Approved the 2017 salary and compensation guidelines for Pastors, Associates in Ministry, and Diaconal Ministers to be presented to the 2016 Synod Assembly.

**A Summary of Budget and Finance Actions**

1. Regularly received and reviewed the reports of the treasurer, subject to audit.

2. Received the audit report.

3. Approved funds for expected Transition Team expenses.

4. Approved 2016 housing allowances for ordained synod staff.

5. Approved a severance pay resolution for Assistants to the Bishop.

6. Approved contracting with an audit firm for 2016.

7. Approved a distribution from the NIS endowment fund to the “Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leaders Educational Debt Reduction Fund.”

8. Designated the 2016 Synod Assembly offering to be split equally between the “Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leaders Educational Debt Reduction Fund” and the “Polly Wollersheim Fund for Literacy Education – Arcot Lutheran Church.”

9. Voted to approve the 2017 budget proposal and forward it to the 2016 Synod Assembly.

**A Summary of Personnel Actions**

1. Approved, renewed or reviewed “On Leave from Call” status to the following:
   g. Associate in Ministry Elizabeth Martin – (9/6/2013-9/6/2019)

2. Received a report of rostered leaders not attending the 2015 Synod Assembly.

3. Extended and renewed Interim Pastor Calls through the Synod Council to the following:
   c. Rev. Marilyn Hanson – (2/1/2016-1/31/2017)

4. Extended, renewed or reviewed invitations to serve to the following non-ELCA pastors:
   a. Pastor Stanton Bockwoldt – Peace, New Lenox (Methodist)
   b. Pastor Amy Fallon – Grace Place, NIU, DeKalb (Episcopal)
   c. Pastor Beth Hamilton – Zion, North Henderson/First, Sherrard (Presbyterian)
   d. Pastor Kate Morris – Trinity, Moline (Presbyterian)
   e. Pastor Terry Mueller – Bethel, Stronghurst (Reformed)
   f. Pastor Troy Ann Poulos – Emmanuel, Rockford (Methodist)

5. Approved Retired Rostered Status for retired rostered leaders:
   a. Rev. Roger Helgren, 6/30/2015
   b. Rev. David Vidler, 6/30/2015
   c. Rev. Dorothy Wilcox, 10/15/2015
   e. Rev. Tom Jacoby, 11/9/2015
   f. Rev. Keith Killinger, 12/1/2015
   g. Associate in Ministry Bette Mohr, 12/1/2015
   h. Rev. Henrietta Milner, 12/1/2015
   i. Rev. Paul Carlson, 1/1/2016
   j. Rev. Jeffrey King, 1/6/2016
   k. Rev. Garry Briesacher, 1/10/2016
   l. Rev. Kathy Burkheimer, 2/1/2016
   m. Rev. Bruce Booher, 2/1/2016

6. Extended Call through Synod Council to Specialized Ministries:
   a. Ms. Judy Rooney, Diaconal Minister, JourneyCare Hospice, Barrington, IL (two-yr call - 9/2015-9/2017)
   c. Associate in Ministry Karin Graddy, Communication Director for the Synod (one yr call - 2/1/2016-1/31/2017)
7. Appointed/Elected to Boards of Agencies and Institutions
   a. Rev. Peter Holmer to LSSI Board of Directors (three-yr term).
   b. Rev. Janet Wold, Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois Board (three-yr term)
   c. Rev. Lucy Wynard, Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois Board (three-yr term)
   d. Ms. Denise Rode, Grace Place Campus Ministry at NIU Board

8. Received notice of and accepted resignation from the roster of the following:
   a. Ronald Voss, 8/21/2015

9. Declined on leave from call status:
   a. Pastor Michael Nelson

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Mark S. Luepke, Secretary of the Synod
Report of the Treasurer

Psalm 100 verse 5: “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

This is a beginning for me. A beginning in learning so much about the Northern Illinois Synod. In my first year serving as your Treasurer, I might describe this opportunity as one of great exploration in witnessing firsthand the generosity shared by our congregations. Great is thy faithfulness!

Bishop Wollersheim has welcomed me, taught me, encouraged me and supported me in wonderful ways. I am fortunate to begin my synod financial leadership journey under Bishop Wollersheim who supports a conservative and sustainable budget model. I take this opportunity to say “Thank you” to Bishop Wollersheim for his kindness and generosity.

The following are highlights for the budget year 2015 which closed on January 31, 2016:

- Mission Support totaled $2,327,234 which was slightly over 100% budgeted.
- ELCA Mission Support was paid out at 55% of unrestricted income or $1,276,069.
- Agencies and Institutions (LSSI, Seminaries, Colleges, Campus Ministry, LOMC, IL Conference of Churches, and Regional Ministries) received $182,800, funded at 100%.
- Synod Program Committees received $93,313.
- Total Administrative Costs were in line with funds received at $801,089.
- The year ended with a surplus, income over expenditures, of $8,911.
- This surplus of $8,911 was added to Synod Cash Reserves.

The Northern Illinois Synod remains dedicated in managing our finances with a high level of fiscal responsibility. The Synod office team which includes Assistants to the Bishop, Rev. Jeffrey Clements and Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, and June Cain, Synod Bookkeeper together are steadfast in their commitment to oversee the financial process and prepare a myriad of reports. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to each of them.

In preparing the 2017 budget (February 1, 2017-January 31, 2018) to be considered at this year's Synod Assembly, Statements of Intent received by our congregations are the beginning point in building the budget. Analysis of the Statements of Intent and discussion at the Synod Finance Committee recommend budgeted income for Mission Support of $2,291,124 plus all other budgeted income derive our 2017 total income of $2,347,125. This is $34,275 less in overall income budgeted when compared to our current budget year 2016.

The 2017 budgeted expenditures total $2,347,125 for a balanced budget. Support to ELCA Churchwide Mission Support is budgeted at 55% of our Northern Illinois Synod Mission Support. Agencies and Institution allocations remained the same as 2016. There were slight increases to support our Synod Programs. Administrative expenditures were budgeted based on anticipated salaries and benefits plus operating and overhead costs as projected for 2017. Please take time to review budget specifics provided in your Assembly Bulletin of Reports.
Special thanks for the thoughtful work of your Synod Finance Committee is extended to Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim, Mr. Bill Bartlett, Rev. Jeff Fricke, Rev. Mark Oehlert, Rev. Nord Swanstrom, Mr. Craig Peterson, Mr. Russ Zeskey and the following staff serving in an advisory capacity: Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Rev. Kurt Nordby, Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, Rev. Gary Erickson and Ms. June Cain.

Peace,
Tammie Farley, Treasurer

### Consolidated Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>190,793.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,680,938.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>40,543.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>22,183.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,934,458.27</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Lind Chapel Assets</td>
<td>402,346.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>386,528.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>-322,352.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>466,521.54</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,400,979.81</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>257,866.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>6,427.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>264,293.51</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Accounts by Donors</td>
<td>119,055.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted Accounts</td>
<td>507,998.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Accounts - by Synod Council</td>
<td>612,891.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated for Jenny Lind Chapel</td>
<td>402,346.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop's Discretionary Fund</td>
<td>2,943.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Fund</td>
<td>64,175.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synod Fund Reserves</td>
<td>431,595.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Fund Balance</td>
<td>-4,319.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,136,686.30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** | **2,400,979.81** |
Pie Graph (Budget)

Northern Illinois Synod - 2017 Budget

- **Mission Support**: 55%
- **Supporting Congregations and Call Process**: 34%
- **Institutions and Agencies**: 7%
- **Programs**: 4%
# 2017 Proposed Budget

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

### SYNOD MINISTRIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2017 Proposed Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mission Support</td>
<td>2,293,100</td>
<td>2,320,125</td>
<td>2,330,000</td>
<td>2,291,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mission Support - Restricted to NIS</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>7,109</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ELCA-DEM Grant</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Interest Income</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>34,657</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Misc - Rebates/Individuals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Total Income</td>
<td>2,331,100</td>
<td>2,376,891</td>
<td>2,381,400</td>
<td>2,347,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2017 Proposed Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. ELCA Mission Support (55%)</td>
<td>1,261,205</td>
<td>1,276,069</td>
<td>1,281,500</td>
<td>1,260,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Transferred to Designated Funds</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14,709</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. LSSI</td>
<td>80,400</td>
<td>80,400</td>
<td>80,400</td>
<td>80,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Seminaries</td>
<td>48,400</td>
<td>48,400</td>
<td>48,400</td>
<td>48,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Colleges</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Campus Ministry</td>
<td>29,950</td>
<td>29,950</td>
<td>29,950</td>
<td>29,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. LOMC</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td>11,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. IL Conference of Churches</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Regional Ministries</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>3,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Congregational Life</td>
<td>20,850</td>
<td>19,412</td>
<td>21,825</td>
<td>21,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Global Ministry Committee</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Outreach Committee</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>35,439</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>33,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Ministry Support</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>29,028</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>28,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Social Ministry</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,434</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>4,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Bishop Discretionary</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Salaries</td>
<td>430,197</td>
<td>426,444</td>
<td>439,804</td>
<td>435,020</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Employee Benefits</td>
<td>161,048</td>
<td>181,224</td>
<td>190,471</td>
<td>190,815</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. Travel - Staff</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>55,639</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>26. Auto Replacement</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>10,380</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>27. Synod Assembly</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>2,703</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Synod Council/Deans/Interim Prs</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>2,584</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Occupancy</td>
<td>32,500</td>
<td>30,654</td>
<td>32,500</td>
<td>31,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Office Operating</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>37,637</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Legal, Audit &amp; Payroll Service</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,108</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Insurance</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>13,621</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Equipment &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>27,312</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Total Expenses</td>
<td>2,331,100</td>
<td>2,367,981</td>
<td>2,381,400</td>
<td>2,347,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Difference Between Income &amp; Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,911</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Explanation of Budgeted Income & Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ELCA-DEM Grant</td>
<td>This is a staff support grant for fiscal year 2015 for the synod Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM). This grant is intended to offset synod expenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ELCA Mission Support</td>
<td>For every mission support dollar, the Northern Illinois Synod (NIS) receives from congregations, <strong>55 cents</strong> are sent to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Churchwide) and 45 cents remains in the Synod to do ministry on behalf of congregations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Transferred to Designated Funds</td>
<td>Income received and transferred to the balance sheet to account #30110 Transition Team and account #30042 Retired Rostered Leaders Assistance for future use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>LSSI</td>
<td>Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is the social service agency of the three Illinois Synods and Churchwide. Through service and advocacy, the agency seeks to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to persons and to enhance the quality of people's lives. Programs which they offer include: Adoption and Foster Care; Treatment for Emotionally Troubled Youth; Alcoholism-Drug Dependence Treatment; Children's Day Care and Head Start Centers; Mental Health Services; Counseling; Crisis Intervention; Services to Older Adults; Programs for Developmentally Disabled Persons; Prisoner and Family Ministry; Housing/Independent Living; Ethnic Ministries; Pastoral Care; Congregational Relations; and Advocacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Seminaries</td>
<td>By sending dollars to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Illinois, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, NIS helps to prepare men and women for rostered ministry and lay leadership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Colleges</td>
<td>NIS dollars support the 12 Lutheran colleges in Regions 3 and 5 (e.g. Augustana, Rock Island, Illinois; Wartburg, Waverly, Iowa; Carthage, Kenosha, Wisconsin, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Campus Ministry</td>
<td>There are 10 different campus ministry sites throughout the State of Illinois where Campus Pastors minister to the needs of our youth on such campuses as Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; University of Illinois, Champaign; Western Illinois University, Macomb; and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Campus Ministries enable students to gain basic understanding and skills in such areas as worship leadership, Bible study, relating the gospel to the issue of society, service projects, and group leadership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>LOMC</td>
<td>NIS supports the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois. This is a program of the Church operating year round giving leadership to summer camps, retreats, confirmation camps, and outdoor education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>IL Conference of Churches</td>
<td>This is an interchurch cooperative effort between delegates of the member churches to study the word of God, to affirm unity in Christ, and to develop and participate in programs of cooperative study and action which will benefit all of God's people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Region 5 of the ELCA</td>
<td>Region 5 encompasses the twelve synods of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and ELCA Upper Michigan. In September, 2013 Pastor Ramie Bakken began a call to serve as the coordinator. Region 5 is a link between Churchwide and the synods by assisting in communication and working on tasks between the two expressions, such as the assignment process for seminars. Region 5 also provides the networking between synods that wish to share a task, vision, event, work group, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line #</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Congregational Life Committee</td>
<td>The Congregation Life Committee (CLC) is responsible for the annual Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) held at Kishwaukee College, Malta, Illinois, every March which helps to support and equip congregations to carry out their ministries. The Synod website is also supported through the CLC and provides electronic communication and information. Another area supported by the CLC budget is ministry grants which help congregations to expand their ministry programs. Sub-committees are supported in the areas of worship (including organization of worship at Synod-wide events such as Synod Assembly and Professional Leaders Conference), Stewardship and Youth Ministry (however, because of revised spending plans over the past years, almost all of the youth expenses are being paid out of the synod's restricted fund). Beginning in 2017, the work done relating to Safe Church (Safeguarding God’s Children trainings) will be handled by a new Safe Church Sub-committee of the CLC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Global Mission</td>
<td>In 2015, the Global Mission Committee continued NIS work with two Committee Companions, the North Central (formerly “Arusha”) Diocese (ELCT) in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in Tamil Nadu, India. We also worked with ELCA-GM programs, and funded ELCA missionaries in Africa and India and YAGM’s (Young Adults in Global Mission) in Madagascar, Jerusalem, and Rwanda. Tanzania: In January 2015, Bishop Wollersheim led an NIS delegation to Arusha, TZ, to the Consecration of North Central Diocese Bishop Simon Massangwa. Bishop Wollersheim gave the sermon and took part in the actual Consecration rite. NIS pastors preached at churches on Sunday. During a busy week, the NIS group visited the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, Plaster House, the Masai Girls School in Monduli, the Mwangaza House, Moringe-Sokoine and Kimandolu Secondary Schools. A tremendous and important Mission trip! In Tanzania, NIS supported the Mwangaza Center Teaching Seminars in Arusha, and North Central Diocese scholarships for pastoral training. Many NIS members and congregations also support the Stubbs family (First, DeKalb) in their ELCA mission at Tumaini University in Tanzania. Twenty-two NIS congregations have Companion Congregations in this diocese. India: In March 2015, NIS hosted Arcot Bishop Socrates Sathychandar of Cuddalor, Tamil Nadu, in southeast India. The ALC delegation included Pastor Jane Anithra Havarasi, and Secretary B. Jesudian. In June 2015, Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, NIS Assistant to the Bishop, and John and Esther Prabhakar, at invitation of Arcot Bishop Socrates, toured the Arcot Lutheran Church in Cuddalor. They represented NIS at the consecration of the new Community College in Parangepaattai. Note: In December, the College and much of the region was devastated by major storms and floods.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Report of the Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td><strong>Global Mission (continued)</strong></td>
<td>In October, more Arcot visitors tour NIS: Mr. G. Sundar, Director of Education, Rev. Sebastian Jones, Director of Parangapattai Community College, and Rev Theophilus Vinodkumar visit Augustana College, Rockford Lutheran Academy, Rock Valley College, and many NIS congregations. NIS also works with the Lutheran Partners in Global Mission (LPGM), Minneapolis, on school projects in the ALC. In the Arcot Lutheran Church, our Partner in Tamil Nadu, India, NIS currently has nine Companion Congregations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Outreach Committee</td>
<td>The Outreach committee is committed to partnering with both established and new congregations in making Christ known in the Northern Illinois Synod. New ministries of the Northern Illinois Synod include: Iglesia San Jose Obrero, Moline (Under development); Freedom Lutheran Church, Oregon (Under development); and Open Arms Lutheran Church, Rockton (Under development). The newest project under the Outreach Committee is the cooperative ministry known as “Dwell.” Dwell is a partnership of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Yorkville, the Northern Illinois Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford and Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Homer Glen are transforming (redeveloping) ministries. The Outreach committee is also committed to partnering with congregations recently organized. Newly organized congregations are Lord of Love Lutheran Church, Galena, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Channahon, and Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church, Johnsburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ministry Support Committee</td>
<td>Our Mission is to enable Christians of the Northern Illinois Synod to realize their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers. As a result, the majority of our budget goes to the Candidacy sub-committee. With it, meetings expenses for the Committee and Sub-Committees, scholarships for those pursuing rostered ministry, assistance with the initial costs of entering candidacy, and candidacy retreats are funded. Currently, 15 candidates are working toward rostering as ordained ministers, one is seeking rostering as an Associate in Ministry and 7 potential candidates are in some stage of discernment/pre-entrance. Other major budget line items include providing resources for: the Professional Leader's Conference (PLC), retreats, and First Call Theological Education (FCTE). These events help professional leaders meet the yearly requirement of 50 continuing education hours. The yearly PLC draws well-known speakers and musicians to enrich and Committee challenge synod leaders and is the synod’s keystone leadership event. FCTE is supervised by the Bishop and is required by the ELCA for professional leaders in their first three years of service. The goal is to transition leaders from academic study to parish life by teaching the “nuts and bolts” of public ministry. The committee also develops yearly Salary Guidelines and Mutual Ministry resources. Lastly, beginning in 2017, the activities related to Health and Wellness of Rostered Leaders, formerly handled by the Bishop’s Task Force on Health and Wellness, will become the Health and Wellness sub-committee of Ministry Support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line #</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Social Ministry Committee</td>
<td>The Social Ministry Committee helps congregations respond to Christ’s Committee call to serve others. Their role is to inspire, educate and support local congregations and organizations to care for those in need, serve their neighbors, and seek justice for all people. The Committee offers workshops and provides grants to congregations, coalitions and church-based community organizations. Active, independent subcommittees include: World Hunger, Multicultural/Anti-Racism and Accessibility. The Social Ministry Committee also relates to Lutheran Advocacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Bishop’s Discretionary</td>
<td>This fund is used as needs arise in congregations, for rostered and lay people and whenever the Bishop deems necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>Funds are provided to pay for the ministry of the Bishop and his staff. This line includes cash salary, housing (where applicable), and Social Security reimbursement (where applicable).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>This includes pension, health and continuing education for staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Travel - Staff</td>
<td>Travel and travel related expenses for staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Synod Assembly</td>
<td>This line item encompasses all of the planning, preparation and activities which produces a meaningful and informative assembly. These expenditures are over and above the registration fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Synod Council Deans &amp; Interim Prs</td>
<td>Provides for Synod Council, Conference Deans and Interim Pastors meetings and functions associated with these three areas of ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>Includes the rent and miscellaneous services to maintain the Synod Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Office Operating</td>
<td>This line item consists of telephones, postage, office supplies, printing Expense and copying expenses and other miscellaneous expenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Legal, Audit &amp; Payroll Service</td>
<td>Covers legal expenses incurred throughout the year, the annual audit of the Synod's finances, and an outside CPA firm which prepares payroll checks and taxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>Dollars are used to cover NIS's property and equipment, worker's compensation, synod owned automobiles, and the Churchwide Travel Plan which covers all staff, council members, committee members, synod assembly voting members, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Equipment &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>This line item provides us with computers, printers, copy machines, postage meter, computer software and maintenance of the equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Difference between Income and Expense</td>
<td>The $8,911 is the difference between income and expenses on a cash Income and Expense basis. Constitutionally “Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16% of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year’s budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.” The total for cash reserves as of 1/31/16 is $303,366 and 12.74% of the 2016 Budget.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Report of the Treasurer

Policy Statement

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Permanently Restricted Fund:

**#28050, #28052 Endowment/Trust Fund for the NIS $507,998.58**

Purpose/Use: To enhance the mission of the Northern Illinois Synod apart from the general operation of the Synod; that no portion of the income generated by the Fund shall be used for the annual operating budget of the Synod.

Authorization: At the initial funding of the Endowment Fund, the Bishop and Synod Council shall act as the Endowment Committee. At such time as the Bishop and Council determines that the size and activity of the Fund shall warrant, it shall elect five (5) members to serve as the Committee, all of whom shall be members of the Northern Illinois Synod, but who shall not be sitting members of the Synod Council.

Restricted Funds - By Donors:

**#27020 Synod Conference Programs $1,745.55**

Purpose/Use: Synod Conference bank accounts to be used for programs within the conferences of the synod.

Authorization: Conference Dean or Conference Treasurer

**#27025 Retired Rostered Leaders & Spouse Assistance $6,292**

Purpose/Use: Special needs for retired rostered leaders and spouses including scholarships to synod functions (PLC, Assembly, etc.).

Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

**#27037 Donor Temporarily Restricted $28,102.94**

Purpose/Use: Contributions received in Fiscal Year 2015 for Fiscal Year 2016. Contributions will be distributed to accounts starting 2/01/2016.

Authorization: Synod Bookkeeper

**#27038 Diakonia Program $19,559.22**

Purpose/Use: To be used for Diakonia, a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education. Students pay a fee which pays for the class instructors and other costs associated with the classes.

Authorization: Bishop or individual that has been assigned by the Bishop.

**#27042 Evangelism Ministry, Lee $250**

Purpose/Use: To be used for Evangelism Ministry in Lee.

Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.
| #27050 | Global Ministries NIS Committee | $820.77 |
| Purpose/Use: | To support the activities of the Northern Illinois Synod Global Ministries committee. |
| Authorization: | Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop. |

| #27052 | Grace, Woodstock Mission Foundation | $15,741.24 |
| Purpose/Use: | To be used for the funding of Synodical Authorized Worshiping Communities (S.A.W.C.). |
| Authorization: | Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop. |

| #27080 | Men in Mission | $967.79 |
| Purpose/Use: | To be used for programs developed by Men in Mission. |
| Authorization: | Recommendation from Men in Mission and approved by Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop. |

| #27081 | Men in Mission-Reorganization | $3,472.38 |
| Purpose/Use: | To be used for reorganization of Men in Mission. |
| Authorization: | Recommendation from Men in Mission and approved by Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop. |

| #27085, #27086, & #27087 | Msseemmaa Memorial Scholarship Fund | $22,762.12 |
| Purpose/Use: | Will pay annual tuition and fees at Moringe Sokoine Lutheran Secondary School in Moduli, Tanzania, for a student who could not otherwise afford to attend. One $500 scholarship, or total cost of the next year's tuition (whichever is greater) will be awarded annually beginning in October of the year following that year in which the balance of this Fund reaches $15,000. The presiding Chair of the NIS Global Mission will write a letter requesting that the scholarship be electronically transferred to Moringe Sokoine LSS’s Scholarship Fund. |
| Authorization: | Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop. |

| #27089 | Open Arms, Rockton S.A.W.C. | $5,346.87 |
| Purpose/Use: | To be used for the funding of Synodical Authorized Worshiping Communities (S.A.W.C.). |
| Authorization: | Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop. |
#27090 Seminarian Scholarships $1,415
Purpose/Use: Following the Synod's guidelines for seminarian scholarships, this money is to provide funds to seminarians above and beyond what is received from the Synod through Ministry Support Committee budget.

Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

#27103 Stewardship Projects and Resources $8,048.47
Purpose/Use: To be used for expenses incurred for stewardship resources.
Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

#27110 Women's Leaders Retreat/Convention $140.44
Purpose/Use: To nurture, encourage and support relationships between female leaders in the Northern Illinois Synod.
Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

#27125 Worship $1,340.73
Purpose/Use: For special worship projects.
Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.

#27150 Youth in Mission Grant $3,050
Purpose/Use: Youth discernment events.
Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.

Restricted Funds by Synod Council:

#30003 ALC – Friends Program $6,200
Purpose/Use: To provide a scholarship for a student each year (10 years).
Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.

#30008 Rostered Leaders Continuing Education/Sabbatical Leave Fund $12,733.29
Purpose/Use: To be used for sabbatical grants and continuing education for rostered leaders.
Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.

#30010 Campus Ministry (NIU) $4,819.51
Purpose/Use: Funds to be used for assisting Campus Ministry of Illinois to have full time campus minister at Northern Illinois University.
Authorization: Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#30020, #30021 Capital Development $45,120.34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose/Use:</strong> Revolving loan fund for new congregation site purchases and first unit buildings. (Present Loan total $9,589.17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorization:</strong> Recommendation from the Outreach Committee, approval from Bishop or the Executive Committee, recommendation to the Synod Council for approval.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#30040 Cora Diestelmeier/Youth Ministry Staff Position $36,337.48</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose/Use:</strong> To be used to employ a part time person to provide the Synod with youth ministry leadership, in partnership (i.e., under contract) with a congregation or other Synod organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorization:</strong> Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#30041 Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leaders Educational Debt Retirement Fund $9,756.16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose/Use:</strong> For alleviating the educational debt for rostered leaders serving in the Northern Illinois Synod. A task force will oversee expenditures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorization:</strong> Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#30042 Rostered Leaders Assistance - BOP $5,668.17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose/Use:</strong> For alleviating the medical costs for rostered leaders serving in the Northern Illinois Synod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorization:</strong> Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>30043 DEM Synod Support Grant $8,849.75</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose/Use:</strong> To be applied toward synod expenses (i.e. local travel, administrative support, office, etc) related to the Director of Evangelical Mission position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorization:</strong> Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#30044 Endowment – Interest/Dividends $5,545.32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose/Use:</strong> The Executive Committee will recommend to the Synod Council suggested recipient(s) of the Endowment Earnings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorization:</strong> Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#30060 First Call Theological Education $993.35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose/Use:</strong> To provide First Call Theological Education experiences and mentoring processes for newly ordained pastors during the first three years of their first call.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorization:</strong> Bishop or joint recommendation between the chairperson of the Ministry Support Committee and Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| #30070 IRS SMALL Business Health Credit $81,225.66 |
### Purpose/Use:

To be used for compensation of a part-time Director of Stewardship in the Northern Illinois Synod.

**Authorization:** Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by Bishop.

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### #30090 Outreach Mission Fund $369,399.13

**Purpose/Use:**

Monies designated for outreach ministries (new missions and redeveloping congregations.)

**Authorization:** Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

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### #30095 Polly Wollersheim Fund for Literacy Education $1,950

**Purpose/Use:**

To provide support in helping the Arcot Lutheran Church (India) fulfill the goal of their educational programs to improve literacy and educational skills of youth and adults of the Dalite class.

**Authorization:** Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.
### #30096 Social Ministry Committee Fund $1,000

**Purpose/Use:** To use for a workshop and/or learning materials so that the “Northern Illinois Synod can encourage its members, its congregations, and its institutions to divest from fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) and invest in renewable sources of energy and other investments that are not a threat to God's Creation.” (Resolution R-3 at the 2015 Synod Assembly.)

**Authorization:** Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

### #30105 Tanzania Nursing School $300

**Purpose/Use:** To assist in the building of a new nursing school in the North Central Diocese of the ELCA Tanzania.

**Authorization:** Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

### #30110 Transition Team (New Bishop) $20,000

**Purpose/Use:** To be applied toward 2016 synod expenses that are incurred as a result of the election of a new bishop.

**Authorization:** Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

### #30150 Wellness Initiative $2,993.22

**Purpose/Use:** Will focus on the physical, social/interpersonal, emotional, intellectual, and vocational well-being.

**Authorization:** Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop that has been assigned by the Bishop.

### UNDESIGNATED FUNDS:

### #32010 Bishop's Discretionary $2,943.03

**Purpose/Use:** Used for special/emergency needs within the Synod.

**Authorization:** The Bishop

*Revised 4/27/16*
Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? [Micah 6:8]

To do justice.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed around the idea of one Church in three expressions – congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The heart of the matter as that all three expressions seek justice.

- Congregations work for justice through Word, Sacrament, community outreach, and service. During any week, our congregations are feeding people, sharing medical knowledge, visiting the sick, providing day-care, sharing hospitality, and myriad other connections in our neighborhoods.

- Together we work in our Northern Illinois Synod for justice through support of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Campus Ministry, Augustana College, NIS WELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, our global companions, synod committees, and many other partnerships.

- We are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, justice is carried forward through Global Missions, Congregational and Synodical Missions, the Conference of Bishops, the Mission Investment Fund, the ELCA Foundation, and many partnerships.

To love kindness.

Congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization live out kindness through our mutuality exhibited in the effective partnerships that start and renew congregations, assist strategic development, and foster the growth of local outreach.

- Our newest ministries:
  - Dwell – a house church, small group ministry forming under the leadership of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Yorkville.
  - Open Arms Lutheran Church, Rockton - gaining strength through worship and community service.
  - Freedom Lutheran Church, Oregon - organizing for present and future mission as an ELCA congregation.
  - Lord of Love Lutheran Church, Galena – celebrating their first full-time pastor.
  - Iglesia San Jose Obrero housed at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline – building a Lutheran identity in a bilingual community.
  - GPS Faith Community, Machesney Park - building mission momentum by adding staff.

- Our transformational ministries:
  - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling
  - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford
  - Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Homer Glen
To walk humbly with our God.

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA was overwhelmingly approved in August 2013 by the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The five-year fundraising effort, the ELCA’s first comprehensive campaign, formally launched on February 1, 2014, and will end January 31, 2019.

The campaign seeks to raise $198 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries above and beyond those supported by your regular weekly offerings. This goal represents a 64 percent increase in designated funding for the ELCA’s existing and new ministry initiatives.

- Through several major goals and priorities, the campaign seeks to:
- Renew and begin new congregations
- End poverty and hunger, and overcome malaria
- Identify, train and support new leaders and engage young people in the life of this church
- Expand the ELCA’s disability ministries
- Grow this church’s capacity to serve globally, support ELCA missionaries and women leaders among global companion churches

[http://www.elca.org/en/Campaign-for-the-ELCA/About]

It is an honor and a privilege to walk with congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization as we do God’s work with our own hands, feet and voices. Together we are growing faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully,
Rev. Gary Erickson
Director for Evangelical Mission
Assistant to the Bishop
Report of Committees and Subcommittees

Congregational Life Committee

On behalf of the Congregational Life Committee, I say “Thank you!” to everyone who has participated in the Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) each March at Kishwaukee College, and in the workshops at the Synod Assembly each June at Augustana College. As we live God’s mission in our local congregations and communities, we also come together to share best practices, learn from one another, and be recharged.

The main focus of our committee is the CRE each March. Our theme for the 2016 CRE was We Make the Road by Walking Together. The great Spanish poet Antonio Machado wrote, “Wanderer, your footsteps are the road, and nothing more; wanderer, there is no road, the road is made by walking. By walking one makes the road, and upon glancing behind one sees the path that never will be trod again. Wanderer, there is no road—Only wakes upon the sea.” The poet reveals the truth that We Make the Road by Walking. We do not know exactly what the future will look like; in our ever-changing cultural landscape, it is difficult to make one-year plans, much less five-year plans. And yet, we are called to walk together, to live and share Jesus from day to day, week to week, month to month, year to year—individually, and as congregations, as a synod (synod means ‘walk together’), and as the whole church, united, empowered, and guided by the Holy Spirit. Often, it is only as we look back that we can see the path on which we were led.

In the light of this year of thanks for Bishop Wollersheim’s leadership and preparation for choosing a new bishop, our Keynote speaker for the CRE was the Rev. Wayne Miller, Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, who helped direct our reflections as we walk together to make this new road and seek ways to serve God and God’s people through our congregations and communities. We also had 38 different workshops led by members of this synod, as well as guests from the wider church. The Joyful Harvest Praise Band led worship. Attendance was up this year to 400.

A special thanks to the members of this committee, who worked hard to make the CRE a success: Georgiana Grossman, Eric Lemonholm, Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia, Jeff Schneider, David Schweppe, Josh Ehrler, Dustin Lenz, Nancy Lillevold, Kay Johnson, Michelle Heinrich, Jana Howson, and Walt Farley. Synod staff members include Nancy Corey, Karin Graddy, and Assistant to the Bishop Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann. Thanks to Bishop Wollersheim for the continued encouragement and support of this committee’s efforts. Thank you to our synod’s Worship Committee for helping with the CRE. Thanks to everyone who I have failed to thank by name!

The Congregational Life Committee also gives grants to local congregations as seed money for innovative ministries. Grants for 2016 were awarded to two congregations:

- Resurrection Lutheran Church, Channahon, to purchase materials for Rainbows for All Children program, $250 approved.
- Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere, to switch to Godly Play Sunday School curriculum, $625 approved.

Finally, the Congregational Life Committee also serves as an umbrella for the Stewardship, Worship, Education, Safe Church, and Youth committees of the synod. Thanks to all the members who enable these committees to enhance the quality of the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod.
Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Eric Lemonholm
Chair, Congregational Life Committee

Report of the Synod Lutheran Youth Organization

Where Youth are the voice

LYO is a synod-wide youth group from Jr. High through their junior year of college. LYO aims to be place where youth have a say in things, so they can to make a difference. Youth are encouraged to have ideas for the future, to address important issues, to invite and welcome all people, to develop their leadership skills and to understand their spirituality.

The LYO is a youth-led organization, ‘Where youth are the voice!’ Youth leaders meet regularly to plan outings, events and service opportunities across the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. While youth do lead this group, adults are there to guide the process.

LYO Board meetings are held six times a year, typically on a Saturday afternoon from noon to 3 pm. At each of our meetings, we plan out and lead events, do training of leaders, Faith Formation and also Synod-wide service projects. Sometimes conflicts with other activities such as sports, band, jobs or weather will cause a change in the date. In addition, meetings are typically held at a central location in the synod. We are looking to hold some of our meetings in the various conferences at different churches.

**LYO Scheduled Events - 2015**

- Chestnut Mountain NIS/LYO ~ Ski Trip ~ January 19, 2015 ~ 193 total
- LYO Meeting ~ All Saints/Byron ~ January 10, 2015 ~ 10 total
- LYO Meeting ~ Good Shepherd/Lena ~ February 21, 2015 ~ 14 total
- CRE (congregational resourcing event) ~ Kishwaukee College ~ Mar. 14 ~ 8-4pm ~ 12 total
- There were 2 sessions for the LYO and 1 session on ELCA Youth Gathering
- LYO Meeting ~ Trinity/Manlius ~ May 9 ~ 11 total
- N.I.Synod Assembly ~ Augustana College ~ June 18-20 ~ 32 total
- There was a lock-in Thursday night that consists of service, worship, selecting officers, games
- LYO Meeting ~ LOMC ~ August 29 ~ 6 total
- Jr.High Night Owls Retreat ~ LOMC ~ Oct 10-11 ~ 7pm-8am ~ 20 total
- Service Projects, Bible study, Team activities, food, games
- LYO Meeting ~ LOMC ~ December 13, 2015 ~ 8 total
- Service Projects, Bible study, Team activities, food, games
- LYO Meeting ~ St Paul/Dixon ~ November 15
- Senior Day ~ Our Savior’s/Rockford ~ November 22

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” ~1 Timothy 4:12
Stewardship Subcommittee

We thank all of our congregations who continue to provide the Mission Support that enables and propels the ministries that are being accomplished throughout the Northern Illinois Synod and Churchwide.

First We Give of Ourselves

We are entering the third year of the stewardship program authored by Rev. Kurt Nordby that was shared with all the congregation of our synod. Many have implemented this discipleship and financial stewardship journey and seen positive results. For congregations interested in learning more about this program, workshops are being made available on the NIS website.

Macedonia Project

Over the past two years, a total of two stewardship retreats were offered to rostered leaders with the purpose of having conversations around various aspects of individual and corporate stewardship along with the development of cluster groups to continue regular discussion around the area of stewardship and discipleship. A total of 35 rostered leaders participated in these retreats that have resulted in the development of 4 cluster groups.

ELCA Stewardcast

On February 27th, the ELCA hosted a “Stewardcast” which was open to participants from all 65 synods. This resulted in over 200 participants and featured presentations by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of the Congregational and Synodical Ministry unit of the ELCA, Rev. Charles Lane and Ms. Grace Duddy Pomroy featuring their new book “Embracing Stewardship”.

Resources

Two resources that we would like to lift up to congregations are:

- A new book on stewardship coauthored by Rev. Charles Lane and Ms. Grace Duddy Pomroy entitled “Embracing Stewardship. In this book, stewardship topics are addressed in a new and fresh way along with helpful ideas for the congregation’s ministry of stewardship.
- A second resource is the ELCA Stewardnet. This resource can be accessed by way of the ELCA website – stewardship resources.

If our team can be of any assistance to your congregation, please let us know.

Partners in Ministry,

Russ Zeskey          Pr. Kurt Nordby
Chair                Asst. to the Bishop for Stewardship & Development
Global Mission Committee

Bishop Gary Wollersheim and Polly,

On behalf of the Global Mission Committee and all global-minded NIS members, THANKS! Thanks so much for inspiring us on journeys in witness to our shared Faith in Tanzania, Tamil Nadu, the Holy Land, Laos... Thanks for the good humor, the sure understanding of events and people, the good and specific sermons, and the solid Faith which has guided us all.

Faithful Shepherd, go on with good courage!

Art Milton, Chair, NIS Global Mission Committee

Meetings:

2015: March 1, May 17, Sept 6, Nov 15 and 2016: Jan 31

Conferences:

- NIS Congregational Resourcing Events, March 2015 and March 2016

Events:

- **March 23-30, 2015** Visit in NIS by Arcot Bishop Socrates Sathyachandar of Cuddalor, Tamil Nadu, in southeast India. The Arcot Lutheran Church(ALC) delegation included Pastor Jane Anitha, and Secretary B. Jesudian.
- **June**: Cheryl Erdman, NIS Assistant to the Bishop, and John and Esther Prabhakar, at invitation of Arcot Bishop Socrates, tour the Arcot Lutheran Church in Cuddalor. They represent NIS at the consecration of the new Community College in Parangepattai June 26. *Note*: In December, College and much of region devastated by major storms and floods.
- **October 12-19**: Arcot visitors tour NIS: Mr. G. Sundar, Director of Education, Rev. Sebastian Jones, Director of Parangapattai Community College, and Rev Theophilus Vinodkumar visit Augustana College, Rockford Lutheran Academy, Rock Valley College, and many NIS congregations. Rev. Theophilis participated in the ordination of Justin Tigerman at Trinity-Moline.

NIS Companion Coordinators:

- Tanzania – Mr. Ron Gustafson
- India – Pastor Rick Meier

NIS Committee Budget

- For 2015: $7000 [+$1000 gift] For 2016: $7500[+$500 gift]

2015 Missionary Sponsorship Gifts to ELCA by NIS Congregations $117,804.76

**Arusha Region – Tanzania**

Randy & Carol Stubbs

Dr. Steven & Bethany Friberg

Dr. Mark & Linda Jacobson

**Pastor John Lunn [Retiring]**

Dr. Chandran Paul Martin

**Bolivia** Rev. Justin & Karen Eller

**Buenos Aires** Rev. Jose Rodriguez & Kathryn Baker
**Companionship with North Central [formerly “Arusha”] Diocese, ELCT.**

- **Bishop:** Pastor Solomon Massangwa
- **General Secretary:** Mr. Samwel Njake Saiguran

**NIS Support:**
- Travel Stipends to Tanzania - Mwangaza Education for Partnership, Arusha
- NIS Martin Msseemaa scholarship, Moringe-Sokoine School, Arusha
- Diocese scholarships for seminary and schools, evangelical training

**Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre**
- “Plaster House” for rehabilitation & recovery, at the [plaster=casts!]
- Funding to build new Nursing School by 2018

**Companion Congregations - North Central Diocese, Arusha:**
- Currently 24 NIS congregations have North Central Diocese partners.
- The next NIS trip to Tanzania is set for Fall 2016.

**Mwangaza Partnership for Education:** Along with annual financial support, we arrange visits and support Mwangaza programs for teaching, HIV/AIDS education, and family care. Daudi Msseemaa, son of Martin, former NIS Global Chair, is the Mwangaza Consultant

**June-July 2015** Debbie Kogelman, U of Chicago Lab School, worked with teachers at Summer Seminars. She returns for new seminars in June-July 2016.
Companionship with Arcot Lutheran Church, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India

Bishop Socrates

Companion Congregations-Arcot Lutheran Church, Tamil Nadu, India:

- Eleven NIS Congregations have partnered with ALC Congregations.

Danish Mission Hospital is now working with help from the Christian Medical Center and Lutheran Partners in Global Mission. Arcot leadership has hired a surgeon and an obstetrics doctor comes twice a week. Weekly the Van takes a doctor to villages for the Kalrayan Hills eye-care ministry.

Arcot Youth Ministry: Celebrated 37 years of ministry.

Lutheran Partners in Global Mission [LPGM] of Minneapolis and NIS work together on library, hospital, and school projects in ALC.

September 24, 2016: Both Bishop Massangwa from Arusha and Bishop Socrates from Tamil Nadu will attend the installation of the new NIS Bishop-elect.

Oct. 29-30 ELCA Region 5 Global & Hunger gathering in at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque IA.

Grateful Praise to Global Mission Committee & Teams, for the prayers, inspiration, work, and joy!

Special Thanks to

- All NIS Congregations and Organizations for Missionary Support
- Faith Lutheran, Rochelle, and Tabor Lutheran, Rockford, for hosting Committee Meetings
- Deaconess Cheryl A. Erdmann for organizing the two Visits from the Arcot Lutheran Church
- John and Esther Prabhakar, our guides to and from Tamil Nadu
- Ron Gustafson, for his many visits to Tanzania and the ALMC
- Minnette Scott, NIS Council, for chairing the New ALMC Nursing School campaign
- June Cain, NIS Office, for help in Global Mission finances

NIS Global Mission Committee 2015-16 Dedicated Volunteers

Art Milton 18 Chair Trinity, Moline
Pr. Amy Nyman 18 Zion, Rockford
John Prabhakar 18 Faith, Rochelle
Dan Wynard 18 Alpine, Rockford
Pr. Jane McChesney 16 Tabor & First, Rockford
Sharon Wadle 16 First, DeKalb
Ron Henning 16 Bethany, Crystal Lake
Pr. Rick Meier 16 Alpine, Rockford
Pr. Tammy Anderson Immanuel, Earlville
Sharon Atkins 17 Salem, Sandwich
Chuck Moen 17 Prince of Peace-Freeport

Tim Olofsson 17 St. Matthew, Princeton
Linda Patterson 17 St Paul, Dixon
Ron Gustafson Grace, Loves Park
Linda Milton Trinity, Moline
Mike Wadle First, DeKalb
Leo Patterson St Paul, Dixon
Bill Wittig All Saints, Byron
Esther Prabhakar Faith, Rochelle
John Prabhakar Faith, Rochelle

NIS Companion Coordinators:
- Tanzania – Mr. Ron Gustafson
- India – Pastor Rick Meier

Companion Parishes May 2016

NIS Tanzania

Alpine, Rockford – Moiparo
Bethany, Crystal Lake – Kiutu
Bethesda, Morrison – Magugu
Bethlehem, DeKalb – Naberera
Faith, Wataga – Oldonyo-Sambu
First, DeKalb – Ketumbeine
First, Geneseo – Osupuko
Grace, Loves Park – Likamba
Grace, Woodstock – Arusha
Salem, Sycamore – Kijenge
Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford – Loliondo
St. James, Rock Island – Mdori

NIS India

Alpine, Rockford – Saron-Tiruvannamalai
All Saints, Byron – Broadway-Chennai
Bethlehem, DeKalb – Kilpennathur-Tiruvannamalai
Christ, Belvidere – ALC-Melpattambakkam
Faith, Rochelle – Sandapet-Thirukoilur

St. John, Rock Island – Namanga
St. John’s, Elizabeth – Boay
St. John’s, Peru – Babati
St. John’s, Pearl City – Olokii
St. John’s, Sterling – Malambo
St. Matthew’s, Princeton – Elerai
St. Paul, Dixon – Loolera
St. Paul Lutheran, Sterling – Engaruka
Trinity Lutheran, Galesburg – Kimandolu
Zion, LaMoille – Monduli

Living Waters, Crystal – ALC-Polur
Our Savior’s, Rockford – Carmel-Tiruvannamalai
St. John, Princeton – St. Peter’s-Neyveli
Zion, Rockford – ALC-Parangipettai
Ministry Support Committee

Ministry Support Committee Mission Statement: Enabling Christians of the Northern Illinois Synod to realize their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers. To accomplish the mission, we provide resources, support, and continuing education within our synod, in cooperation with other synods, agencies, and institutions within the ELCA and the Church.

The Ministry Support Committee goal is to support those who are interested in ministry, both lay and rostered. The committee is made up of subcommittees. There is an interdependent role of the Ministry Support Committee with the subcommittees, the Bishop’s Office and Synod Council. Our service is decentralized with very good leaders in the subcommittees that provide direction and leadership. The Ministry Support Committee liaisons provide communication and information to and from the subcommittee’s areas, including:

- Candidacy Committee – Pastor Rob Kinnear is the chair and they meet throughout the year with candidates at various stages in their discernment of becoming Rostered Leaders in the ELCA.
- Professional Leadership Conference – Pastor John Heins is the chair and they plan the September retreat for Rostered Leaders.
- Salary Guidelines Committee – Pastor Tom Rogers and Daryl Stienstra co-chair and they provide resources to congregations for compensation and benefits for rostered leaders. The guidelines are approved by Synod Council and brought forward as a resolution from the Synod Council to the Synod Assembly for approval.
- Spiritual Formation Committee – This group plans retreats for rostered leaders.
- First Call Theological Education – The Bishop’s office coordinates this area for ELCA Rostered leaders in their first three years of ministry.
- Mutual Ministry & Personnel – These subcommittees provide suggestions and guidelines congregations can use for their Mutual Ministry committees and suggestions and guidelines congregations can use for conducting evaluations, goal setting, and performance reviews. These can be found on the Synod’s website.
- Health & Wellness Taskforce – In 2015 Health & Wellness became a subcommittee of Ministry Support and continues its work of providing resources and leadership for the health and wellbeing of rostered leaders and congregation members.

The members of the Ministry Support Committee include Pastor Kathy Burkheimer, Pastor Tony Dusso, Trenton Ferro, Pastor Ben Ingelson, Pastor Brandon Nelson, Bette Mohr, Cheryl Reimer, Ken Reinhardt, Pastor Chris Stienstra (Synod Council Liaison), Daryl Stienstra, Carol Swenson, and Carla Vanatta. We thank them for their service this past year!

Much of the work of the Ministry Support Committee happens via the work and leadership of all these subcommittees. The Ministry Support Committee meets quarterly to check in, to report on subcommittee progress, and to discuss upcoming projects and ministry needs. For example, the Ministry Support Committee intends to create suggestions and best practices for caring for staff personnel in congregations in addition to Rostered Leaders.
The Ministry Support Committee greatly appreciates the faithful work of the Synod staff, Synod Council, and Bishop's Office who provide guidance, leadership, and assistance, and we're glad to play a role in supporting the vocational calling of the members of the Northern Illinois Synod and its congregations!

Respectfully Submitted
Pastor Ben Ingelson – Chair

Health and Wellness Subcommittee
During 2015 the Bishop’s Task Force on Health and Wellness was changed to a subcommittee of the Ministry Support Committee. Over the nine years of the Task Force two additional activities (Boundaries Workshops and Safeguarding God’s Children) had been developed and each topic became a separate entity.

The Mission of the Health and Wellness Subcommittee is to encourage rostered leaders to identify their current health status and to motivate them to move toward improved wholeness. We look to the Wholeness Wheel which reflects our call to care for our whole self. By balancing the interconnected dimensions of well-being, we are able to live well in Christ and to pass on our faith.

The areas of focus for the subcommittee are:
- Portico Health Assessment promotion and monitoring
- CRE educational offerings related to our mission
- Synod Assembly Stretch and Pray
- Fall PLC massages

Future possibilities for discussion include:
- “Healthy Coffee Hour” promotion
- “Healthy Leaders – why and how
- Spousal support / counseling

Members of this subcommittee are:
The Rev. Susan Davenport  Ms. Mytch Dorvilier
Ms. Karin Graddy, AiM  Ms. Cheryl Reimer
The Rev. Bob Hansen  Rev. Michael Neel
Ms. Ruth Anderson, AiM  Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, AiM
The Rev. William Weidenbach  Ms. Carol Swenson RN, MS

It has been a pleasure to serve as chair of this subcommittee,
Carol Swenson, RN, MS

Candidacy Subcommittee
The Candidacy Subcommittee continues its work of shepherding candidates for Rostered Ministry through the discernment process. The members of the committee have been diligent in fulfilling this important mission for the ministry of Christ and Christ’s Church. Very frequently NIS candidates have expressed their appreciation that they are able to work with people who genuinely care for them as persons. They take note as well that the committee does more than just attend to the Administrative
needs of Northern Illinois and the Church-Wide expression of the ELCA. Following is a list of the current members / and participants of the Sub-Committee: Candidacy, Myrna Anderson, Tammy Anderson, Richard Brynteson, Assistant to the Bishop Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, Judy Engebretson, Ken Gibson, Mark Juliot (on leave), Rob Kinnear, Bette Mohr (liaison), Craig Peterson, Ken Reinhardt, Carla Vanatta (member of the Ministry Support Committee who has previously served on Candidacy and continues to be available to serve as an interview panel member when needed.) Terrie Wilder, Linda Winkelman, Bishop Gary Wollersheim and Region 5 Coordinator Ramie Bakken.

In January of 2016 Deaconess Erdmann, Pr. Bakken, and I attended a Training Session at the ELCA Headquarters. We, along with other Regional Coordinators, Assistants to Bishops, Bishops Candidacy representatives from our seminaries and Candidacy Committee Chairpersons had the opportunity to study together the new Candidacy Manual developed ELCA staff with input from Candidacy folks across the Church. The revised manual represents the Church’s efforts to address the changes in, and needs of U.S. culture in the 21st Century. As we experience the current milieu in which disciples of Christ live, the ELCA is designing a strategy for the development of mission-oriented Rostered Leaders. This strategy represents a renewed emphasis on Jesus’ way of preparing the Apostles and servants of the earliest Faith-Communities so that people might be drawn to the love of God and service in God’s Kingdom. One aspect of this design awaits the decision of the Church-Wide Assembly regarding the reformation of the Lay Ministries Roster. It is anticipated that there will be one Roster comprised of Diaconal Ministers, Associates in Ministry and Deaconesses’. Should the Church adopt the unified Roster, those persons will be known as Deacons. The rite of acceptance into ministry will be Consecration. The Synod is asked to hold this process and those who will take action concerning it in prayer as the will of the Spirit and the Church is discerned.

The Northern Illinois Synod currently has 17 persons in various stages of their Candidacy discernment process. Three of these candidates are in Internship assignments and 6 have completed their internships. One of the 6 has also been approved for the roster and assigned to the NIS. The students who are between Entrance and Approval are spread among the seminaries in the Upper Midwest (LSTC, U. of Dubuque/Wartburg, Wartburg, LSTC, U. of Chicago Divinity School/LSTC and Luther).

As the Candidates continue the journey of discernment your prayers and support are vital to the mission of raising up and preparing persons to answer God’s call to Rostered ministry in the ELCA. Those discerning and answering a call to Rostered Ministry are gifts to the Church for the up-building of the saints as they live in and celebrate the Kingdom of God among us.

Finally, let me express my gratitude for the privilege of serving with the NIS Candidacy sub-committee, the congregations of the NIS and the seminaries of the Church. It is indeed humbling to watch the Spirit work in and through those serving in the Candidacy phase of Ministry Support. Because of the gifts that are shared, so freely, the light of Christ continues to shine in the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Pr. Rob Kinnear
Candidacy Sub-Committee Chair
Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee serves to inform, educate, and assist congregations in the Synod in regards to new and redeveloping congregations, evangelism and natural church development.

During the year 2015 these were some of the things we worked on:

1. We spent time trying to clarify and plan an outreach training program. We are still in the process of bringing this project to life as part of our efforts to promote evangelism in our Synod congregations.
2. We provided monetary support to several new ministries and to some that were in re-development.
3. We spend some time reflecting on our current evangelistic efforts in our Synod and examining possibilities for new development.
4. Reports were gathered regarding the state of current new ministry development.
5. We considered how we can incorporate lay ministry in our future church ministry plans.
6. We considered different options for the future of our Outreach efforts in our Synod.

There is a lot more we would like to get done in the years to come, in our understanding reaching out to others and telling them about our Lord Jesus Christ through word and action is the essence of what our church is all about.

Peace,
Reverend José Cortés
NIS Outreach Committee Chair

Social Ministry Committee

MISSION STATEMENT: Inspiring the people of the congregations and communities of the Northern Illinois Synod to make Christ known in word and deed, locally and globally, through experiential education and theological reflection with regard to social ministry concerns.

We experienced a surge of enthusiasm this year on the committee, and have given our attention to many ministries to make Christ known in word and deed, in the synod and around the world.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH FOR THE GLORY OF GOD:

- REFUGEES: In light of the Syrian refugee crisis, we raised awareness of refugees - their presence in our neighborhoods, their stories, and how congregations can welcome them into our culture. At 2016 CRE and Assembly, a panel of refugees shared their perspectives to help listeners learn the needs of people who are new to the United States and fleeing persecution in their home countries.
LUTHERAN ADVOCACY: Feeling the impact of the State budget impasse this year, Lutheran Advocacy has been dismantled, along with 30 programs of Lutheran Social Services. We are collaborating with people involved in the statewide leadership network for advocacy to continue the church's participation in speaking for the vulnerable.

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE: In response to the resolution brought to the floor at the 2015 Assembly (Divestment/Investment: A Response to Climate Change), and with direction from the Synod Council, a task force has been formed to educate and open conversation on this issue. Plans are being developed and are underway to lead a forum at the 2016 Assembly and create tools for carrying the conversation to the congregations.

SMALL CONGREGATIONS: Pr. Gary Erickson and Pr. Denver Bitner, Assistants to the Bishop, offered a workshop at the 2016 CRE on Collaborating for Success: building new strategies for success in parish ministry. The workshop attracted over 80 attendees and needed to be relocated so everyone could attend, attesting to the great need for support and encouragement for small congregation ministries!

ELCA WORLD HUNGER – Good news: small congregations make a big difference in their generous giving! Bad news: overall, giving is down 30% from 2014 to 2015. Please encourage your congregation to give to this efficient and effective churchwide ministry through your synod offering!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – At the 2016 Assembly we are collecting emergency items for people escaping domestic violence, helping them on their first step to survival.

RACIAL JUSTICE – Speakers are available for adult forums or to lead other conversations in your congregation, to help break down racial barriers in our diverse and often divisive society.

GRANTS APPROVED: We initiated a promotion of the grant money the synod has available through the committee and received an enthusiastic response!

1) ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant endorsed: Great River Outreach food ministry, Savanna, IL ($6000.00 requested)

2) NIS Social Ministry Committee grant endorsed: Calvary Lutheran Jesus Club, Rockford, IL ($500.00 approved)

3) As of this report, we have $9,800.00 worth of grant requests to review at our May 2016 meeting. The need exists and the people are willing!

ACTIVE SUBCOMMITTEES: Thanks to our subcommittee network - World Hunger (Kent Terry, Chair), Racial Justice Task Force (Peter Kivist, Chair), and Lutheran Advocacy.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Thanks to committee members who share their time and passion for social ministry: Pastor Denver Bitner (staff liaison), Pastor Thomas Ekstrand, Denise Hoover, Don Long, Roger Luft (Vice Chair), Pastor Chuck Olson (Secretary and World Hunger liaison), Pastor Scott Ralston, Patrick Rhody, Linda Storm, Pastor Mary Carol Strug; and to Jula Haugen, who has decided to step down from her position with us because of time constraints, not lack of passion for the work of The Church!

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Robin Caldwell
Chair, NIS Social Ministry Committee
The Bishop’s Taskforce on Boundaries

The Bishop’s Taskforce on Boundaries came into being in March 2015. Originally boundaries trainings were administered by the Bishop’s Taskforce on Health and Wellness, but as this taskforce had become overwhelmed with the number of tasks it was responsible for, a separate taskforce, chaired by the Rev. Sarah Wilson, was created to work exclusively with boundaries trainings.

The Bishop’s Taskforce on Boundaries has been working on two main objectives. First, it does the work necessary to offer an annual training to rostered leaders on how to maintain healthy boundaries in the organizations in which they work. Leaders were invited to attend the November 18, 2015, training at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, Illinois. Mrs. Barbara Keller, the ELCA’s Consultant for Prevention of Sexual Misconduct, along with Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, led the event. Approximately 22 people attended.

The second main purpose of the taskforce is to create a multi-year boundaries training curriculum. In this way, leaders in the Northern Illinois Synod can have access to boundaries trainings that address different parts of their ministries each year. In order to advance this goal, the taskforce met with Mrs. Barbara Keller on November 19, 2015, to receive her input on a curriculum and to begin forming a strategy for accomplishing it. The taskforce has spent the time since that meeting working to create the curriculum and implement it.

**Year One:** a general training on boundaries.

**Year Two:** a training on maintaining healthy boundaries in regards to social media.

**Year Three:** a training on how self-care can help a leader have healthy boundaries.

**Year Four:** Safeguarding God’s Children.

The next boundaries training, focusing on healthy boundaries around social media, will be offered on November 17, 2016, at LOMC.

Finally, in addition to its work with rostered leaders, the taskforce created a one-hour boundaries training for lay leaders that it debuted at the Congregation Resourcing Event in March 2016. The premise is that lay leaders can help rostered leaders maintain clear and healthy boundaries if they have the knowledge and resources to do that.

The Bishop’s Taskforce on Boundaries is always looking for new members who are interested in helping our leaders have healthier ministries and lives. Please contact the Rev. Sarah Wilson if you feel called to this work.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Sarah E. Wilson
Report of Conferences

Central Conference

Gatherings in the central conference are regular and well-attended. Rostered and youth leaders, spouses, and friends can be found at these gatherings.

Every Tuesday, preachers from the conference gather for a text study, fellowship, and lunch for those who wish to stay afterward. We are blessed by the presence of colleagues from other denominations as well, who have been invited over the years and bring unique perspectives.

Every second Wednesday of the month we gather at one of our congregations for worship, a meeting, and the occasional programming. We may have a presenter come on behalf of a particular ministry or organization. Youth leaders in the conference have been a part of that worship and those meetings on occasion as well, when their schedules allow for it. During our times without a program of some sort, we take the time to share and catch up on one another's hopes and joys, both personal and in ministry.

The St. John's Bible which the conference pastors purchased and circulated amongst our congregations over the past couple of years was given to the Synod office, rather than a particular congregation. Our hope is that other congregations will be able to take advantage of that resource in the future.

As is to be expected, there were a number of changes in call. Rev. Barb Otten has been called to Immanuel, Amboy; Rev. Jeff Schlesinger to Immanuel, Compton and First, Lee; Rev. Vicki Sauter (interim) at Immanuel, Rock Falls; Rev. Kathy Burkheimer (interim) at Freedom, Oregon; and Rev. Rob Kinnear (interim) at St. Paul, Dixon. Rev. Hank Milner of Immanuel, Rock Falls has retired.

God has truly blessed this conference and the whole synod which such fine ministers and congregations. We give thanks often that we are able to be part of a church such as this!

Rev. Andrew Kayes

East Conference

The East Conference has celebrated lively participation in our monthly gatherings this past year and has enjoyed their opportunities for collegiality. The conference began the year with its annual end-of-August kick-off luncheon, and has since continued to meet monthly from September through May, except for December. Our meetings include a time of fellowship, worship with Eucharist, a time of communicating and sharing of synod, congregational, and church-wide business, and the host congregation is responsible for providing a presentation for our colleagues.

During the past year representatives from various organizations have made presentations including: Senior Helpers on dementia and Alzheimer's, the Muslim Association of Bolingbrook on Muslim/Christian relations, a State representative on budget challenges in the State House in Springfield affecting LSSI, Kids Hope USA on
mentoring children in the schools, and the Northern Illinois Synod regarding the
election of a new Bishop. We also were led by colleagues in discussions about
transitions in the church, how to be the church in these changing times, and how to
grow in mission with diminished resources.

The East Conference has also welcomed new colleagues in the past year as pastors
have accepted new calls. New to the conference this year are: Kit Neel who was
appointed to an interim call (Cross of Glory, Homer Glen), and Ernie Rex who was
appointed to an interim call with retiring Pastor Paul Carlson (First, Plano). Other
transitions include: Dorothy Wilcox who retired from Cross of Glory, Homer Glen,
Paul Carlson who retired from New Life in Bolingbrook and Bruce Booher who retired
from First, Plano. And we celebrate the life of retired pastor Howard Walker who
passed on to glorious eternal life this past year as well. We celebrate everyone's
ministries and pray for God's guidance and blessing as they serve their new calls and
congregations.

We also celebrate the many students from our conference that participate in the
Diakonia program, and that St. John's in Joliet has been able to host this vital source of
spiritual formation and theological education.

The conference has their annual meeting each year in March, and this year's meeting
took place on March 17th at First and Santa Cruz in Joliet.

The East Conference has a rich diversity of urban, suburban, and rural congregations
and an equally rich diversity of talented, gifted, and committed leaders who faithfully
serve their God and God's people. We look forward to another year of serving
together.

Rev. Tim Linstrom
Dean, East Conference

North Conference

It is, indeed, a pleasure and privilege to bring you a report for the North Conference of
the Northern Illinois Synod.

This past year has been filled with a sense of renewal with much activity throughout
the conference. While taking our ministry seriously, we have some good laughs along
the way. There is good activity in each congregation and we are thankful for the
leadership provided in those congregations.

The conference is blessed to have a close working relationship with Rockford Area
Lutheran Ministries (RALM), which is a collaborative effort to provide services and
activities that congregations might not be able to do on their own. Important
conference activities have included churches partnering in confirmation education,
youth activities, support of LSSI, Katie's Cup, Rockford Lutheran Schools, BECCA's
Closet, and Trivia Night and yes, even a golf game along the way.

The North Conference would like to express our deep gratitude to Bishop Wollersheim
as he finishes his service as Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod. He has served with
humbleness and distinction at the right place at the right time and we give thanks to
God for him. We offer a sincere “Thank You” to Bishop and Polly for service rendered
and wish them many years of happy retirement. Well done good and faithful servants.
Sincere appreciation as well to Rev. Jeff Clements and Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann for their constant support and cooperation. To the clergy, all professional leaders, lay leaders and church members all, who consistently carry out the mission of God’s church throughout our area in the best possible way, my deep and abiding appreciation.

The North Conference monthly meetings are well attended. Our monthly meetings provide us time to break bread together, worship together, learning opportunities from guest speakers and, very importantly, the joy of strong collegiality and friendship.

It's great to see the churches working together for the greater good of the church both locally and universally, as we continue, with God's help, to truly appreciate that we are “Always being made New” for “We Are Church!”

Together in Christ,
Rev. Nord Swanson
North Conference Dean

Northeast Conference

The rostered leaders of the Northeast Conference continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month for fellowship, worship, and to welcome a guest speaker or share in conversation.

This past year our presenters and conversation topics have included: holiday grief resources, “Question, Persuade, Refer” Suicide Prevention Training, Current Issues in U.S. Inter-Religious Relations with Professor Carol Shersten LaHurd, “In Her Shoes: Living with Domestic Violence” education training, Lutheran World Relief Mission Trips, and Rev. Paul Amlin, ELCA Program Director for Youth Ministry.

We gathered for a spring conference assembly on April 26 at Bethany, Crystal Lake for a soup dinner and pre-assembly preparations led by the synod’s Transition Team.

Our conference celebrates the ministry transitions of new calls and retirement: Pastor Cathy Daharsh called to Bethany, Crystal Lake; Pastor Jeff Schlesinger called to First, Lee and Immanuel, Compton; and Pastor Roger Schneider retired from Shepherd of the Hills, McHenry.

We give thanks for the opportunity to gather with colleagues as we share in the ministry of proclaiming God’s good news.

Pastor Amanda Bergstrom
Dean, Northeast Conference

Northwest Conference

The annual meeting of the Northwest Conference convened on Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 6:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church, Stockton. Fourteen persons were in attendance and shared a meal before business commenced.
Business began with a presentation from Jesse Klosterboer of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. He asked us to share ways how our lives have been connected to Outdoor Ministries and gave updates about what is happening at LOMC. He reviewed Summer Bible Camp, Retreats, Family Camp, Zip Line, and more, including upcoming Events at LOMC.

A Synod Report and Assembly Preview were given by Pastor Mark Luepke, Prince of Peace, Freeport and Synod Council secretary. The In-kind Offering was reviewed as well as the different format of Assembly due to the major construction on the Augustana College campus.

Election results from the meeting included Jesse Klosterboer, Good Shepherd, Lena, elected as lay male and Pr. Jamie Gallagher, Trinity, Milledgeville elected as ordained male to the Synod Nominating Committee. Elected as Lay Male for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly was Larry Cording, Shepherd of the Hills, Schapville. A motion passed to contribute $150.00 of Conference funds to LOMC.

Transitions this past year included departures of Pr. Elizabeth Mascal, First, Mount Carroll and Trinity, Lanark; Pr. Miranda Klosterboer, Good Shepherd, Lena; Intern Bruce Burbank, Scenic Hills Lutheran Parish; Pr. David Vidler from Scenic Hills to Interim Pastor of Shepherd of the Hills, Schapville; and Pr. Tom Jacoby, First, Pecatonica, to retired. Welcomed were Intern Pastor Megan Preston, St. Paul, Warren; Pr. Lisa Burbank to Scenic Hills Parish, Interim Pastor Suellen Myers, First, Mt. Carroll and Trinity, Lanark (serving with Interim Pastor Steve Myers [no relation]!); Pastor Jenna Couch to Lord of Love, Galena; and Interim Pastor Nord Swanstrom to First, Pecatonica. Also serving Interim Art Stees served at St. Paul, Warren last year and is currently serving Good Shepherd, Lena.

In August we gathered for our 4th Annual summer picnic at the Christ Lutheran parsonage, well-attended by Pastors and spouses, including guests Chester and Betty Davenport from Christ Lutheran, Belvidere.

In the fall it was decided to suspend our monthly text study and revisit the idea at a later date. At the departure of Pr. Miranda Klosterboer (NW Conference Secretary), Intern Pastor Megan Preston was appointed as Secretary Pro-temp.

The second class of Diakonia students of the NW Conference will graduate this summer.

We will meet again in Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 28, 2016, which will include elections for a new Secretary and a new Dean (my second term having expired!).

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Susan Davenport, Dean
Northwest Conference-NIS

South Conference

The South Conference of the Northern Illinois Synod is located in the Southeastern part of the synod. We stretch from Seneca in the east to Princeton and Ohio in the west; Streator in the south to Mendota in the north. Our South Conference Assistant to the Bishop is Pr. Tim Kenyon from St. John’s in Peru. Pastors meet monthly during the school year. We have made some changes to our meeting schedule this year, moving
to the fourth Thursday, and from morning meetings to the afternoon. These changes have helped to boost our attendance. We have been happy to welcome Pr. Janet Lepp (St. John’s, Mendota) and Pr. Bill Callister (St. Paul’s, Streator) as new pastors in our conference. We also welcomed, as interim at County Line and St. Paul’s, Tonica, Chris Beamsley. Pr. Garry Briesacher retired from Trinity in Ottawa in January. Pr. Roger Helgren also retired from County Line and St. Paul’s, Tonica. In December 2015, Pr. Ann Ziegert was tragically killed in a car accident. Pr. Tim Kenyon is helping to coordinate supply preachers for Emmaus in McNabb and First, Granville.

South Conference Discipleship Gathering was at St. John’s in Somonauk. Spring Conference Assembly will be held at St. Paul’s in Streator. Our conference works well together and we are looking for more ways to work together and to be supportive of one another.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Kris Ann Zierke,
South Conference Dean

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Southwest Conference

The congregations and rostered leaders of the SW Conference enjoyed a year of collaboration, fellowship and community building. We worked together with the congregations of the West Conference in a variety of ways throughout the year. In addition, congregations of the two conferences shared in ministry through the Andover Cluster, a group of churches centered around Augustana Lutheran Church, Andover.

On September 15, 2015, we met at Faith, Wataga, to catch up after our summer hiatus and hear about the 2015 Worship Jubilee, held in Atlanta, GA. Pr. Robert Franek hosted us and gave us a taste of the Jubilee; with stories of worship services, workshops, and plenty of resources on the ELCA’s website. He led us in a discussion on worship in our contexts. He also pointed us to the resources for the upcoming 500th Anniversary celebration of the Lutheran Reformation on the ELCA’s website.

We joined forces with the West Conference rostered leaders to hear Mark Stutrud, LSSI CEO, speak at Augustana, Andover, on October 13th, 2015. In November, we met at Messiah, Aledo, on the 17th. Pr. Jeff Clements, Assistant to the Bishop and Staff Liaison to the SW Conference, shared pictures and stories of his January 2015 trip to Tanzania for Bishop Solomon Maasranga’s Installation.

On December 15th, Rev. Dr. Len Hoffmann and Ruth Anderson, AIM, hosted us at Trinity Lutheran, Galesburg. Pr. Hoffmann spoke about intentional interim ministry.

In January, we met at First Lutheran Church, Galesburg, to hear from Michael Dixon, the representative from the ELCA Foundation, about the ways the ELCA Foundation can help individuals and congregations increase their gifts to the church. We gathered together in February to share book recommendations at First Lutheran Church, Monmouth. Pr. Vince Marolla, chaplain and interim pastor, hosted us.

We traveled to Kewanee to Zion Lutheran Church in March, where Pr. Dave Schweppe welcomed us. We enjoyed the company and counsel of Pr. Jeff Clements, Assistant to the Bishop and Staff Liaison for the SW Conference.
We hosted a joint Spring Gathering with the West Conference at Augustana, Andover, in April, to discuss the upcoming election of a Bishop at Synod Assembly.

Our last meeting of the 2015-2016 year was at Calvary, New Windsor, in May, hosted by Dr. Randy Mullin, interim. We welcomed Pr. Amy Fallon, campus pastor at Northern Illinois University, as our speaker.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Gwen H. Sefrans-Murphy
Dean of the Southwest Conference

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**West Conference**

The West Conference clergy have been meeting regularly for worship, mutual support and ministry over the past year. We have prayed together, shared ideas together, and sought to support each other in ministry. The conference continued to support the Advent and Lenten men’s breakfasts and vespers at Jenny Lind Chapel. We held a joint meeting with the Southwest Conference for an opportunity to meet Mr. Mark Sturud of LSSI.

In 2015 we recognized several transitions. We also bade farewell to Pastor Janet Lepp who accepted a call to Mendota; to Pastors Arthur Bergren and Jan Veseth who accepted calls in other synods; and to Pastor Kate Morris who was serving as an associate at Trinity, Moline. We also welcomed Pastor Cliff Schmidt who is serving as interim at Augustana, Andover together with Mr. Steve Pressly; Linda Schmidt (AIM) serving as Director of Worship and Music at First, Geneseo; and Pastor David Turner with the Spiritual Care Department at Unity Point Hospitals. Pastor Becky David is serving as interim pastor for both St. James, Rock Island and First, Rock Island.

In this conference, we continue to hear of the Good News of Jesus Christ, while also seeking ways to share that good news in action as well as in words.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Knowles, West Conference Dean
Institutions of higher education often are at the forefront in leading cultural shifts and significant societal changes. Over the course of the past year, colleges and universities across the country have stepped up and spoken out against systemic injustices related to racism, the disappearing middle class, educational disparity and the criminal justice system. Much has been done in the name of equality, yet I fear we are focused more on equality than true equity within our society.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities has described the difference as follows: *Equality is about sameness; it focuses on making sure everyone gets the same thing. Equity is about fairness; it ensures that each person gets what [the person] needs. This distinction is especially important in education, where there are visible gaps in opportunities and outcomes for large numbers of students... To effectively educate today’s students, higher education must focus on both equity and equality—to make the most empowering forms of college learning available to all students.*

At Augustana, we are proud that we treat students equally, with strong anti-discrimination policies in admissions and in our educational programs. But do we treat students equally or fairly? Augustana has certainly made progress. Yet the graduation rate of historically under-represented groups, while improving, still lags that of white students. And according to our research, historically under-represented students have less of a sense of belonging at Augustana than white students.

Many students need the helping hand others have taken for granted. First-generation students do not always have the benefit of someone who knows the ropes of college. International students, especially those whose second language is English, may need assistance to fully engage in college. Students with religious beliefs other than those of our Christian founders need to see concrete support of their spiritual journeys. Members of historically under-represented racial groups need role models, mentors and champions—as I had during my college years.

*Micah 6:8* says, “And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?”

The scripture addresses both justice and mercy, which are very different from each other. Justice is about what people deserve. Mercy is often about forbearance—protecting people from the harsh consequences of what they deserve. Justice is about equality—treating everyone equally. Mercy is about giving a helping hand to all, in order that all have similar quality outcomes. So what is more important at Augustana—justice or mercy? Equality or equity? Each is important.

That’s why I’ve urged for increasing diversity within the ranks of our faculty, administration and staff. That’s why I have agreed with our board to devote the next four or five years to working to double our endowment, with the goal of making Augustana affordable to all.
At Augustana, as with many institutions of higher education, we must listen to our students to better understand the disparities they experience, and how we can become part of the solution.

Steven C. Bahls, President
augustana.edu

Carthage College - Kenosha, Wisconsin

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is an honor to be writing you on behalf of Carthage College and to be able to share with you about the mission and ministry happening on our campus. I have been in the role of Campus Pastor for a little over two years and assumed the role of Director of Congregational Relations in July of 2015. Since arriving we have established the Center for Faith and Spirituality (CFS) around the theme of “Hey, What’s your story?” with the goal of encouraging the students at Carthage to explore their own faith journey stories and to listen and learn from the stories of others. Chapel continues to be on Tuesday and this year marked the second year of both Interfaith Lunch on Thursdays and a Protestant worship service at 4pm on Sunday. The biggest change this academic year for the CFS is the addition of a student ministry leadership staff. We have paid student staff working in the areas of music, service, Lutheran Student Movement, Open Table (Wednesday night ministry), Roman Catholics at Carthage, Better Together (interfaith), Resident Hall Ambassadors, CUMBYA (Carthage Undergrads Making Big Youth Activities), and Public Relations. Student to student ministry is already making a difference as students become more comfortable exploring their faith and learning about the faith of others.

In my role as Director of Congregational Relations, I have been meeting with pastors in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and sharing what is happening at Carthage. It is wonderful to have the GMS Synod Assembly back on campus and I look forward to visiting other synods over the next several years. Part of my responsibility in this role is leading the committee working on our celebration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses. We are looking forward to reflecting on the Lutheran heritage of the college and to what it means to be a Lutheran in the 21st Century under the theme: Here I Stand.

There are many things to celebration at the Center for Faith and Spirituality and throughout the campus. Here are a few other highlights:

43 Million Dollar Science Center opened on September 9, 2015. Special features include technology-enhanced active learning classroom, a planetarium, an outdoor classroom just feet from Lake Michigan and interactive study space for students right outside faculty offices, so learning continues outside of class.

Five students awarded Fulbright Fellowships and are now working towards international understanding in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, India and Germany.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing accepted its first class of students this year with 23 prospective nursing majors. Male students make up more than one-third of the class.
Carthage has a record incoming class with approximately 840 students from 19 U.S. states and five foreign countries.

Carthage is awarded $349K grant for internship funding over three years which will provide nearly 200 new, paid internships.

Carthage ranks 4th in the nation in study abroad opportunities. During January and June hundreds of Carthage students travel around the world to learn during these short term study aboard programs. Countries traveled too include: Germany, India, South Africa, Costa Rica, Honduras, France and more.

Lady Red Volleyball team makes it to NCAA Final Four. It is a great group of young ladies who are a class act on and off the court.

Please keep Carthage in your prayers as we continue to strive towards helping a new generation find their callings in this world.

In Christ, Pastor Kara F. Baylor

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**Grace Place at Northern Illinois University**

No report at time of printing

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**Lutheran Campus Ministries of Illinois**

No report at time of printing
Dear Friends,

We give thanks for the many gifts that you, the people of the Northern Illinois Synod, send to the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC) and Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS). We couldn’t carry out our mission without

- the financial support you offer as individuals, congregations, and synods. Your support is the foundation for the economy of leadership formation in the ELCA.
- the people you encourage who may become seminary students. By saying to someone, “Have you considered a call to ministry? I think you have the gifts,” you plant the seed of discernment. Seminaries rely on you to identify those gifts among people in your congregations and your family and friends.
- your prayers and care for your seminaries and their students. You encourage and inspire us in the work of forming leaders who are well-prepared to inspire others in living out their faith.

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago continues to fulfill its mission of forming visionary leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ by:

- Sending out 58 students from six degree programs at the May 2015 Commencement. Half of our Master of Divinity graduates were in a call process or had a call in hand as of Commencement, and nearly all are now ordained or consecrated and serving in ministries across the country.
- Awarding over 40 full-tuition scholarships to new and returning master of divinity students and providing scores of other partial-tuition scholarships to students in every year of their studies. Thanks to this financial assistance and financial counseling, the total amount of student loans decreased by 25% compared to last year, its lowest level in 13 years.
- Welcoming Rev. Jan Rippentrop as the Axel Jacob and Gerda Maria (Swanson) Carlson Chair in Homiletics and the Director of MA Programs to the faculty.
- Welcoming Rev. Dr. Harvard Stephens Jr. as the Pastor to the Community and Dean of the Chapel.
- Having its curriculum, focused on “Preparing Leaders for a Public Church,” named as one of the most innovative programs in theological education in North America by Convergence US and featured at the Reimagining Theological Education conference held in fall 2015.
- Launching the Public Church Fellows Program, providing stipends for five master of divinity students who combine academics, community service in a Chicago area nonprofit organization, and spiritual reflection.
- Bringing together delegations from the eight ELCA seminaries to explore and rethink the future of theological education through a shared “Learning Exchange” – an online way to share teaching and learning among the
seminaries and more broadly across our church (a project being funded by the Dean and Rosemarie Buntrock Foundation).

**Wartburg Theological Seminary** continues to live out its mission of forming valued leaders for God’s mission by:

- Sending out 46 graduates to serve in congregations and ministries. As early as July more than 75% % of eligible students with seminary financial support for their education. Wartburg also continues to be efficient and consistently has the second or third lowest cost per student among the ELCA seminaries with the debt levels of students also among the lowest.

We invite you and members of your congregation to visit our seminaries and attend worship, participate in a continuing education event, discern a call to ministry, or visit with some of the future leaders that you and your synod support through your gifts to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and to Wartburg Theological Seminary. To learn more about the seminaries, their faculty, programs and upcoming events, visit www.lstc.edu and www.wartburgseminary.edu.

Your partnership is essential for LSTC and Wartburg to continue their shared mission of providing dynamic theological education for present and future leaders of your congregations and ministries in your synod, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,

President James Nieman
President Louise N. Johnson
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Wartburg Theological Seminary

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**Wartburg College**

*Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.*

In our daily work to educate young people, Wartburg College strives to live its distinctive mission in bold, new contexts. Our calling is to challenge and nurture students of tomorrow, who come to us from many places, desires, and aspirations.

**Enrollment**

Like so many sister schools in the region, our most recent incoming classes have been smaller than those we welcomed in the late '90s and early 2000s. Fall 2015 enrollment at Wartburg was 1,537; international students and U.S. students of color total 19 percent. Because so much of our operating revenue comes from tuition, room, and board, we've had to undergo a careful and serious budget review process, and deploy new admissions strategies to build larger applicant pools.
Transforming Tomorrow Campaign

Wartburg’s $75 million comprehensive campaign, publicly launched in 2014, has been enthusiastically received by alumni, parents, and friends. Nearing the total goal a year early, the campaign features three components:

- **People:** Wartburg has awarded new or additional scholarships to more than 120 students, representing $335,000 in additional aid. Two sizeable estate gifts have created new scholarships for science and education students.

- **Places:** Wartburg broke ground in February 2016 on an $8 million renovation of Clinton Hall that will create an innovative living and learning environment for students. Fueled by several major gifts, the project includes major interior updates and new academic and social spaces. Other significant gifts have made possible the Knief Outdoor Athletics Pavilion, a new lacrosse field, and a first-of-its-kind virtual acoustic system in Neumann Auditorium.

- **Programs:** Generous gifts have enabled the College to elevate the Gerald R. Kleinfeld Distinguished Professorship in German History to an Endowed Chair, create the Baldwin Leadership Fellows program, and establish a German Institute to provide organization and focus for the college’s wealth of Germany related programs and relationships.

New Academic Programs

- This past fall, Wartburg launched new programs in actuarial science, neuroscience, criminal justice, and a “4+1” program with Iowa State University to enable students to earn a master’s degree in industrial engineering in five years. The College will inaugurate its first master’s-level program in music therapy in Fall 2017.

- A new Des Moines internship program will provide another compelling learning opportunity in an urban environment, building on the success of the Wartburg West program in Denver, CO.

Commitment to Vocation and Mentoring

- The College was recently awarded a $10,000 NetVUE Professional Development Award from the Council of Independent Colleges to fund a one-year initiative to equip faculty and staff to help students explore their vocation.

- The 2015 Graven Award, an annual award for vocation and daily life, was awarded to Yale University’s Dr. Elijah Anderson, an award-winning author and one of the nation’s leading urban ethnographers and cultural theorists.

Recognition

- Wartburg is Iowa’s first private institution – and only the ninth in the nation – to earn a Gold rating from the leading authority on sustainability in higher education.

- Campus Compact named student Jenna Manders of Dubuque, IA, a Newman Civic Fellow for her contributions to community and civic engagement.

- Senior Mullohoji Juraev, a native of Tajikistan, was among the 2015 winners of a $10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant to improve learning conditions at a public school in his home country.
Senior Kwabena Owusu-Amoah of Ghana was awarded a $6,000 Clinton Foundation Resolution Grant to expand the use of a software app that aims to reduce maternal mortality rates in Ghana.

Many Blessings
We are blessed to work with gifted students who are committed to changing the world. Thank you for encouraging your students to join Wartburg’s historic tradition as they share their gifts to enrich our community of learning.

Dr. Darrel D. Colson, President
Report of Agencies, Institutions, and Organizations

diakonia™

Purpose and Description of diakonia™:
diakonia™ is a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Lutheran church. This process occurs in three basic ways:

- by thorough grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, systematic, historical, and Biblical theology;
- by identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry, and encouraging their use in the local parish; and
- by providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students, mentors, and teaching pastors.

Highlights of 2015-2016:
diakonia™ began its thirteenth year of classes in the Northern Illinois Synod in September 2015. Classes were held in five locations this past year:

- DeKalb/Sycamore (Monday evenings);
- Joliet and Moline (Tuesday evenings);
- Rockford (Thursday evenings); and
- NW Conference (Variable days).

The Cary, Peru, and Sterling sites were temporarily suspended this year due to low enrollment. It is hoped that these sites will re-open in Fall 2016 with at least five students. The Cary location is likely move to McHenry to be central to prospective students in the NE part of the Synod.

We give thanks to God for the approximately 25 students who have been enrolled this year and for more the many teaching pastors who have led our students as they grow in faith and understanding of God's presence in their lives. There are now more than 175 diakonia™ graduates serving within the Northern Illinois Synod in their congregations, communities, and on Synod boards and committees. Thanks be to God!

A steering committee of laypersons, pastors, and Synod staff) guides the program in Northern Illinois. In addition, Pastor Doug Liston (National Executive Director for diakonia™), Pastor Kenneth Storck (Executive Director for diakonia in the Northern Illinois Synod), and Trenton Ferro and Denise Rode (both graduates of the Rockford location), have served on the national diakonia™ board. Bob Stark, a Rockford diakonia™ graduate, is Communications Coordinator and Newsletter Editor for the NIS program and serves as webmaster for National diakonia™. Nancy Lillevold, also a graduate of the Rockford site, is treasurer for the NIS program, while Penny Timmons, a graduate of the Moline site, assists with administrative tasks. Location managers this past year have included Cathy Foelske (DeKalb/Sycamore), Dr. Trenton Ferro (Joliet), Cyn Bowen (Moline), Don Long (Rockford), and Larry Cording (NW Synod). “Come and See” events were held in August 2014 throughout the Synod and will be offered again this summer.

A highlight of the past diakonia™ year was the graduation service which took place on June 28, 2015 at Peace Lutheran Church in Morris. Pr. Gary Erickson preached and led
the Affirmation of Baptism, respectively, for graduates of the Northern Illinois Synod and Metro Chicago programs. Approximately 200 rostered leaders, family members, guests, and friends of the program gathered in celebration at this festive service.

Future Plans and Goals:

Celebration of the Eucharist will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 10, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freeport for 11 Northern Illinois graduates. A reception will be held after the service. All are welcome to share in the joy of diakonia™ graduation. Clergy and graduates are invited to robe and process.

diakonia™ graduates are encouraged to remain active with the program and to serve their congregations and the Northern Illinois Synod in a variety of ways. At least one graduate of the Northern Illinois program is now enrolled in seminary course work at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and two seminary 2016 seminary graduates began their theological journey through diakonia™ and have now been placed in the Northern Illinois Synod. Others are serving in key leadership roles in their congregations while yet others are members of NIS committees. diakonia™ graduates stay connected and involved through several B/D/A (Before/During/After diakonia™) initiatives.

Recruitment is underway for students at all locations for the 2016-2017 year. Classes are expected to begin on Saturday, September 10 in McHenry; Monday, September 12 in Sterling DeKalb/Sycamore; Tuesday, September 6 in Joliet and Moline; Thursday, September 8 in Rockford; and TBA in NW Illinois. Locations are contingent on having sufficient students for the location to be self-sustaining.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Rode, Ed.D.
Northern Illinois diakonia™ Chairperson

Contact information:
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815-756-8321
drode@niu.edu
Thank you to the people of the Northern Illinois Synod for making an investment in the future of this church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Our goal is to provide full-tuition support for every rostered ministry candidate at the ELCA seminaries, and together, we are making great progress toward that goal.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than $1.63 million in support of 235 future pastors and rostered lay leaders. Thank you for your role in ensuring that those who are called to serve our church have the opportunity to pursue a path that leads to informed faith and passionate discipleship.

We are grateful that the Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment provided a total of $1,880 in tuition support for Synod candidates for Rostered leadership during the 2015-2016 academic year.

As of Dec. 31, 2015, the Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment had the following:

- A total market value of $46,319.07
- A remaining balance in the income account of $284.37
- Amount available for scholarships in the 2016-2017 academic year: $1,846.55
  (amount includes a 10% conservative cushion to account for sudden market fluctuations)

Since its inception, the Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders endowment has awarded scholarships of $9,031 for seminary tuition, and the ELCA in total has awarded more than $11.3 million.

Finally, we ask the Northern Illinois Synod, its congregations, and its members for continued support of the ELCA Fund for Leaders as a meaningful way to make an investment in the future of this church and its leadership. It is a wonderful way to celebrate your pastor's ordination anniversary, the installation of a new pastor, or the anniversary of your congregation. For more information, please visit ELCA.org/fundforleaders, or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2555.
ELCA Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a financial ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest loans to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building projects.

Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

At year-end 2015, MIF had 830 loans outstanding, totaling $492 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

At year-end 2015, MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled $464 million. The Mission Investment Fund is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of $663 million and net assets of $194 million at year-end 2015, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 29 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

MIF Investments and Loans in the Northern Illinois Synod

As of December 31, 2015:

- 15 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of $6,750,163, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 176 individuals, 66 congregations, 4 ministries and the synod totaled $7,700,302.

MIF representative
Dan Schwiesow, Interim Regional Manager: Tel. (773) 682-5234; e-mail: dan.schwiesow@elca.org
Jenny Lind Chapel

The Jenny Lind Chapel (JLC) in Andover is a very unique ministry of the Northern Illinois Synod. It is not only a place of worship; but, also a drawing magnet to people from all over the world to learn about the joys and sorrows of the Swedish immigrants who came to the Midwest in the mid-1800s. The JLC is celebrated as the mother church of the Augustana Lutheran Church in America. In March of 2015, the Jenny Lind Chapel received visitors from India, including Rt. Rev. George William Raja Socrates Sathyachandar, Bishop-President of the 40,000-member Arcot Lutheran Church. The visitors were accompanied by Bishop Wollersheim and a delegation from the Northern IL Synod.

In April, the JLC was a focal point for the weekend-long Augustana Founders Day Reunion, which attracted people from all over the United States. The special event celebrated the 155th anniversary of the Augustana Lutheran Church in America, as well as the 165th anniversary of Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover. One of the speakers was Orion Samuelson, the Hall of Fame ag broadcaster from WGN Radio in Chicago. At the weekend reunion, the JLC was presented a grant from the Swedish Council of America to fund a preservation program being carried out by staff of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock Island. Also, last year, Lisa Huntsha, who serves as archivist/librarian at the Swenson Center, was hired as a part-time curator.

During the summer months, the JLC offers vespers every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock, with area congregations leading the services. Every April, a Founders Day Service is held celebrating the heritage of the Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover, Augustana Synod, and Augustana College and Theological Seminary. In September, a special Swedish service is held, with the liturgy and music in Swedish and the message in English. In December, the candle-lit JLC offers special music during Andover’s Christmas Walk, the Holy Communion portion of Augustana College’s Joy of Christmas Service, and a Christmas Eve Service. In 2015, there were three weddings celebrated at JLC.

This fall, a docudrama, “Sons & Daughters of Thunder,” will be aired on PBS national television. The film, which depicts the first public discussion of the abolition of slavery in the United States, had a major portion of the story filmed at the JLC in 2014. There were more than 50 actors, actresses and crew involved in the filming.

For information about the JLC and event dates and times, please visit jennylindchapel.org.
Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach

It was a Sunday afternoon and I was at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). Sunday is not my usual time here, but I went to the hospital that day to do a baptism of a young infant. It was being done at the hospital as the child’s mother was very sick from the child’s delivery. On another day it was a wedding. Two medical students asked me to preside over their wedding at the hospital as the bride’s mother was here dying of cancer. And yet another day I officiated at the funeral of one of our anesthesia professors who died. It brought together the secular (medical science) and the sacred (the good News of Jesus Christ). It was interesting to minister through the funeral to some of the doctors I see at the hospital every day. As a chaplain at UIHC I face many challenging medical, emotional, and spiritual situations, the expected, and many times the unexpected situations that couldn’t be anticipated and learned about in seminary or CPE.

But if it were not for Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach, there would be no ELCA chaplain here at UIHC. Lutheran Pastors would not be able to call or e-mail a Lutheran chaplain to visit their parishioners on their behalf. Congregations would have to pay mileage to their pastors to come hundreds of miles, and pastors would need to take an entire day to come visit their member. Patients in this big, confusing place would not have an advocate to help them weed through the maze of doctors and medical terms and illness, and family members would not have a Lutheran pastor to sit with them during an unexpected, emergency surgery.

This year Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach celebrated our 10th year of ministry. In that time I have been blessed to minister in partnership with hundreds of pastors and congregations, and to thousands of Lutherans and others at UIHC. Looking back we realized that since LCO’s inception in 2005, our supporters have donated over $800,000 to support the ELCA chaplaincy ministry. Thank you to all our supporters for making this ministry possible! One hundred percent of funding for this ministry continues to come from the donations of congregations, organizations and individuals. In 2015 this amounted to just over $82,000. Again, thank you! This supported me in maintaining 30 hours of service a week.

The LCO Board of Directors have been dedicated in volunteering many hours, sweat, and tears to this ministry with meetings, manning our booth at synod assemblies and other gatherings, preparing our newsletter, fund-raising and doing all they can to increase awareness of this ministry. They are currently seeking volunteers for the board, committees, and for web and administrative support. This year we also said goodbye to our good friend and board member Rev. Dr. Ray Runkel who died in August. Ray was instrumental in the formation of LCO and longtime supporter of ELCA chaplaincy at UIHC.

Toward the close of 2015 we announced the “Share My Days” campaign. This is a new LCO giving opportunity that allows a closer, more personal participation in my day to day ministry. Donors are invited to sponsor a day, a week, or more with the date of their choosing and I will send them a report and reflection of ministry during that time. We also continue to encourage congregations to consider giving ½ of 1% of their budget; put a regular, line item in your budget; have a special offering or fundraising event to raise money for LCO; give from your endowment fund.
Talking with a pastor the other day, he said that his congregation was making across the board cuts in its budget. The pastor said, “We can’t cut out LCO. That is our pastor to the south and we need her there.” I am your Lutheran pastor to the south, and north, and east, and west. Thank you for our partnership, as together we share the grace and love of Jesus Christ to those who are sick and hurting.

Rev. Cindy Breed,
Chaplain, Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach
LCO Chaplain office phone 319-356-3817
e-mail: cindy-breed@uiowa.edu
(emergency pastoral care): 319-356-1616, ask for the on-call interfaith chaplain

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Oregon, Illinois

Friends in Christ,
As God transforms us from the inside out, so too is He bringing about change at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC)! In our 41st year, over 10,000 guests came to our 640-acre site near Oregon, Illinois. Over 170 ELCA congregations sent and supported youth and adults to our camp for learning God’s word, growing in healthy self-esteem, strengthening faith in Jesus, bonding with fellow believers, and building stronger connections to their home congregations. At the end of the year, our guests included 60 youth and adults from the Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA). They spent some of their time learning how to manage our country’s reaction to their faith, as well as taking in all that LOMC has to offer with fun activities amidst the quiet, serene beauty of the outdoors. Overall, our guests continue to come back to our congregational retreats, summer camp, outdoor education, confirmation retreats, family reunions, concerts, volunteer work events, Autumn Fest, adult enrichment programs, trainings, and much more!

Our devoted 2015 staff of 30 counselors shared God’s love with over 1,000 campers last summer. They exemplified the hands and feet of Jesus, working tirelessly 6 days a week, to share God’s word in the outside world with our campers. The impact on our kids is so profound and life lasting, that many of our campers eventually become counselors themselves, and even take their love for Christ into their careers. In particular, two of our dedicated counselors Kati and Christine Young, sisters from Lisle, IL, started attending camp when they were just 2 and 4 years old! Present day, they feel that “working at LOMC has been a cornerstone in our relationships with our God. We have been able to mature in our faith alongside each other at camp. Kati feels most impacted by the power of prayer in a place where God's presence is so easily felt. For Christine, LOMC is the place where she is accepted and loved for who she is as a child of God.” This story applies to anyone who works in our camp ministry, as we understand that transformative learning happens quickly and deeply in our natural environment, yet with intentional programming of sharing the Gospel.

The 2015 LOMC budget was $850,000. LOMC is fortunate to have very diversified sources of income. Our guests at summer camp, retreats, and outdoor education account for 60% of the annual income. We are very grateful that another 32% of LOMC’s annual income comes from our donors, congregations, synods and Thrivent Financial making it possible for LOMC to charge an affordable rate for retreats and summer camp. For example, the base registration fee for a week of summer camp is
$390, but the actual cost is more than $500 per camper. This marvelous balance of multiple income sources allows LOMC to continue a policy of not turning away any child for economic reasons. The final 8% of LOMC’s total income came from land rental fees and money donated for capital projects.

On the other side of the ledger, it is noteworthy that LOMC has minimal administrative expense while the vast majority of expenses are for program and related services. We are very grateful for the generous giving by congregations, individual donors and synods that made it possible for LOMC to build and dedicate the John Califf Memorial Garden, add an extension to the zip line landing platform, and build a brand new human Foosball court. Thank you for making a difference and for new beginnings in the life of young people who, through your generosity, will attend summer camp and youth retreats!

A look at the specific dollar amounts on the following income and expense graphs tells the story of where our money comes from and where it is spent.

As we have worked on preserving our facilities and traditions, we are excited as we plan for investing in our future. LOMC is overflowing with gratitude for a $60,000 matching grant towards constructing a new multipurpose activity center to be named the Pastor Norm Nelson Program Center, in honor of Pastor Nelson’s work and support of youth ministries. Individual donations to the building project are now matched dollar-for-dollar, thanks to this generous grant, until the combined goal of $120,000 is reached. The new facility will enhance LOMC’s programs and activities designed to build Christian community, faith development, congregational leadership training, and environmental education.

The 2015 Annual Ministry Report offers more detailed ministry stories, program information, facility improvements, and financial reports from the past year in an easy-to-read format with photos and feature articles. Please email or call the camp office if you would like a copy.

The LOMC Board and staff looks forward to a very promising year of growth and service in 2016 as we roll out a Major Gift Campaign, not only for the new construction of our multipurpose Rev. Norm Nelson Program Center, but also to restore our cabin siding in the Freedom Tree Village. We will be explaining our campaign initiatives and plan in more detail at our “RE-IGNITE” launch meeting. Any and all alumni are invited to this event over the Memorial Day Work Weekend, Friday May 27 - Sunday, May 29 to hear how we intend to raise funds for these project goals. In addition, the alumni project for that Work Weekend is to paint the outside of the Freedom Tree Village.

With all this transformation, two things remain the same: growth and gratitude. God intended for us to grow, grow in our faith and grow in serving one another. The LOMC
Board of Directors expresses gratitude to the congregations of the NIS for your continued support of God’s work at LOMC! Board members serving from the NIS in 2015 were Bishop Gary Wollersheim, who has been a very supportive leader and partner with LOMC for 16 years, Rev. Tammy Anderson, Rev. Kathy Burkheimer, Dr. Tom Champley, Rev. Jeff Clements, Dave Elliott, Bob Gingras, Jeff Lang, Gretchen O’Brien and Rev. Vicki Sauter. Thank you for your partnership in this amazing outdoor ministry!

In His Service,
Russ Senti, Executive Director Adriana Plocinski, Development Director

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

For over 149 years, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) has responded, grown, and changed to meet the needs of the most at-risk residents of our state.

As a result of the state’s ongoing budget impasse, LSSI made the decision to close 30 of its programs that resulted in 750 employee positions being eliminated in our offices statewide. Approximately 4,700 clients were affected. More than 90 percent of the programs LSSI closed were directly linked to nonpayment by the state of Illinois for services LSSI was providing on the state’s behalf, mainly home care services for seniors. The program closures and staff reductions will reduce LSSI’s operations by $20 million to approximately $75 million. LSSI also began implementing a plan to improve operating efficiency and stabilize cash flow, which will enable our organization to continue fulfilling its mission.

We are committed to continuing our ministry—providing mental health and substance abuse services, affordable senior housing, services for at-risk families, residential support for adults with developmental disabilities, Head Start, foster care, home care, and programs for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Here are a few program highlights from LSSI’s last fiscal year:

LSSI served over 2,500 children in foster care statewide; 676 of those children achieved permanency through family reunification, adoption or guardianship.
Additionally, our Intact Family Services provided crucial support for more than 1,400 families and prevented placement in foster care for 83 percent of those at-risk families.

Last year, LSSI assessed more than 3,300 adults in crisis and enabled 57 percent to avoid hospital care by connecting them with community-based services.

More than 1,000 adults were served in our Detoxification program, with 67 percent successfully completing the program. Ongoing substance abuse services were provided at three additional levels of care to nearly 2,600 adults.

At LSSI’s 21 affordable housing communities across Illinois, more than 1,700 low-income seniors and adults with disabilities were able to live in their own apartments.
Through Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), LSSI works collaboratively with the ELCA and other Lutheran-based organizations, to reach people and communities across Illinois who are affected by disaster. Last year, LDR helped many communities affected by tornadoes and flooding, including the towns of Rochelle, Fairdale, Coal City, and Watseka, as well as the areas of Kankakee, Lee, and Christian counties. LDR participated in four Multi-Agency Resource Centers to help survivors navigate through their crisis and offer solutions to help improve their quality of life. LDR also works closely at the state and county level to provide training for congregations in disaster preparedness.

With the ongoing state budget impasse having a profound effect on human services in Illinois this year, Lutheran Day, held April 20, was a critical showing by Lutherans and other people of good faith to come together to exercise our Christian vocation to speak out for justice and compassion for all people especially those with whom we share in life.

Thanks to the Northern Illinois Synod, along with the other two synods in Illinois, and those congregations that participated in this year’s Good Shepherd Sunday on April 17. Through your generosity, we raised awareness and support for all of LSSI’s programs.

We wish to express our gratitude to Bishop Gary Wollersheim and the following board members from the Northern Illinois Synod who currently serve on the LSSI Board of Directors: John W. Countryman, Karen Dowsett, Rev. Troy Hedrick, Rev. Peter Holmer, and Randall L. Mullin.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI’s endowment, The Cornerstone Foundation, who are from the Northern Illinois Synod: Susan Bernardi, Linda Miller, Leona Peterson-Spear, Steve Pressly, Tom Ribbeck, Gordon Tormohlen, and Jay Weyers.

Our work is an expression of the love of Christ, bringing healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. We remain grateful for your engagement and support.

In faith,

Mark A. Stutrud
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lutherdale

Innovation: The driving force for new and expanded ministry

At the heart of what we do at Lutherdale is the mission of building lives in Christ. It is the driving force that sustains the honored history of those who sat on a log back in 1944 and prayed Lutherdale into being. A history of providing a summer camp ministry for kids that has grown over time to far exceed that humble beginning.

Last year, over 11,000 people participated in one of our many programs. Over 7,100 were adults, far and above the 4,600 youth. The increasing demands for adult programs, as well as the challenges of youth participation, has inspired exciting innovations in our ministry.

Travel Ministry Expands

Our Travel Ministry program for senior adults has grown from sharing half a motor coach with another group to filling two motor coaches. We traditionally did only two trips a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. In 2016, we have expanded the program to ten different trips, offering a variety of one-day trips, three- to five-day trips, and longer trips.

New Summer Program

The summer months bring opportunity for kids to come and enjoy time outdoors, learning and growing in faith. This summer's programs offer exciting and innovative options. One big change is that the camp will be in full operation seven days a week. Most youth camps run Sunday to Friday, but this summer we will be offering weekend programs as well. There are a variety of weekend options, such as a Mother-Daughter weekend, Father-Son Weekend, and Elementary and Junior High weekend camps.

A New Sign

Thanks to a generous donation, we now have a beautiful new sign at the highway entrance. It is illuminated at night and stands as a beacon of welcome to all. The sign is much more visible and noticeable to those traveling past the camp on Highway 12.

New Sports Field

Another great gift and improvement to the camp recently is the addition of a baseball diamond and a soccer field. The field will provide more recreation opportunities for our summer campers and will also provide more options for connections with our local community.

Effective Camp Research Project

Lutherdale was one of three camps to participate in a camper research study during the summer of 2015. The research project was underwritten by a matching grant from the Siebert Foundation. A researcher came and spent a day doing interviews with campers and staff. When the campers returned home, the researcher did a follow-up study with their parents. The outcome of the study has been extremely positive and the research team is in the process of compiling a report that will be made public later this year. Here are a few findings from the study:

- Camp is a unique experience and a place for discovery
• Camp provides emotional safety, where campers can feel loved and be their authentic selves
• Campers are good at Biblical application and recall; they learned Biblical concepts and were able to apply them to a situation
• Camp is youth focused and youth approved
• Camp is a hiatus from technology and the hectic pace of scheduled lives, campers like that
• Campers feel more confident at the end of the week; personality development is happening

**Share the Adventure Appeal**

Lutherdale is preparing to go public with a capital campaign to raise the funds needed to build a new adult lodge and conference center. Over the past year, leadership gifts and advanced gifts have been received in excess of $1.1 million. Our goal is $2.5 million. With the growing number of adult participants in our programs, a new adult-friendly lodge is needed. The public phase of the campaign is scheduled to start this spring.

**The Best Things**

One of the best things about Lutherdale is that we do ministry together with you. Lutherdale boldly provides a ministry of hospitality to all. It is an adventure that changes lives, builds faith, and provides a much-needed sacred space to retreat from life’s hectic demands.

Thank you for the important part you play in making this vital ministry possible.
Mosaic in 2015:
*a message for the Northern Illinois Synod, where Mosaic provides services in Rockford*

Together, we are the church.
If Mosaic had theme for 2015, it was “better together”. Too often people with intellectual disabilities are missing in our communities, not because of malice, but because of misunderstanding. Every day we work to ensure that the more than 3,700 people we support have opportunities to live, work and worship in supportive, inclusive communities.

A highlight of the year was attending the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, Mich., where we shared the message that our faith communities are better when people with intellectual disabilities are included as valued and active participants. Hundreds of students and adult leaders stopped by to learn about the work Mosaic does from Ryan, who is served by Mosaic in Central Iowa.

Rejoicing Spirits, which helps churches partner with people with intellectual disabilities to build more diverse churches, continues to grow. You can learn more at rejoicingspirits.org.

We are also happy to report the success of our new partnership with Wartburg Seminary to educate future church leaders about ministry among people with disabilities through an immersion class taught at our campus in Axtell, Neb. There aren’t many opportunities for church leaders to explore this type of ministry in a hands-on way.

We invite you to come learn more about how we can work together to build more diverse and welcoming communities. Call any location or 877.366.7242 for information.

Dear Partners in Ministry,
It’s so hard to pick which stories to share with you each year in this report. One thing we know for sure: none of this ministry would be possible without your generous support. We’d especially like to thank the more than 2,700 people who attended Discover the Possibilities events to learn about Mosaic, our donors and volunteers.

Please visit our new blog at www.mosaicpossible.org to learn more about the many different ways we are working to embrace God’s call to serve in the world. Thank you for your support and prayers! Linda Timmons, President and CEO

*MOSAIC*
A life of possibilities for people with intellectual disabilities.

4880 S. 118th St. | Omaha, NE 68172-2200 | 877.366.7242 | www.mosaicinfo.org
Dear Partners in Ministry,

It's an interesting — and challenging — time to be the church. Ministry leaders are learning to navigate the changing culture by holding on to the best of the past while finding ways to be creative, nimble, and resilient. This is just as true for Portico.

As we navigate the changing landscape, we are guided by two core values: stewardship and collaboration. For us, that means caring wisely for all we are entrusted to manage — time, money, our employees, and the well-being of those we serve — so leaders can access important benefits and resources, today and in retirement. Here are a few ways we’re putting those values into practice:

**We spend and invest with care.** In these times of rising health care costs and tight church budgets, we work hard to follow a lean, carefully managed spending plan with a goal of keeping costs low. As 2015 investment markets dramatically rose and fell, our active investment management strategy and strategic asset allocations helped improve retirement fund returns in an otherwise disappointing year.

**We seek opportunities to provide the best health care value.** The past two years brought, in some instances, double-digit percentage increases for those employers sponsoring members in the ELCA Health Plan. Although this was in line with nationwide averages, we realize for congregations this is an unsustainable trend. We are committed to keeping administrative expenses below 12% of our health care budget, and are aggressively working with our vendor partners to find new savings opportunities.

**We tap technology to reach our leaders more efficiently.** By converting our popular pre-retirement seminar into a series of three webinars, we were able to complement the rich educational experience of our in-person seminars with the convenience and cost-effectiveness of online learning. We are also developing new webinars designed to help younger leaders establish a strong financial foundation.

**We’ve raised the bar on top-notch customer service.** Our members receive more than just a friendly voice when they call Portico’s Customer Care Center. As a BenchmarkPortal-certified 2015 “Center of Excellence,” we were recognized as one of the top call centers in the nation in both cost- and quality-related metrics.

**We invest in our leaders.** Because the future health of our church depends on the health of its leaders, we are leading the ELCA in calling for a wellness reformation — a renewed commitment to well-being that comes from healthy lifestyle choices, reduced health risks, and lower health care costs — for members, congregations, and the ELCA Health Plan. We are encouraging our congregations and church organizations to put the ‘we’ in wellness by joining in conversation with their pastors and professional staff about creating a culture that supports healthy lifestyles.

Portico is committed to providing a cost-effective, comprehensive benefit program that helps our church’s leaders stay nimble, resilient, and confident in these interesting, challenging times.

In Christ,
The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO
Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries

102 North Wyman Street, Rockford, IL 61101 815-962-4279 RalmMail@aol.com

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries brings congregations together in partnership to make Christ known in the community through creative ministries of witness and service.

www.RockTheGood.com

Do you like us on facebook?
www.facebook.com/RockfordAreaLutheran

PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

Alpine Lutheran Church, Rockford
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Rockford
Calvary Lutheran Church, Rockford
Capron Lutheran Church, Capron
Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere
Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, Roscoe
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rockford
Faith Lutheran Church, Sout Beloit
First Lutheran Church, Rockford
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Grace Lutheran Church, Loves Park
GPS Faith Community, Machesney Park
Open Arms Lutheran Church, Rockton
Our Savior’s, Lutheran Church, Rockford
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Rockford
Salem Lutheran Church, Rockford
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Tabor Lutheran Church, Rockford
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockford
United Lutheran Church, Rockford
Zion Lutheran Church, Belvidere
Zion Lutheran Church, Rockford

2015 RALM REVIEW

Park Players 17 teens were part of God’s ministry through Park Players. These teens learned job readiness skills, how to handle conflict, and gained understanding of the good things of the Rockford Area. This ministry has been working in the lives of teens for 22 years, reaching over 12,500 children and 427 teens.

Rich Malheim in Rockford Area for two events. Friday 4-15-16 for Pillow Fight Comedy Night. It is comedy meets practical parenting with a pillow fight. This is an all ages event — whatever your family looks like. All are welcome. And you will benefit from it. On 4-18-15, at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Rich came to teach about the Faith Five and Cross Generational ministry opportunities.

Thrivent Wants You to Support RALM It starts with an idea. Is All Thrivent members are eligible to receive grants twice a year. It is simple to apply and makes a difference. For more information go to www.thrivent.com/actionteam or contact Amy at ralmmail@aol.com.

Do you Enjoy a Good Meal? Watch for RALM dining opportunities. There will be four times you can eat at a restaurant and a portion of your bill will benefit God’s work through RALM.

Laugh In Thanks to everyone for a great evening at Laugh-In. Over 300 people came for a night of happiness. Whether you were part of the planning team, helped with snacks, performed, or came to enjoy the show, it was because of you that this night was a huge success.

Trivia Night brought fellowship, chili, a silent auction goodies, and a variety of questions to make this evening spectacular. Thanks to all that came and supported this event.

God’s Work Our Hands
Kids Around the World packs mobile food to feed children all over the globe. They use a fun, assembly line process to make meals that are nutritious and life saving. The members of 23 area congregations, worked together for God’s Work Our Hands Day and packaged over 80,000 meals to send to children in our partner synod in Arusha.

Becce’s Closet This year 550 dresses were given away to local girls for formal events. The community continually supports Becce’s Closet with dress drives, even a night at the roller derby. Currently there is a need for jewelry, shoes, purses and large-sized dresses.
Dear Partners in Ministry,

As regional coordinator, I support the work of synods to address mission and leadership needs in your synod and throughout the region. Much of this work is spent working with synod candidacy committees. “Candidacy” is the term used to describe our process of forming and preparing people to serve as a rostered leader in the ELCA. We gratefully receive those who are considering their calling; help them in their continued discernment, and walk with them as they are formed to faithfully serve this church through a ministry of Word and Service or Word and Sacrament.

It will likely come as no surprise to you that the number of people preparing to be a pastor has been steadily decreasing. Our current enrollment in M.Div. programs at the eight ELCA seminaries is about 40% lower than just 10 years ago and more congregations are without a regularly called pastor for long periods of time. Although there are a multitude of factors that likely contribute to this situation; we know that as a church, we need to work together to identify, encourage, and equip people to become rostered leaders—both ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service.

In the Lutheran tradition, a call to ministry is understood as both internal and external. That is, the individual inwardly senses “God is calling me” and other people recognize “God is calling you” to a particular ministry. Oftentimes those who are called to rostered ministry first hear the call from another person—it is the external call that prompts prayerful reflection and recognition of the inward call. It is not unusual for one who is entering candidacy to share that the call to rostered ministry first came from encouragement at a young age, and that it was met with initial resistance or doubt—not unlike some of the call stories we read in scripture.

As you prepare for your synod assembly and make report back to your congregation, I invite your reflection on raising up possible leaders for rostered ministry. Who are the good encouragers in your congregation? Who are the people that you envision as ministers and how could you encourage them to think and pray about it? In what other ways can you create a culture of invitation and support for ministry leadership in your congregation?

Like the many faithful volunteers that serve on your synod candidacy committee, I am honored to accompany candidates for rostered ministry, help them develop as leaders, and explore with them how God is calling them to service in the world. Thank you for your synod’s participation in this shared work and for the privilege to serve among you.

In Christ,
Rev. Ramie Bakken,

ELCA Coordinator for Missional Leadership, Region 5
ramie.bakken@elca.org 773-380-2111
Synodical Women’s Organization - Women of the ELCA

Just newly elected as president of the board of the NIS, SWO, WELCA, I am excited to serve and look forward to the opportunity to representing our synod. Serving on the board in the past as Secretary, I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting in to and am ready and willing to give it my best.

Our first meeting in November was encouraging to be among Christian women that want to help people and learn about what hardships and obstacles our communities, country and world are facing and how we can help. We are directed by the budget and resolutions that were passed the prior September at the annual WELCA convention to give us focus and direction.

January the NIS, WELCA board met with full attendance. Plans for the annual spring retreat were in place set for 4/9/16 at LOMC and the fall convention is scheduled for 9/17/16 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Yorkville, IL. The nominating committee was formed to fill the slate of volunteers for the vacant positions on the board to be filled at the fall convention. Your NIS, WELCA board women are committed to making 2016 an eventful, spirit-filled year.

February I attended the Women of the ELCA presidents’ conference. There were 62 of the 63 presidents in attendance from all over the United States. We worshiped, learned about triennial 2017 details, and studied issues about human trafficking in our country and across our synods. We met other presidents from our area so we can network and share information.

On April 9 the spring retreat was held and Inez Tores Davis, Women of the ELCA Churchwide Director for Justice, educated 80 ladies about racial prejudice. There was a history timeline revealing events creating racial divide and explaining how unfair laws suppress minorities and still influence the racial makeup of America today. As Christian women it is difficult to realize how prejudice still corrodes our society. By learning and understanding the damage it does to people, we can react by sharing the information about the reality of today’s suppressive prejudices.

We look forward to our convention on September 17 in Yorkville and invite all women of the ELCA to attend whether you have an active unit at your church or not. We send our quarterly newsletter to every church in the synod with information on registering for our events as well as upcoming church events that are open to participation from anyone who would like to participate. We’d love to have you.

Kim Choin
President, NIS Women of the ELCA
UnityPoint Health - Rock Island, Illinois

At UnityPoint Health – Trinity, our mission is to improve the health of the people and community we serve. Not only do we care for patients in our hospitals and clinics, but also focus on being a strong community partner to identify other people who could benefit from health care services, ranging from disease prevention, health education and treatment. Here is a sampling of 2015 Trinity initiatives:

Parish Nurse Program
In its 27th year, Trinity’s Parish Nurse Program continued to serve the community with wholistic health services which include many aspects of care such as emotional and spiritual support, health education and prevention services. The 25th parish nurse foundations course brought the number of nurses/health ministers educated in our community to 216. Thirty-five churches participated in the Parish Nurse Program during all or part of 2015 with 17 paid positions and 29 volunteers. These programs served a combined church membership of approximately 29,500 people through 23 Illinois churches and 12 Iowa churches.

Their activities resulted in the following:
- Individual contacts – 20,585
- Educational programs – 6,717 participants in 570 classes
- Support groups – 1,175 participants in 166 groups
- Blood pressure screenings – 2,981 individuals
- Abnormal B/P readings with subsequent referrals – 407 individuals (14%)

Trinity’s parish nurses worked a total of 18,867 hours and supervised an additional 6,000 hours volunteered by church members. Total contacts averaged 1,715 per month; of those 40% were brief client visits of less than 15 minutes, while 60% exceeded that time frame. The breakdown of visits by gender is 30% male clients and 70% female. The following chart provides distribution of individual contacts by all age groups. (Note: age was not given for all contacts.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CLIENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 14 years</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 19 years</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 24 years</td>
<td>242 – 5% (0-24 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 44 years</td>
<td>1,197 – 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 59 years</td>
<td>2,700 – 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 84 years</td>
<td>11,705 – 56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ years</td>
<td>4,295 – 20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2015, 60% of all contacts pertained to surveillance of health issues health education. Referrals comprise a large part of parish nurse activities. For diagnosis and treatment of issues and connecting clients to health services, parish nurses made 4,114 referrals to pastors and church resources, 752 to physicians, 463 to health care professionals, 1,772 to community agencies, and 204 to new physicians. Parish Nurses saw clients in several locations: home visits 2,138; hospital visits 1,576; assisted living facilities 1,438; and 6,857 individuals came to their church office, phone contacts made were 4,171. The client base is very similar to past years with: 96% Caucasian, 1% African American, 0.9% Hispanic, 0.4% Asian, 0.1% Native American and 0.6% for all other ethnicities.
We again participated in the ELCA Synod meeting at Augustana College in June with a Parish Nurse Program display along with various wellness materials; we offered blood pressure screenings and first aid services throughout the entire weekend. This provided a great opportunity to promote Parish Nursing with many Pastors, Health Ministers as well as Lay leaders.

Our Parish Nurse course was offered this fall with six nurses and one health minister completing our course in total 40 hours. Six will serve as volunteers in their churches. One nurse will be paid at two churches. Four of these individuals are also full-time employees of UnityPoint Health. One also volunteers in Pastoral Care as a Befriender. I believe this shows real dedication to serve as volunteers within our own system. They will work to accomplish our Unity Point Health mission, “To improve the health of the people and communities we serve.”

During October our Pastors and Parish Nurses met together at Grace Lutheran Church in Davenport. Parish Nurse Cathy Thennes presented on “Compassion Fatigue” and the importance of self-care to enhance our ability to serve others in our ministries. It was a good time of discussion. Several shared how important this is and how they have used time away to renew and refresh themselves.

As the year ended five nurses left Parish Nursing. One retired due to health reasons after 20 years serving at St. Matthew Church in Davenport. A nurse retired after 15 years as a Parish Nurse at St. Pius, Rock Island, and another nurse moved to Arizona after working 6 years at 1st Congregational Church in Moline. A nurse retired and moved to Colorado. She had volunteered at St. Anne Parish, East Moline. One nurse left his church and has not started a program at his current church. None of the above churches have replaced the nurses that have left due to different reasons. We have open positions at St. John’s Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church, both in Rock Island. Several nurses have applied, but the Pastors have not made a decision to hire due to a pastoral search in process for a Pastor at First Lutheran Church.

Surveys were mailed to each church to ask the Pastors for an evaluation of their Parish Nurse. 30 surveys were returned with a total score of 4.69 out of a possible 5.0. One area for improvement would be “members understand the role of the Parish Nurse.” There are several reasons this may occur. Some are: the position is relatively new; individuals may not be reading the bulletin boards, websites, newsletters or weekly bulletins where information is provided. This is one area we are constantly working on for improvement, to help others to understand the role of Parish Nurses.

**Volunteers/Friends of Trinity**

Health care volunteers have been a community tradition as long as there have been hospitals in the Quad-Cities. Many of our current volunteers began their service with us long before we became UnityPoint Health - Trinity.

Our volunteer groups are actively involved in supplementing several hospital services provided to patients and community members as well as assisting in the important work of UnityPoint Health - Trinity staff in providing exceptional health care to our community.

One way this is accomplished through 571 volunteers, including high school and college students. In 2015, Trinity volunteers logged 63,154 hours of service in a variety of ways including the following:

- Dozens of volunteers have regular weekly time slots on three different campuses, providing assistance to patients, visitors and staff members.
- Two community blood drives were held, one in June and one in October.
- 5,561 hours were spent on community projects including the Patient Advisory Council, associate and community flu clinics, American Heart Association fundraisers, United Way fundraisers, and prostate screenings.
- 36 Caring Canine teams, certified pet therapy teams, made visits to over 7,100 patients.
• Volunteers made the following for distribution to patients: baby hats and blankets for newborns and stillborns, prayer shawls, cancer hats, pillow cases, infusion pillows, lap pads/robes, ostomy covers and wee-care gowns.
• Volunteers distributed 348 “Get Well” emails sent to patients from their family and community members.
• Trinity volunteers served in over 54 different departments in the hospital in many roles throughout the three Quad City campuses, helping Trinity provide a better experience for patients, staff and the community.

The second way this is accomplished is through Friends of Trinity, an organization whose mission is to support UnityPoint Health – Trinity and the community through fundraising and service. In 2015, Friends of Trinity accomplished the following:

• Friends of Trinity has 285 members, including 56 life members.
• In 2015, Friends of Trinity granted $208,000 to UnityPoint Health – Trinity and the Quad City community through the following grants:
  o $48,165 Catheterization Lab Suite Final payment ($250,000 total pledge)
  o $23,251 Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences Ventilator
  o $14,000 Healthcare Scholarships
  o $6,000 Friends of Trinity Caring Closet
  o $1,000 Friends of Trinity Caring Canines
  o $1,400 Prayer Shawl Ministry
  o $2,000 Human Trafficking Grant for community-wide first responder training
  o $40,000 Pediatric Monitor
  o $39,492 Giraffe for Moline Mother/Baby Department
  o $21,000 Hearing Screener for Moline Mother/Baby Department
  o $12,100 Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences IV training equipment
• Friends of Trinity put on two major community-wide events and held eleven vendor sales.
• Friends of Trinity have donated over $3.6 million since their inception in 1993.
• The Trinity Caring Closet served over 2,900 patients by providing new clothing to wear when discharged, if clothing was retained for evidence, destroyed or soiled.
• Operated three gift shops and a floral service.

Pastoral Care
In 2015, Trinity’s Pastoral Care department continued to educate the public and Trinity employees about the importance of advance care planning and assisted individuals in completing advance directives. This educational process included community presentations on various aspects of the spiritual, mental and physician health connection as well as individual facilitations for both in-patients and community members.

Pastoral Care also served on the Board for Parish Nurses, Mission Effectiveness, Committees, and the Institutional Review Board for reviewing medical research proposals. While serving as a chairperson for the hospital Ethics Committee, our Pastoral Care department chaired 10 ethics meetings, held 10 ethical interventions and facilitated four lunch-and-learn sessions, which were attended by physicians, nurses and allied health professionals.

During the year numerous in-patient visits were made by our staff of four chaplains, focusing on providing psychosocial, emotional and spiritual support to patients and their families in the face of crisis, transition, grief, anxiety, pain, joy, hopelessness or loneliness. Our chaplains also made in-patient visits on behalf of pastors who were unable to come to the hospital due to weather, vacation, illness, or other conflict bearing greeting and concern from the patient’s faith leader.

Additional Pastoral Care accomplishments:
• Thirty-two volunteer befrienders in the department made in-patient visits focusing on screening newly admitted patients.
• Sponsored two grief support gatherings for families affected by perinatal loss with a fall graveside burial service for miscarried infants as well as Butterfly Blessings, an intergenerational memorial event.
• Hosted two blessing events, including blessing of the hands for Nurses Week and blessing of the canines for the Friends of Trinity Caring Canine Program.
• Compiled and distributed holiday grief packets to employees and the public.
• Provided distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday to patients, families and staff working shifts that prevented them from attending their faith community’s Ash Wednesday services.
• Provided 30 hours of training to five individuals in pastoral visiting skills, held trainings and three continuing educational programs for 45 current befrienders.
• Hosted a clergy recognition breakfast.
• Called local faith communities when a member both identified the faith community and gave us permission to call. Calls were placed Monday through Friday, averaging about 100 calls per week.
• Provided patient care staff orientation on the basics of spiritual care and ethics twice a month.
• Taught Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) Extended course, including for 3 local faith leaders.
• Provided 24/7 pastoral care coverage for the Unity Point Health – Trinity Quad Cities hospitals, responding to emotional and spiritual crisis of patients, family and staff.

Behavioral Health Services
The Robert Young Center for Community Mental Health proudly serves area residents with mental health and substance abuse problems. It assists clients with everything from transportation, money management, medication costs, socialization skills and much more.

For example, in 2015, the Robert Young Center:

• Provided roughly $1,200,000 worth of charity care for clients of the Robert Young Center. A wide variety of services were provided to individuals and families without an ability to pay including mental health and substance abuse services, both in-patient and out-patient. Clients received individual, family and group services as well as psychiatric and medication services at no charge.

• Provided over $12,000 unreimbursed mental health services to elderly persons in their homes. These services are provided to individuals who find it difficult to come to appointments at out-patient clinics due to physical, psychiatric or emotional barriers. The therapist may deal with issues such as grieving and depression.

• Provided a free drop-in-center for persons with a serious mental illness. Clients are provided a safe environment with opportunities for socialization. Activities include movies, pool, art activities, parties and celebrations. Free or low cost lunches are provided during the work week.

Community Collaboration
Partnership with River Bend Foodbank
Trinity has formed a partnership with River Bend Foodbank to provide health screenings, education, and health information throughout the Quad Cities during the Foodbank’s mobile pantry drive. To date, Trinity has participated in 12 mobile pantries for two hours at a time (24 hours total), have reached 740 people, screened almost 400 for diabetes, conducted over 415 blood pressure screenings, educated 179 people on tobacco cessation, and have provided dental hygiene education to over 110 individuals.
Pink Pass Call-To-Action Program
The Trinity Pink Pass Call-To-Action Program began on Aug. 1, 2015, with funding provided by a grant from Komen Quad Cities. The program aims to increase mammogram screenings through marketing, enhanced care navigation, and outreach to Hispanic and Latina women living in Muscatine County and at-risk women living in Clinton, Mercer, Muscatine and southern Rock Island Counties. The program provides staffing of two part-time community outreach workers, including one in the Trinity Muscatine Public Health Department, to assist women in overcoming barriers to obtaining a mammogram. The Pink Pass includes breast health education and awareness information along with information about scheduling mammogram. When women present the Pink Pass at their mammogram appointment, they receive a $10 gift card to Hy-Vee. To date, more than 1,000 passes have been distributed with 200 card redemptions.

Health Fairs and Community Health Education
Trinity staff participated in 12 health fair events in 2015, reaching an estimated 5,000 people.

Health Literacy and Access for Cultural Minorities
- Quad City Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees
- PolaMares in Floreciente
- Global Communities
- The Esperanza Center
- World Relief
- Bi-State Coalition of Hispanic Organizations
- Martin Luther King Community Center
- East Moline Empowerment Council
- Project NOW
- House of Fire Evangelical Church
- Tabernacle Baptist Church
- HOLA America
- Community Health Care
- Heart of Hope Ministries
- United Neighbors

Nutrition and Wellness
- Community Healthy Food Initiative
- Pioneering a Healthy Community
- River Bend Foodbank
- Muscatine Blue Zones
- Muscatine Healthy Living Coalition
- Muscatine Community Health Association
- Quad City Health Initiative’s NPawe Panel
- (Nutrition, Physical Activity and Weight Panel)
- Business Healthy Muscatine
- Muscatine Health Support Foundation
- Tobacco Free Coalition – Muscatine
- Tobacco Free – Quad Cities
- School Health Link

Community Health Needs
- Quad City Health Initiative
- Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee
- Advanced Care Planning/IPOST Coalition – Quad Cities
- Advanced Care Planning/IPOST Coalition - Muscatine

Behavioral Health Care and Access – Specific Populations
- Eating Disorders Consortium
- Veterans Service Consortium
- Arrowhead
- Christian Care Homeless Shelter
- QC Hearts and Minds
- Telepsychiatry in two elementary schools
- Illinois System of Care Panel for Youth and Families

Behavioral Health Care and Access – Medical
- Community Health Care
- Mercer County Hospital – ED
- Hammond Henry Hospital – ED
- Area Physician Offices
Criminal Justice
- Mental Health and Drug Court Planning and Implementation Committee
  - Rock Island County Jail
  - Prevent Violence Coalition in Muscatine

Social Support
- Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council-Muscatine
- Boys and Girls Club
- Junior Achievement
- Family Support Coalition – Muscatine
- Two Rivers YMCA Livestrong
  - Muscatine County CARES (Child Abuse Prevention)
  - Early Childhood Iowa- Muscatine County
  - Youth Affinity Council – Muscatine
  - River Music Experience Music Therapy
  - WQPT Embracing Our Military Initiative

Public Policy and Advocacy
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Genesis Health System
  - Vera French Mental Health Center
  - Community Health Care

Total Community Collaborations: 61

2015 Community Benefit Summary by Category
A “community benefit” is defined as programs or activities that address community health and health-related needs which can provide measurable improvement in health access, health status and the use of health resources. Annually, the community benefits provided by Trinity are tracked. Below is a summary by category of the benefits provided to the community, in addition to the quality patient care normally expected of our health system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>People Served</th>
<th>Financial Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Education</td>
<td>76,098</td>
<td>$5,068,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professional Education</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>$418,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$259,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>10,279</td>
<td>$1,304,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Building Activities</td>
<td>86,472</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost (not charge) of Charity Care</td>
<td>14,247</td>
<td>$4,037,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Medicaid</td>
<td>48,635</td>
<td>$46,330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>236,165</strong></td>
<td><strong>$57,656,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*consists of a duplicated count wherein a one person may have received services more than once.

Community Benefit Grant - Quad City Health Initiative
The Quad City Health Initiative is a community partnership in active pursuit of a healthier community. The initiative acts as a catalyst for improving the health and overall quality of life within the Quad City community. It raises awareness of health issues, encourages or creates programs to address gaps in health services and fosters community collaboration in all aspects of health. Key focus areas for community health education and prevention this past year have been nutrition, physical activity, weight and immunizations. Other key community focus areas have targeted cardiac care, diabetes, and behavioral health. We continue to work with community partners for a tobacco-free Quad Cities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Seidler, President/CEO, UnityPoint Health – Trinity
Report of the Nominating Committee

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ . . .”

-- Ephesians 4:11-13

Indeed, the Spirit does generously gift each of us for the upbuilding of the church. What a privilege it is for the Nominating Committee of the Northern Illinois Synod to encounter and identify those whom the Spirit has gifted for leadership in our synod. This year, the Nominating Committee presents candidates for your consideration to serve on our Synod Council and our Congregational Life, Global Mission, Ministry Support, Outreach and Social Ministry Committees.

We express our gratitude to all who have been willing to stand for election to leadership in Christ’s Church. We seek the Spirit’s inspiration for all voting members of the assembly as we discern who might lead our synod’s ministries in this time.

Peace, in Christ,
Pastor Twila Schock, chair

Nominating Committee Members

Staff Liaison: Deaconess Cheryl A. Erdmann
Chairperson of Nominating committee: Pastor Twila Schock

CENTRAL CONF.
Ms. Kay Johnson
All Saints, Byron
Term ends 2016

Pastor-Elect Barb Otten
Emmanuel, Amboy
Term ends 2017

EAST CONF.
Mr. Mike Markwell
Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport
Term Ends 2016

The Rev. Dave Hedlin
Peace, New Lenox
Term ends 2017

NORTH CONF.
The Reverend Twila Schock
Christ Lutheran Church
Term Ends 2016

Ms. Amy Hoening
GPS Faith Community
Term ends 2017

NORTHEAST CONF.
The Rev. Janet Hunt
First, DeKalb
Term Ends 2016

Christine (Chris) Bjorklund
Grace, Richmond
Term Ends 2017

NORTHWEST CONF.
The Rev. Jamie Gallagher
Trinity Lutheran Church
Term Ends 2016

Mr. Karl Bronn
Prince of Peace, Freeport
Term ends 2017

SOUTH CONF.
Pr. Ann Ziegert
First, Granville; Emmaus, McNabb
Term ends 2016

Mr. Dave Crockett
St. Matthew’s, Princeton
Term Ends 2017

SOUTHWEST CONF.
The Rev. David Schweppe
Zion, Kewanee
Term ends 2016

Ms. Jeana Fors
Edwards River Ministry
Term ends 2017

WEST CONF.
The Rev. Randy Willers
Salem, Moline
Term ends 2016

(position open – Lay Male)
– term ends 2017
Present Membership and 2016 Nominations

Synod Council

**Vice President:** Mr. Bill Bartlett—Christ, Belvidere (N Conf.) (exp. 2017)

**Secretary:** The Rev. Mark Luepke—Prince of Peace, Freeport (NW Conf.) (exp. 2018)

**Treasurer:** Ms. Tammie Farley—Bethlehem, DeKalb (NE Conf.) (exp. 2019)
Ms. Shirley Anderson—Bethany, Crystal Lake (NE Conf.) (exp. 2016)
Mr. George Davis—All Saints, Byron (C Conf.) (exp. 2019)
The Rev. Pat Esker—Trinity, Durand (NW Conf.) (exp. 2016)
The Rev. Jeff Fricke—Our Savior's, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2019)
The Rev. Marilyn Hanson Cross and Crown, Roscoe (N Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Rev. Don Knowles—Calvary, Moline (W Conf.) (exp. 2018)
The Rev. Mark Oehlert—St. Johns, Sterling (C Conf.) (exp. 2016)
Mr. Craig Peterson—First, Pecatonica (NW Conf.) (exp. 2016)*
Ms. Denise Rode—First, DeKalb (NE Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Ms. Minnette Scott—Freedom Worshipping Center, Oregon (C Conf.) (exp. 2019)
Ms. Patricia Shue—Faith, Joliet (E Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Mr. Craig Watters—Freedom Worshipping Center, Oregon (C Conf.) (exp. 2017)

**Youth Representative:** Ms. Soraya Dorvilier—Light of Christ, Algonquin (exp. 2016)

*Term expires in 2016 and seeking re-election

Synod Council Nominations—Elect 5

**LAITY Female Nominees for Synod Council**

Vote for 1 (3 year term)

1A – Ms. Carla Vanatta—Salem, Sycamore (NE Conf.)
1B – Ms. Sandra Julifs—St. Paul, Sterling (C Conf.)

**LAITY Male Nominees for Synod Council**

Vote for 1 (3–year term)

2A – Mr. Trenton Ferro—St. John, Joliet (E Conf.)
2B – Mr. Craig Peterson—First, Pecatonica (NW Conf.)

**CLERGY Female Nominees for Synod Council**

Vote for 1 (3–year term)

3A – The Rev. Lu Bettisch—Peace, Morris (E Conf.)
3B – The Rev. Janet Wold—All Saints, Byron (C Conf.)

**CLERGY Male Nominees for Synod Council**

Vote for 1 (3–year term)

4A – The Rev. Scott Schmidt—St. Matthew, Princeton (S Conf.)
4B – The Rev. Rob James—GPS Faith Community, Machesney Park (N Conf.)

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE Nominee for Synod Council**

Vote for 1 (1–year term)

(Must be a confirmed member of a congregation of this synod and shall be at least fifteen and less than nineteen years of age when elected.)

5A – Mr. Cole Bathje—Our Savior’s, Rockford (N Conf.)
5B – NO NOMINEE
Congregational Life Committee

The Rev. Josh Ehrler – Trinity, Mt. Morris (C Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Mr. Walt Farley – Salem, Sandwich (S Conf.) (exp. 2018)
Ms. Michelle Heinrich - Faith, Rochelle (C Conf.) (exp. 2018)
The Rev. Susie Hill–Nativity, Wonder Lake (NE Conf.) (exp. 2016)
The Rev. Jana Howson – United, Gardner (E Conf.) (exp. 2016)*
Ms. Kay Johnson – All Saints, Byron (C Conf.) (exp. 2018)
The Rev. Eric Lemonholm – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Rev. Dustin Lenz – Grace, Loves Park (N Conf.) (exp. 2018)
Ms. Nancy Lillevold – Prince of Peace, Freeport (NW Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Ms. Mary Beth Martin – Bellavia – Grace, Woodstock (NE Conf.) (exp. 2016)*
Mr. Jeff Schneider – Our Savior's, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Rev. David Schweppe – Zion, Kewanee (SW Conf.) (exp. 2016)*

*Term expires in 2016 and standing for re-election

Congregational Life Committee Nominations—Elect 3

LAITY Female Nominees Congregational Life Com.  Vote for 1 (3–yr term)

6A – Ms. Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia – Grace, Woodstock (NE Conf.)

6B – NO NOMINEE

CLERGY Female Nominees Congregational Life Com.  Vote for 1 (3–yr term)

7A – The Rev. Jana Howson – United, Gardner (E Conf.)

7B – The Rev. Elizabeth Mascal - Bethlehem, DeKalb (NE Conf.)

CLERGY Male Nominees Congregational Life Com.  Vote for 1 (3–yr term)

8A – The Rev. David Schweppe – Zion, Kewanee (SW Conf.)

8B – The Rev. Scott Benolkin – Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford (N Conf.)

Global Mission Committee

Ms. Sharon Atkins - Salem, Sandwich (E Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Rev. Tammy Anderson – Immanuel, Earlville (S Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Mr. Ron Henning – Bethany, Crystal Lake (NE Conf.) (exp. 2016)
The Rev. Jane McChesney–First & Tabor, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2016)
The Rev. Rick Meier – Alpine, Rockford – (N Conf.) (exp. 2016)*
Mr. Art Milton – Trinity, Moline (W Conf.) (exp. 2018)
Mr. Chuck Moen - Prince of Peace, Freeport (NW Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Rev. Amy Nyman - Zion, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2018)
Mr. Tim Olofsson – St. Matthew, Princeton (S Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Ms. Linda Patterson - St. Paul, Dixon (C Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Ms. Sharon Wadle – First, DeKalb (NE Conf.) (exp. 2016)
The Rev. Dan Wynard – Alpine, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2018)

*Term expires in 2016 and standing for re-election
Global Mission Committee Nominations—Elect 2

CLERGY Female Nominees for Global Mission Com.  
Vote for 1 (3-yr term)

9A – The Rev. Joy Alsop – Faith, Rochelle (C Conf.)
9B – The Rev. Christine Schoon – First, Chadwick (NW Conf.)

CLERGY Male Nominees for Global Mission Com.  
Vote for 1 (3-yr term)

10A – The Rev. Rick Meier – Faith, Beloit (N Conf.)
10B – The Rev. Leo Patterson – St. John’s, Sterling (C Conf.)

Ministry Support Committee

The Rev. Kathy Burkheimer – Immanuel, Rock Falls (C Conf.) exp. 2017
The Rev. Tony Dusso – Our Savior’s, Rockford (N Conf.) exp. 2017
Mr. Trenton Ferro – St. John, Joliet (E Conf.) exp. 2017
The Rev. Robert Kinnear - Grace, Richmond (NE Conf.) exp. 2018
Ms. Bette Mohr – First, Galesburg (SW Conf.) exp. 2017
The Rev. Brandon Nelson – St. Paul’s, Sterling (C Conf.) exp. 2018
Ms. Cheryl Reimer-Bethany, Crystal Lake (NE Conf.) exp. 2017
Mr. Ken Reinhardt – Salem, Sycamore (NE Conf.) exp. 2017
Mr. Daryl Stienstra – Shepherd of the Hills, Scales Mounds (NW Conf.) exp. 2018
Ms. Carol Swensen – Our Savior’s, Rockford (N Conf.) exp. 2018
Ms. Carla Vanatta – Salem, Sycamore (NE Conf.) exp. 2016

Ministry Support Committee Nominations—Elect 1

LAITY Female Nominees for Ministry Support Com.  
Vote for 1 (3-yr term)

11A – Ms. Sonja Sisemore (GPS Faith Community)
11B – NO NOMINEE

Outreach Committee

The Rev. Jose Cortes–Iglesia San Jose Obrero, Moline (W Conf.) exp. 2018
Ms. Ruth Fairchild–Zion, Rockford (N Conf.) exp. 2017
Mr. Brandon Graves – Salem, Sycamore (NE Conf.) exp. in 2016*
The Rev. Rob James–GPS, Machesney Park (N Conf.) exp. 2018
Ms. Joyce Meier – Bethany, Crystal Lake (NE Conf.) exp. 2017
The Rev. TroyAnn Poulopoulos – Emmanuel, Rockford (N Conf.) exp. 2018
Mr. George Sanchez–Good Shepherd, Romeoville (exp. 2016)*
Mr. Carl Sefrhans–Tabor, Rockford (N Conf.) exp. 2016
Mr. Jim Spring - Bethany, Leland (S Conf.) exp. 2017
The Rev. Megan Vaughn – Trinity, Rockford (N Conf.) exp. 2017

*Term expires in 2016 and standing for re-election
Outreach Committee Nominations—Elect 4

LAITY Female Nominees for Outreach Committee  
Vote for 1 (3–year term)  
12A – Ms. Maggie Blackburn – Christ, Belvidere (N Conf.)  
12B – Ms. Sheryl E. Hudson – Bethlehem, Joliet (E Conf.)

LAITY Male Nominees for Outreach Committee  
Vote for 1 (3–year term)  
13A – Mr. George Sanchez – Cross of Glory, Homer Glen (E Conf.)  
13B - Mr. Chuck Wolske – Peace, New Lenox (E Conf.)

LAITY Male Nominees for Outreach Committee  
Vote for 1 (3–year term)  
14A – Mr. Brandon Graves – Salem, Sycamore (NE Conf.)  
14B – NO NOMINEE

CLERGY Male Nominees for Outreach Committee:  
Vote for 1 (3–year term)  
15A – The Rev. Brad Haugen – Peace, Port Byron (W Conf.)  
15B – The Rev. Timothy Linstrom – Bethlehem, Joliet (E Conf.)

Social Ministry Committee

Ms. Pam Bennett – Trinity, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2018)  
The Rev. Thomas Ekstrand – St. John’s, Pearl City (NW Conf.) (exp. 2018)  
Ms. Jula Haugen – Peace, Port Byron (W Conf.) (exp. 2017)  
Ms. Denise Hoover – Grace, Woodstock (NW Conf.) (exp. 2016)*  
The Rev. Don Knowles – Calvary, Moline (W Conf.) (exp. 2015)  
Mr. Don Long – United, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2016)  
Mr. Roger Luft – Messiah, Galva (SW Conf.) (exp. 2017)  
The Rev. Charles Olson – Calvary, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2016)*  
The Rev. Scott Ralston – Faith, Forrester (C Conf.) (exp. 2018)  
Mr. Patrick Rhody - Calvary, Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2018)  
Ms. Linda Storm – First, Geneseo (W Conf.) (exp. 2016)*  
The Rev. Mary Carol Strug – Bethany, Crystal Lake (NE Conf.) (exp. 2017)

*Term expires in 2016 and standing for re–election

Social Ministry Committee Nominations—Elect 2

LAITY Female Nominees for Social Ministry Committee  
Vote for 1 (3–yr term)  
16A – Ms. Linda Storm – First, Geneseo (W Conf.)  
16B – Ms. Denise Hoover – Grace, Woodstock (NE Conf.)

CLERGY Male Nominees for Social Ministry  
Vote for 1 (3–year term)  
17A – The Rev. Chuck Olson – Calvary, Rockford (N Conf.)  
17B – The Rev. Greg Olson – Joyful Spirit, Bolingbrook (E Conf.)
Consultation Committee
The Rev. Jennifer Beamsley – St. John’s, Joliet (E Conf.) (exp. 2019)
The Rev. Brant Clements – St. Paul’s, Nachusa (C Conf.) (exp. 2019)
The Rev. Dennis Heaney – Salem, Sandwich (E Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Ms. Jackie Mansholdt – St. John’s, Joliet (E Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Rev. Henrietta Milner – Immanuel, Rock Falls (C Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Reverend Nord Swanstrom – Our Savior’s – Rockford (N Conf.) (exp. 2021)
Ms. Daneen Taylor – Peace, New Lenox (E Conf.) (exp. 2019)
Mr. Alan Wold – All Saints – Byron (C Conf.) (exp. 2021)

Discipline Committee
The Reverend Joy Alsop – Faith – Rochelle (C Conf.) (exp. 2021)
Mr. Christopher Beamsley – Grace, Wilmington (E Conf.) (exp. 2019)
The Reverend Robert Franek – Faith – Wataga (SW Conf.) (exp. 2021)
The Rev. Judi Huseth – First Lutheran Church of Jordan, Sterling (C Conf.) (exp. 2019)
Mr. Darrell Holmquist – Peace, New Lenox (E Conf.) (exp. 2017)
The Rev. Keith Johnson – First, Freeport (NW Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Mr. Herb Komer – Emmanuel – Oregon (C Conf.) (exp. 2021)
The Rev. Laura Koppenhoefer – St. John’s, Rock Island (W Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Ms. Joanne Lentz – Bethany, Crystal Lake (NE Conf.) (exp. 2019)
Ms. Carla Vanatta – Salem, Sycamore (NE Conf.) (exp. 2017)
Mr. Terry Ziemke – Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport (E Conf.) (exp. 2019)
Election Key

This Assembly we are holding both an Election for Synodical Bishop and a General Election for Synod Council and Synod Standing Committee members. Directions for each type of Election are explained below:

Election for Synodical Bishop

1. First Ballot: The First Ballot is a handwritten paper ballot (see example on following page). Any ordained minister of the ELCA is eligible to be nominated for the position of Synodical Bishop. Please complete the form as directed on the form.

2. Second Ballot: If no one is elected on the First Ballot, you will be given a scan card to complete to vote for one individual on the Second Ballot. You will be given a chart that assigns each nominee a number and a letter, i.e. 1 – 40 and a – b (if up to 80 nominees). If there are more than 80 nominees but less than 120, the numbers and letters will be 1 – 40 and a, b, or c.

3. Third – Fifth Ballots: You will be given a chart that assigns each nominee a number and letter. Third Ballot will have seven nominees, plus ties; Fourth Ballot will have three nominees, plus ties; and Fifth Ballot will have two nominees, plus ties.

The ballot sheet will record your mark when you shade in the chosen letters with your number 2 assembly pencil. To vote for a candidate, find the correct number, then select the letter which corresponds to the person for whom you wish to vote.

These marking instructions are also printed on the top of the ballot. Please be sure to use your number 2 pencil and do NOT fold the ballots.
Election of a Bishop: 2016 Northern Illinois Synod

Sample First Ballot
for Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod

To vote, PRINT AS LEGIBLY AS POSSIBLE the name of an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):

____________________________________________________________________

If available, please include the nominated Ordained Minister’s congregation and/or location (optional, but helpful).

____________________________________________________________________

If the ordained minister is not rostered in the Northern Illinois Synod, please indicate the Synod where the pastor is currently rostered/serving/living:

____________________________________________________________________

(Do not fold your ballot. After voting, turn your ballot upside down and pass it as instructed by the person presiding at the election.)
2016 Nominee Biographies

Synod Council

LAITY Female Nominee for Synod Council

1A – Ms. Carla Vanatta
1B – Ms. Sandra Julifs

1A – Ms. Carla Vanatta – Salem, Sycamore – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Associate in Ministry

Areas of leadership and interest—congregation: Minister of Music, Worship Planner, Pastoral Care, Puppet Ministry, Small Groups, Bible Study leader, Witness Team, Vacation Bible School, etc.

Areas of leadership and interest—community: Work to bridge church and community with outreach events and social services.

Reason I wish to serve: I am interested in the umbrella of Synod Council over all Synod ministries and staffing and feel I am a bridge between laity and clergy as a rostered Associate in Ministry.

My priorities for this ministry: Smooth transition between Bishops, thoughtful, prayerful action, wisdom, compassion, and clarity in mission and leadership.

Faith statement: Jesus’ death on the cross paid for my sin and yours, once for all. Thanks be to God I am freely given this gift of grace by no merit of my own, but can live in thankfulness, service, and praise in response.

1B – Ms. Sandra Julifs – St. Paul, Sterling – Central Conference

Occupation: Retired

Areas of leadership and interest—congregation: I have been: on Congregation Councils (13+ years in 2 congregations – one year as the vice-president and the last two years as president); Worship, Stewardship and Social Action Committees and Altar Guild; Synod Assembly voting member (at least 5-6 times); lay worship leader; lector, usher, greeter; and am one of two people in my congregation to have graduated from the diakonia™ program (2015). On the synodical level, I was a Churchwide Assembly voting member (1995); on the Synod Consultation Committee (6 years); and am currently completing six years on the Outreach Committee. Many years ago, I also served in Sunday school and youth education programs.

Areas of leadership and interest—community: Many of my interests and leadership in the community are directly related to the occupational ministry to which I was called – that of serving as the CEO of an agency that helps low-income people to become self-sufficient. Now retired, I continue to assist the agency in its strategic planning efforts. On a broader scale, I have served in all the officer positions of the Illinois Community Action Association. In addition, my husband I are active members of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) community and, this past summer, were part of the host committee for the national Via de Cristo gathering; we also have served as lay leaders of that organization. I was a founder, on the board and a volunteer for our local homeless shelter, am currently on the executive
committee and board of an economic development council as well as am on the board of a local emergency center.

**Reason I wish to serve:** Having served in leadership roles in my own congregation, the Synod, and through my employment as well being on the boards of local and state organizations, I feel that serving on Synod Council would be another way in which I could use my talents to further the Gospel. Although I know that I would have much to learn about the functioning of the Council, I have had the experience of both being a member of several quite different boards as well as being employed by a board of directors; these experiences might be helpful to the Synod Council or would, at least, assist me along the way.

**My priorities for this ministry:** From having been a part of the Outreach Committee, I have developed a keen interest in the development, on the Synod level, of new mission starts and support for mission congregations. I am also quite interested in the newly developed Synod Endowment Fund and how this will assist Synod ministries in the future.

**Faith statement:** To paraphrase a simple statement from Martin Luther, I believe in God the Father who created me, God the Son who saved me, and God the Spirit who makes me holy. I can do nothing without God’s grace. And, when He calls, I cannot help but go.

---

**LAITY Male Nominee for Synod Council**

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

2A. Mr. Trenton Ferro
2B. Mr. Craig Peterson

2A – Mr. Trenton Ferro – St. John, Joliet – East Conference

**Occupation:** Retired Professor

**Areas of leadership and interest—congregation:** Member, Church Council, with special emphases on worship, leadership, program planning and evaluation, pastoral care, Christian education, and adult formation; facilitator, church council planning retreats; adult study leader (over 50 years); primary instructor, Bethel Bible Series; lead instructor and presenter for several congregational-wide educational endeavors; founder and chair, Visiting Theologian Committee; founder and chair, Adult Ministries committee.

**Areas of leadership and interest—community:** Multiple committee and leadership positions at the university level, including department chair; member, Board of Directors, Vice President, and chair, Conference Planning Committee, Religious Education Association; member, Lutheran Campus Center (Indiana University of PA) Directing Committee, including Pastoral Support Committee and chair, Long Range Planning Committee; offices and committee membership at the local (including president), district, and Society level, Barbershop Harmony Society; troop committee member, district committee member, council committee member, and trainer, Boy Scouts of America; member, Human Services Council of Indiana County, PA, including membership on several committees; board member and Treasurer, Parents for Gifted Education, Rockford; member, Rockford Area Literacy Council; member and chair, Academic Committee, Rockford Lutheran High School; co-founder and advisor, Lutheran Literacy Council of Northern California; member,
City Planning Commission, Henderson, NV; member, Kiwanis Board of Directors, Henderson, NV; member, Community Social Services Board of Directors, Henderson, NV; member, District Board of Directors, California and Nevada District (LCMS).

**Reason I wish to serve:** I wish to offer to the Synod and its members (both congregations and individuals) my professional training and experience that have been developed over a lifetime. In the past, although I have had many opportunities to volunteer (as noted briefly under question 2 above), I have also had to turn down other opportunities to lead various organizations, especially at the regional and national level, because of work and other constraints. Now that I am retired, I am able to commit myself more fully to such service.

**My priorities for this ministry:** If elected to the Synod Council, I am most concerned about listening, and giving voice, to the concerns and needs of all members of the Synod. Similar to politics, the ministry and work of the church is local. It is the task of the Synod itself, as well as synod-wide organizations and committees, both to support this work at the local level and to connect the local congregation with Churchwide ministries.

**Faith statement:** I am a “dyed-in-the-wool” Lutheran by birth, training, and lifelong commitment and involvement. My faith position can be summarized by Eph. 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one can boast.” I believe in the Triune God (as difficult as it is to grasp and attempt to explain that concept): in a Father who so loved a fallen humanity that he was willing to offer his only and beloved Son to suffer, die, and rise again in order to atone for our sins and sinfulness that have separated us from this loving and creating God. The Holy Spirit works through the means of grace (God’s Word and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper) to bring this message of love to me and all believers, convicting us of our sin (Law) and convincing us of his acceptance and forgiveness (Gospel). Consequently, I, and all who have been saved by his loving action, are called upon to love and serve others, both within the Christian fellowship and in the world around us, so that everyone can come to know this loving and gracious God who would have all humanity know the peace that only he can bring.

2B - Mr. Craig Peterson – First, Pecatonica – Northwest Conference

**Occupation:** Retired Manufacturing Executive

**Areas of leadership and interest – congregation:** I served as Sunday School Superintendent and teacher for 15 years; as a Congregation Council member for 3 terms; as Stewardship Chairperson; on the Outreach Committee and as Chairperson; and on the Call Committee, and the Finance Committee. I am presently serving on the Church Council, and the Outreach and Stewardship committees.

**Areas of leadership and interest – community:** I served on the Pecatonica Village board for 3 years; on the Pecatonica Development Committee for 3 years; as a Cub Scout Cub Master for 14 years; as the Assistant Scoutmaster for 15 years; and presently serve on the Library Board and am a member of Pecatonica Historical Society.

**Reason I wish to serve:** I have had the honor of serving the Synod for over 20 years as a Synod Council member for 3 terms, a member of Ministry Support for 3 years, Candidacy Sub-Committee for 6 years and on the Finance Committee for 3 years. Serving Christ’s church and the Synod has been a privilege and I believe my experience will be helpful as the Synod moves forward with challenges and change.
My background in management, finance and human resources in the private sector has helped me to serve in my Synod responsibilities and work.

**My priorities for this ministry:** To assist the newly elected Bishop and staff in moving forward with their vision for the Synod, changes in the church at large and always be mindful that we are doing God’s work serving and guiding the congregations and the people of the Northern Illinois Synod.

**Faith statement:** I am a servant of Christ, doing his work and always remembering we are called to serve God’s people.

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**CLERGY Female Nominee for Synod Council**

**Vote for 1 (3-year term)**

3A. The Reverend Lu Bettisch

3B. The Reverend Janet Wold

**3A – The Reverend Lu Bettisch – Peace, Morris – East Conference**

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest – congregation:** Administration, Outreach, Worship, Discipleship, Stewardship, Youth, Confirmation, Teaching, Preaching and Pastoral Care

**Areas of leadership and interest – community:** Member of the Morris Ministerial Association, PADS Host Site, Member of the PADS Board of Directors, Support of Grundy County Food Pantry and Clothes Closet, and Ecumenical Worship.

**Reason I wish to serve:** I enjoy team work and sharing ideas with others. I feel my gifts would be an asset to the council and I want to be more involved at the synod level.

**My priorities for this ministry:** I feel it is important to be constantly listening for God’s voice as we go forward to do God’s work. At a time when the church seems to be declining, I think it is crucial for leaders to know the pulse of the people and the community in order to best serve God and our neighbor. I believe discipleship is key in building a strong church that grows in spiritual depth not just in numbers.

**Faith statement:** I think my faith is every evolving. I am certain God is leading me in my life and ministry. Sometimes God is mighty creative in getting my attention but I am assured that no matter where I go, God is right there beside me!

**3B – The Reverend Janet Wold – All Saints, Byron – Central Conference**

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest – congregation:** I’ve been an ordained pastor for 28 years. I’ve always had a particular interest in outreach and hospitality, believing that a welcoming community is one that will invite people in to learn more about Christ.

**Areas of leadership and interest – community:** I am a volunteer chaplain with Serenity Hospice. Additionally, I serve as a co-leader (with Bp Wollersheim) for the first year of “First Call Theological Education” for newly ordained/consecrated leaders of our synod. I am a representative from our synod on the state-wide...
campus ministry board. I also serve on the board of Katie’s Cup, a non-profit coffee bar in Rockford.

**Reason I wish to serve:** When I have attended Churchwide Assemblies (both as a voting member and visitor), I am reminded again and again of the powerful work our church does throughout the world. Having been a member of the synod council previously allowed me to be a part of the larger church...local parishes are vital, but congregations working together can accomplish exciting things! During this time of transition in our synod, I bring to the table leadership skills, a passion for the church and an ability to appreciate diverse opinions.

**My priorities for this ministry:** I want to see the synod continue its strong relationship with our world-wide partners. During this time of state-wide budget cuts, it is important to fund those ministries that help the most vulnerable in our society. Additionally, as a parish pastor, I’ve appreciated the commitment our synod has to providing support to our congregations, through the Congregational Resourcing Event, Mission Gatherings, Professional Leader’s Conference as well as the support of the staff of the synod office, and would want that support to continue.

**Faith statement:** In the gospel of John, we hear the promise that “in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” This assurance that God was, is and always will be there to forgive us, love us and challenge us brings me great comfort.

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**CLERGY Male Nominee for Synod Council**

**Vote for 1 (3-year term)**

4A. The Reverend Scott Schmidt

4B. The Reverend Rob James

4C. The Reverend Jon Pedersen

4A – The Reverend Scott Schmidt – St. Matthew, Princeton – South Conference

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest–congregation:** I am the pastor at St. Matthews Lutheran church in Princeton, having previously served as the pastor at All Saints Lutheran in Byron and at Trinity Lutheran in Manlius. I am currently a Co-Chair of Princeton Workcamp 2016 where St. Matthews is working ecumenically in the community (partnering with Group Cares - Workcamp) to bring 300 youth and adults to Princeton to do free home repair on about 50 homes. Prior to entering seminary in 1995, I was active at St. John’s Lutheran in Sterling where I served on the Finance Committee, was a lay reader, and helped with Sunday School, VBS and Youth Ministry.

**Areas of leadership and interest–community:** I am Vice-President of the Princeton Ministerial Association, and I am a member of the Princeton Rotary Club serving as Vice President. I volunteer as an On-Call Chaplain at Perry Memorial Hospital, Princeton. Within Christ’s larger Church, I currently serve on our Synod’s World Hunger Sub-Committee, and I am the Secretary of the South Conference. In the past, I was Secretary of the Central Conference, and I have served on our Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee, twice as the Chair.
Reason I wish to serve: When asked to be nominated to run for Synod Council, I had a sense of being called with affirmation from other leaders in the Church. I would be humbly honored to serve God and the Church in this way.

My priorities for this ministry: My ministry priority is to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus while working with the body of Christ to do God's work with our hands. I look forward working with the wisdom already in place within our Synod leadership as we begin a new chapter in ministry under the guidance of our new Bishop.

Faith statement: Beneath the Cross of Jesus, I am a Christian who happens to be Lutheran since birth. Even though I feel blessed to work ecumenically with my sisters and brothers within Christ's larger Church, I do hold strongly to the confessions, particularly as Luther's Small Catechism explains the articles of The Apostles' Creed that: I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. . . I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. . . I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith. . . " As it says in Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”


Occupation: Pastor

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation: At a very early age I was allowed to serve as a leader in my congregation and the larger church, as LYO President and Synod Council Youth Representative. It was these early leadership roles that helped clarify my call to ordained ministry. I continued to be called into leadership opportunities throughout campus ministry and in various roles throughout seminary. It was in seminary that I discerned a call to church planting, and have been blessed for the past 10 years to be able to develop and pastor GPS Faith Community. I have been in all the various roles that are required in starting and pastoring a new church. I am especially passionate about; connecting with people that have never been a part of a faith community or who have drifted away for a long time, passionate/creative worship leading, and casting a vision for being the hands and feet of Jesus in the larger community. At GPS we do this mostly through a partnership with our local public school and a mobile food pantry through the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Areas of leadership and interest–community: I serve on the Rockford Lutheran School Board. I am co-founder of “Critical Conversations” a group of church, non-profit, school, business and government leaders gathering together for the sake of needs in our larger community. I am passionate about networking and serving in the larger community, especially for those who are in need in our midst.

Reason I wish to serve: I have always had a passion for the ministry of the larger church. The past 10 years much of my energy has been devoted to the ministry of starting GPS Faith Community. Although I have found ways to be a part of ministry in our synod and the ELCA I see this is a great time to get more connected and involved in the ministry of the NIS and ELCA.
**My priorities for this ministry:** My priorities are to support, encourage and do all that I can to work with our new Bishop, staff, congregations and ministries of our synod and the larger church in this changing landscape that requires steadfast faith and creative ministry to proclaim the Good News of Jesus for all people. I am especially passionate about seeing a commitment to “developing” and “redeveloping” congregations in our synod, but am excited to learn about all that is happening in our congregations and institutions and to bring whatever gifts I can to the synod council to support this ongoing ministry.

**Faith statement:** I believe in an amazing God, who pours grace out upon us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe that this great God is still on a mission of reconciliation, love and blessing. The best part is that as crazy as it is, God trusts sinners like me and you to do God’s work! A prayer and passage that leads me in faith is Ephesians 3:14-21, with an emphasis on verse 21, “Now all glory be to God, by God's mighty power at work within us, God is able to do infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask, hope, dream, think or imagine!”


**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest – congregation:** At Shepherd of the Hill I have taken very seriously the pastor's call to "equip the saints for works of ministry." Since beginning in March, 2014, leadership training, small group ministry, youth education and creative use of the arts in worship and preaching have all been areas of focus for me. Currently, I am developing a comprehensive program to support parents as they seek to fulfill the promises made at their children's baptisms. In my previous congregation, a bi-lingual and urban church in Southern California, my special interests were in coordinating the local community assets for the transformation of our challenged neighborhood.

**Areas of leadership and interest – community:** Facilitator of Lockport - Homer Area Ministerial Association. Member of the Bishop's Task Force on Boundaries.

**Reason I wish to serve:** For my first 18 years of ministry, I rarely volunteered my time and abilities on a synodical level. I often claimed to be too busy within my own ministry settings or too involved with other ecumenical ventures. Now, after having settled into my present call, I feel it is the moment to give back to the greater church in serving on the Synod Council.

**My priorities for this ministry:** I wish to share my perspective as someone who has spent the majority of his ministry outside of NIS, working in cross-cultural settings and in community development. I also wish to advocate for the church's attempts to "equip the saints for works of ministry."

**Faith statement:** In and through Jesus Christ, I have been forgiven, reconciled, restored and gathered back to God. Jesus, my living Lord, calls me to be His disciple and to spend my life making new disciples of Him.
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE Nominee for Synod Council

5A. Mr. Cole Bathje
5B. NO NOMINEE

5A – Mr. Cole Bathje – Our Savior’s, Rockford – North Conference

**Occupation:** High school student

**Areas of leadership and interest—congregation:** Youth Sunday school teacher; Vacation Bible school teacher; Head usher since 2013; Nominating committee starting fall 2016

**Areas of leadership and interest—community:** Volunteer at Gigi’s Playhouse (down syndrome youth); Youth Court member; Three sport athlete

**Reason I wish to serve:** To help the church community’s youth grow their faith.

**My priorities for this ministry:** To serve the Church community and grow in my faith as well as strengthening others.

**Faith statement:** Church has always been a priority in my life. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." It’s a children’s song but it still connects to my life.

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LAITY Female Nominees for Congregational Life Com.

6A. Ms. Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia
6B. NO NOMINEE

6A – Ms. Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia – Grace, Woodstock – Northeast Conference

**Occupation:** Elementary School Library Associate

**Areas of leadership and interest—congregation:** I have served in different areas of leadership in our congregation including church council, committees, and education. I am currently participating in choir, as an assisting minister, small group leader, and specific social ministry projects.

**Areas of leadership and interest—community:** Most of my community involvement comes through outreach via Grace.

**Reason I wish to serve:** I have had the privilege to serve on the Congregational Life Committee for the past three years. I would enjoy the opportunity to continue to serve in this capacity especially with having some experience to draw upon.

**My priorities for this ministry:** I hope to continue to support the varied tasks which this ministry addresses and would hope to increase awareness of the CLC’s offerings.

**Faith statement:** Lately, the message from Psalms - Be still, and know that I am God - has been resonating for me. Life can be so busy, and I tend to be a doer. It is an important reminder to stop and listen for where God is leading me to serve.
CLERGY Female Nominees for Congregational Life Com.  Vote for 1 (3-yr term)

7A. The Rev. Jana Howson
7B. The Rev. Elizabeth Mascal


Occupation: Pastor

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation:
Cross-generational Christian education, and confirmation ministry
Developing lay leadership in the congregation
Incorporating youth into worship and leadership roles

Areas of leadership and interest–community: Ecumenical worship services and community events

Reason I wish to serve: As the pastor of a small congregation, I have a particular interest in finding ways to connect congregations with the resources they need. Between that and my interest in Christian education, the Congregational Life Committee is a natural fit for my experience and gifts.

My priorities for this ministry: To continue to build on the strong foundation of the Congregational Resourcing Event; encourage workshop leadership by inviting new voices, and encouraging participation from old favorites; and provide resources to help congregations engage with the most pressing issues they are currently facing.

Faith statement: God loves all creation with a love so profound it draws us, despite our brokenness, into relationship with the One who Is, through the life-giving death of Jesus and the stirrings of the Spirit.

7B – The Rev. Elizabeth Mascal – Bethlehem, DeKalb – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation: As the pastor of a small parish I have leadership interests in all the parish ministries but my very favorite to work in are worship, confirmation, stewardship, and visioning.

Areas of leadership and interest–community: I have been active in the Beloved Community ministry of DeKalb. This is a focused effort to get to know neighbors who are ethnically different than myself through meals and conversation. Our congregation has a food pantry that serves our area and that has been a focus for me in this local ministry. I have been on the board of a community organization that has received two ELCA Hunger Grants and continue to grow, learn, and lead in the area of food insecurity and poverty in my community.

Reason I wish to serve: God is making all things new! Visioning and trying out “new” things in our congregations and into our communities is a constant challenge. This committee is charged with supporting and equipping our Synod to meet those challenges through grants and our Congregational Resourcing Event. I’d love to
support congregations in their efforts to start new ministry's and to offer training and encouragement in growing ministries by planning and working on the CRE

**My priorities for this ministry:** My priorities for this ministry are to continue to grow and equip the congregations of the NIS by offering enrichment and encouragement through our CRE and grants for new ministries.

**Faith statement:** I believe Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I believe that the church is God's gift to the world to love and save us all. I just want to do my small part in this big world to care for my neighbors and help bring about God's Peace. Amen

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**CLERGY Male Nominee for Congregational Life Com.**  
Vote for 1 (3-yr term)

8A. The Rev. David Schweppe  
8B. The Rev. Scott Benolkin

**8A - The Rev. David Schweppe – Zion, Kewanee – Southwest Conference**

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest—congregation:** As a pastor, I am interested in and have been involved in many types ministry, from education to worship, evangelism to social ministry and advocacy, stewardship to the strengthening of lay-led ministries. Encouraging all believers in their ministries is one of the special privileges a pastor has. Another special privilege is being there during key events in their lives, from birth to death, weddings to hospitalizations, confirmations to visiting at the local restaurant.

**Areas of leadership and interest—community:** Ministry to those individuals and families affected by autism spectrum difficulties has been a passion of mine since the early 2000s. My advocacy has led me to speak on the topic as well as assist parents and schools the development of IEPs for students. This passion also led to participation in the development of last year’s weekend family camp at LOMC for those affected by autism. This year I’ve been asked to serve on the newly formed coalition for Freedom House’s Sexual Violence Program. This summer Zion is hosting Freedom House’s first week-long summer camp in Henry County called the Youth Empowerment Program. In addition to these two commitments, I have served as vice president and president for the local ministerial in my past two calls. One of the most recent projects of the Kewanee Ministerial was providing a meal for the carnival workers who came into town during Kewanee’s Hog Days. There was opposition to this ministry; however, once completed those who were opposed realized the benefits. And besides, the carnival workers REALLY appreciated being appreciated!

**Reason I wish to serve:** As a committee, Congregational Life is responsible for the CRE (Congregational Resource Event) that offers lay people and pastors a chance to share ideas with one another that can enhance the various ministries of our congregations. I have found being part of the planning and implementation of this event to be very cool.

**My priorities for this ministry:** The priorities of the Congregational Life Committee are as I describe. But I think its main objective is to encourage all ministries of our Synod. It would be a privilege and honor to serve again on this committee.
**Faith statement:** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. (From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism)

**8B – The Rev. Scott Benolkin – Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford – North Conference**

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest–congregation:** Pastor (presently); worship leadership, Stephen ministry, congregational council, social ministry (past).

**Areas of leadership and interest–community:** Economics, public policy, science & technology.

**Reason I wish to serve:** I believe that I have gifts to contribute to the Congregational Life Committee’s mission and that my service will also foster my growth as a leader in the church.

**My priorities for this ministry:** 1. to facilitate communication and collaboration among congregations for the sake of the gospel; 2. to learn and grow as a pastor and help others to learn and grow in their callings as well.

**Faith statement:** Christ alone is our righteousness and only mediator to the Father. In Jesus Christ’s life, death, and resurrection God promises mercy and salvation to all. The Holy Spirit calls and equips the church to receive and share this promise.

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**Global Mission Committee**

**CLERGY Female Nominees for Congregational Life Com.** Vote for 1 (3-yr term)

- **9A. The Rev. Joy Alsop**
- **9B. The Rev. Christine Schoon**


**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest–congregation:** I enjoy leading the people of Faith Lutheran as we strive to live out our mission of "Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith." Our work with our companion congregation is one of these many efforts.

**Areas of leadership and interest–community:** I enjoy volunteering at the local elementary school and taking part in community efforts for growth and development.

**Reason I wish to serve:** Our congregation has a vibrant partnership with Jubiliee Church at Sandapet. It has been a joy and a privilege to get to know their pastor and hold these people and the congregation in our prayers.
My priorities for this ministry: I look forward to the opportunity to develop and grow our companion partnerships and other ministry efforts throughout our world.

Faith statement: I believe that I am saved by God's grace through the gift of Jesus Christ. Because of that, God is always near. That hope has and will sustain me.

9B – The Rev. Christine Schoon – First, Chadwick – Northwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation: I have been called to the ministry of Word & Sacrament to First Lutheran Church in Chadwick, IL. Prior to that I served TLC, Ottawa as their Associate Pastor.

Areas of leadership and interest–community: While being a pastor keeps me busy, I am also involved in the Ministerial Association in Milledgeville and Chadwick as well as the Helping Hands Food Pantry. I also am the Chaplain for Chadwick’s Fire Department.

Reason I wish to serve: Recently First become a companion congregation with Siloam Lutheran church in India. It will be interesting, informative & formative as we walk together in Christ sharing prayers and ideas in making Christ known where we are.

My priorities for this ministry: Making Christ known is a priority! Sharing, caring and praying for each other no matter where we are in the world is also a priority.

Faith statement: I believe that God is the creator of all that is. Jesus is the Son of God and has redeemed me and all people. The Holy Spirit dwells with us and stirs us to do the good and hate the evil.

CLERGY Male Nominee for Global Mission Committee

Vote for 1 (3-yr term)

10A. The Rev. Rick Meier

10B. The Rev. Leo Patterson

10A. – The Rev. Rick Meier – Faith, South Beloit – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation: Pastor for 45 years, nine of them as a missionary (Argentina). Active interest in global missions.

Areas of leadership and interest–community: I’ve served on the synod’s world hunger committee as well as the global mission committee for several years. I’m also a board member of Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

Reason I wish to serve: I am committed to the global mission efforts of our synod and churchwide; and I currently engage in our companion synod work with Arcot, India.

My priorities for this ministry: To encourage greater activity in our synod’s companion relationships with both the Arusha, Tanzania, and Arcot, India, churches.
Faith statement: I am saved by God's grace through my faith in Jesus Christ. This compels me to serve God's people with a spirit of Christian love.

10B – The Rev. Leo Patterson – St. John's, Sterling – Central Conference
No biographical information received by print deadline

Ministry Support Committee

LAITY Female Nominee for Ministry Support Committee  Vote for 1 (3-yr term)
11A. Ms. Sonja Sisemore
11B. NO NOMINEE

11A – Ms. Sonja Sisemore
Occupation: Office Manager at Gloria Dei Lutheran
Areas of leadership and interest—congregation: former Senior Center Coordinator, Grief Group Coordinator, Adult Education Team, Prayer and Care Team, Stewardship Team Leader.
Areas of leadership and interest—community: former Tutor at Maple Elementary School. former volunteer at 2 food pantries in “the Parks”.
Reason I wish to serve: To give back for the Blessings I have received.
My priorities for this ministry:
Faith statement: I attempt to lead by example to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Outreach Committee

LAITY Female Nominee for Outreach Committee  Vote for 1 (3-year term)
12A. Ms. Maggie Blackburn
12B. Ms. Sheryl E. Hudson

12A – Ms. Maggie Blackburn – Christ, Belvidere – North Conference
Occupation: Teacher
Areas of leadership and interest—congregation: In high school I was a part of the congregational council as the youth representative and attended a leadership conference all through high school and college. I have assisted in organizing Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and high school youth group Bible studies and trips at my congregation. Being a part of our Associate Pastor's nominating committee was also wonderful to be a part of during my time here. The Youth and Young Adult Committee has also been a responsibility of mine during the past few years.)
Areas of leadership and interest–community: As an educator in the Belvidere Community Unit District 100, I have been a building representative for the Belvidere Education Association. I am responsible for attending monthly meetings, as well as holding monthly meetings for our building to share information regarding current and upcoming events, celebrations, and concerns.

Reason I wish to serve: Even as a young adult in the church today, I have seen a lot of people coming and going, a variety of changes in the church, and in my own congregation which affects every aspect of the congregational community. As the church and my congregation were going through changes, positive and negative, my passion on these changes came to light, and I realized the importance of strengthening the church. Such strengthening could open the doors to new ministries, and could improve the number of young adult congregational members, as well as minority numbers.

My priorities for this ministry: I hope to help bring an insight as a young adult, and as an educator, into this group committee to help strengthen existing committee, as well as help further it along in its mission. Reaching out to others in order to assist in furthering their understanding on existing and new ideas is what I have been called to do as a vocation every day in my classroom. So, being able to use these gifts with another group of people, people who are believers like myself, is a great next step and challenge.

Faith statement: My belief has been, is, and always will be with Him and His life-giving sacrifice that allows us to always be forgiven. I know that God's plan for me is bigger than I can imagine, and despite my desire to be in control, He's the only one that truly knows what I can and cannot handle, and handle with his guidance. I appreciate my faith more and more as I constantly am able and encouraged to study and educate myself on other religions and beliefs, which only strengthens my own belief; a practice I find extremely challenging and necessary.

12B – Ms. Sheryl E. Hudson – Bethlehem, Joliet – East Conference

Occupation: Retired

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation: In addition to the activities listed below under community areas of leadership and interest, I have also served on the March of Dimes as a volunteer, chairperson, and in various other areas. I was president of the W.E.L.C.A. at Bethlehem, am trained in journalism (various areas of the media - educated at St. Francis University), Chair of the Public Relations Committee, Lay Assistant and Lecture, diakonia™ graduate - graduated summer of 2015.

Areas of leadership and interest–community: I am currently the president of our church council. I am very concerned for the life of our church and our neighbors, most of which are Hispanic. I hope to help strengthen our congregation in faith and evangelism, and thus aid the surrounding communities.

Reason I wish to serve: Because the world and our country, specifically, is hurting, confused and in need of faith, hope, and love of God and don't see it often.

My priorities for this ministry: To share God's word with as many as possible and grow the faith. To reach the Hispanic and other races and bring them to God's church.

Faith statement: To share God's word by actions, words and growth of self and others through education. To aid as many people in the community with basic needs
and spiritual support. To strengthen our congregation in order to go forth in ministry to others in need in our community.

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**LAITY Male Nominee for Outreach Committee**

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

13A. Mr. George Sanchez
13B. Mr. Chuck Wolske

**13A – Mr. George Sanchez – Cross of Glory, Homer Glen – East Conference**

**Occupation:** Retired

**Areas of leadership and interest – congregation:** I have been Council member and president a number of times. I led Sunday school and bible study at my home. I have also headed a Call Committee. I have recently started to attend a new congregation and hope get more involved there.

**Areas of leadership and interest – community:** I am a member of the Romeoville American Legion and have been appointed as Chaplain of the 11th district. My job is to lead the meeting in prayer. I regularly attend funeral for local veterans and burials at Lincoln National cemetery. In the past I have served on the Anti-Racism team, Congregational life Committee, Synod Council and currently serving my first term on the Outreach Committee.

**Reason I wish to serve:** The Synod and our Church needs to have more involvement from lay people. Pastors are expected to do everything in a lot of churches, people need to understand that everyone is responsible for what happens in their church.

**My priorities for this ministry:** We are working to develop training to help people become active in leadership roles in their congregation and community and Synod.

**Faith statement:** We are all one people in Christ. When we separate ourselves from other people we weaken ourselves and our Church. Christ suffered and died for all of us, not just some of us.

**13B – Mr. Chuck Wolske – Peace, New Lenox – East Conference**

No biographical information received by print deadline

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**LAITY Male Nominee for Outreach Committee**

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

14A. Mr. Brandon Graves
14B. NO NOMINEE

**14A – Mr. Brandon Graves – Salem, Sycamore – Northeast Conference**

**Occupation:** Volunteer and Hospital Worker

**Areas of leadership and interest – congregation:** Currently: I serve on the Witness committee of Salem, which is basically, the Evangelism/Outreach team. We do community outreach to help bring in new members to Salem. I also serve as an usher. Past: I have served on the Youth Board of Salem during High School, have served on the Nominating committee now three times, 2008, 2010, and 2015. I have
played in the Christmas and Easter Brass for about 10 years. I have represented Salem at Synod Assembly in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 as the Young Adult Voting Member, and here again in 2016. I am someone who is just willing to serve when and where needed.

**Areas of leadership and interest–community:** Currently, I work at the local hospital, and have been a volunteer at the DeKalb County Nursing Home for almost 3 years, which has been a rewarding experience for me. Past: I was Volunteer of the year in 2011, when I was a part of the Teenage group volunteers at the local hospital.

**Reason I wish to serve:** I want to continue the work that has been done on the Synod Outreach committee, having served the last three years on this committee, I would like to continue for another three years. I have always been interested in the inner workings of the Church and the Synod.

**My priorities for this ministry:** My priorities for this ministry are to continue to support the Outreach efforts of the Synod. Also, to continue to bring new ideas about Outreach and from the Synod to the local church, especially Salem, my congregation.

**Faith statement:** My faith statement: We have to be ready for Jesus when he comes. We don't know when that will be, but just be ready. Continue to do the work he has asked us to do.

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**CLERGY Male Nominee for Outreach Committee**

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

15A. The Rev. Brad Haugen

15B. The Rev. Timothy Linstrom

15A – The Rev. Brad Haugen – Peace, Port Byron – West Conference

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Areas of leadership and interest–congregation:** Word and Sacrament, Christian education, and outreach

**Areas of leadership and interest–community:** President of the Upper Rock Island County Ministerial Association. Active in Northern Illinois Synod west conference gatherings as well as a weekly text study group for pastors.

**Reason I wish to serve:** I am excited and energized by opportunities that the church has to look beyond its walls and connect with others.

**My priorities for this ministry:** To work together in developing a vision and passion for how congregations of the ELCA can make Christ's presence known in their communities.

**Faith statement:** In Christ there's freedom to try new things, to make mistakes, and to not always have to get it right—as the Lord told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2Corinthians 12:9).

15B – The Rev. Timothy Linstrom – Bethlehem, Joliet – East Conference

**Occupation:** Pastor
**Areas of leadership and interest–congregation**: In my current and previous calls as a pastor, I have been involved in all areas of parish ministry. Although I love worship, teaching, and ministering, I have always been drawn to outreach and evangelism, and appreciate the importance of strategic mission planning, building a sense of community, and reaching out to the unchurched.

**Areas of leadership and interest–community**: I served as chair of the Outreach and Evangelism committee, now called the Renewing Mission Table, in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod for four years from 2007-2011, and helped develop the Mission Coach Initiative aimed at empowering and accompanying congregations in their mission development. I have experience working with congregations in assessing the health and mission mindedness of congregations, identifying community needs, and developing mission plans. I have also received training in community organizing and currently serve as Dean of the East Conference.

**Reason I wish to serve**: I believe I have been called to this area of ministry and am passionate about empowering, encouraging, and equipping congregations to fulfill their God-given mission.

**My priorities for this ministry**: New mission starts, transformational mission development in established congregations, and developing a new and comprehensive strategy to address declining and evolving congregations in these changing times. We must be much more future oriented as we develop a vision for the mission centers of our synod, and I believe with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can develop and implement a plan to better address those needs and bring us to new possibilities.

**Faith statement**: "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is a gift from God." I give thanks for the gift of grace, love, and new life we receive from God, and believe we are called to share this Good News with all the world.

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**Social Ministry Committee**

**LAITY Female Nominee for Social Ministry Committee**  Vote for 1 (3-year term)

16A. Ms. Linda Storm
16B. Ms. Denise Hoover

16A – Ms. Linda Storm – First, Geneseo – West Conference

**Occupation**: Retired Office Manager

**Areas of leadership and interest–congregation**: Church Council, Social Ministry Committee, Finance Committee, Building Remodel Committee, Sunday School Teacher, First Book Club Organizer, Faithtime Meal Server, Sunday Fellowship, Bible Study, Via de Cristo

**Areas of leadership and interest–community**: Hospital Auxiliary President, Vice President and Membership Chairman, Docent Geneseo Historical Museum, Volunteer Gift Shop Geneseo Hospital,
Reason I wish to serve: I have a great love for all of God's people and some are not as fortunate as others. I feel that being a part of Social Ministry through the Northern Illinois Synod gives me the opportunity to help others in a way that broadens, not only my personal ministry, but brings the needs of others to my home church as well.

My priorities for this ministry: To continue to serve those in need.

Faith statement: I believe in God the Father. I have known God from an early age, but it still took time to gain understanding of the Word and the Grace of God. Not only on a day to day basis do I come to God in prayer, often, but to face whatever that day brings to me. I believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ. I have certainly faced trials in my life. Like most Christians, Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”, speaks volumes. I can accept the free gift of salvation by admitting my sins and weaknesses and trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I know that by faith my sins are forgiven. I believe in God the Holy Spirit. Through the continuing gift of the Spirit I can be faithful to God’s call.

16B – Ms. Denise Hoover – Grace, Woodstock – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Senior Account Manager – Commercial Insurance

Areas of Leadership and interest – congregation: Social Ministry – Art donations for fund raisers – Paintings of Prayers and Bible Verses

Areas of leadership and interest – community: Art

Reason I wish to serve: To follow my mother's dictate before she died. The Harm's way issue (see below) is due to injury I experiences as a teen.

My priorities for this ministry: Helping the poor and those in harm’s way.

Faith Statement: I believe in God, source of all life, who sent his son Jesus to show us how to live and remains with us through the Holy Spirit.

CLERGY Male Nominee for Social Ministry Committee  Vote for 1 (3-year term)

17A. The Rev. Chuck Olson

17B. The Rev. Greg Olson

17A. The Rev. Chuck Olson – Calvary, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: pastor

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation: Neighborhood evangelism; developing lasting relationships with the impoverished people of the neighborhood around Calvary.

Areas of leadership and interest–community: Leading Tres Dias retreats for spiritual renewal; leading Credo retreats for those in recovery.

Reason I wish to serve: The deep need for social ministry is painfully apparent in Calvary’s neighborhood, and in our community as a whole. How can we-the church-address these needs?

My priorities for this ministry: reaching/helping/understanding immigrants/refugees - creating new ways to help them.
Faith statement: I believe in the real presence of Jesus - in the Sacrament, in the hearts of worshipers, available to all who ask.


Occupation: pastor

Areas of leadership and interest–congregation: I have been a pastor for 39 years, retired in 2014, and have been doing interim ministry since Nov. 2014.

Areas of leadership and interest–community: I have been a community organization president, a food pantry president for 10 years, and once served on the social ministry committee in a previous church.

Reason I wish to serve: A part of completing my Master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2014, ethnic and cultural diversity and social/economic influences were front and center in the influence in people’s lives and the life of their communities. I would like to bring that sensitivity to this ministry of the synod.

My priorities for this ministry: My priorities are to serve the needs of the Northern Illinois Synod as it continues its ministry of advocacy and direct support for the “least of these our sisters and brothers” and to bring social ministry concerns to local congregations to support their ministries.

Faith statement: I believe that the word and sacrament ministry of the church extends outward to show the love of Christ in acts of love and seeking justice for all. The relational confession of the Trinity calls us into relational compassion to others. I believe we experience Christ in acts of caring for others.
Resolutions

R-1 “Always Being Made New” Campaign

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is currently engaged in a $198-million-dollar campaign, “Always Being Made New,” aimed at renewing congregations, funding leadership for the future, treating world hunger, supporting global mission, and other worthy ministry causes; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Illinois Synod demonstrates leadership within the ELCA in terms of its 55% commitment of its resources to the wider church; and

WHEREAS, the largest single item in the campaign ($115 million) is the commitment to creatively and courageously address the root causes of hunger and poverty to build a world of justice in which all are fed, and it is the emphasis in 2016;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod actively encourage its members and congregations to participate in “Always Being Made New” by giving through such means as ELCA.org/campaign, special offerings, or automatic monthly giving until the campaign concludes in January, 2019.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod World Hunger Sub-Committee

Contact Person: The Rev. Richard Meier

Date Received: April 5, 2016

Action of the Resolution Committee

Action Taken: Recommend adoption

Date of Action: April 19, 2016

R-2 My Muslim Neighbor

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus calls us to love our neighbor (Matthew 22:39); and

WHEREAS, in the United States our neighbors include a growing number of Muslims; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has, from its beginning, committed itself to ecumenical and interfaith dialog; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is a founding member of the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign, “an interfaith campaign [which] works at the national level and offers strategies and support to local and regional efforts to address Islamophobia;” and

WHEREAS, our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, in an open letter to the Muslim American community, wrote, “…we renew our commitment to find even more effective ways to protect and defend you from words and actions that assault your safety and wellbeing. We believe God calls us to resist what is divisive, discriminatory, xenophobic, racist or violent, and we want you to look to us as allies and friends;” and

WHEREAS, Islamophobia, defined as “hatred, hostility, and fear of Islam and Muslims, and the discriminatory practices that result” is real and dangerous; and

WHEREAS, we do not need to believe that Islam is right to understand that Islamophobia is wrong; and
WHEREAS, the headline-grabbing actions of violent extremists are not representative of mainstream Islam; and

WHEREAS, anti-Islamic rhetoric has become the stock-in-trade of some politicians, religious figures, and prominent atheists; and

WHEREAS, the latest FBI statistics indicate an increase in incidents of hate crimes against Muslims; and

WHEREAS, prejudice flourishes in the presence of ignorance; and

WHEREAS, Christians and Muslims share a common Abrahamic tradition; and

WHEREAS, excellent resources for understanding Islam are available, many free-of-charge;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod “repudiate the hostility and hatred aimed at Muslims” and commit itself to opposing, preventing, and eliminating Islamophobia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Northern Illinois Synod be encouraged to educate themselves about the beliefs and practices of our Muslim neighbors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod make available a list of some useful resources for understanding the Islamic faith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod in communities with an Islamic presence, be encouraged to reach out to engage our Muslim neighbors in friendship, in conversation, and in cooperative effort.

NOTES:

1. pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/14/muslims-expected-to-surpass-jews-as-second-largest-u-s-religious-group
2. shouldertoshouldercampaign.org
3. elca.org/Faith/Inter-Religious-Relations/Muslim-Relations
4. Full text available at elca.org
5. Green, Todd, The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West, Fortress Press, 2015, p. 9
7. Luther College Statement on Islamophobia (luther.edu/just-action/islamophobia)

Submitted by: Central Conference, Northern Illinois Synod  
Contact Person: The Rev. Brant Clements  
Date Received: April 5, 2016

Action of the Resolution Committee

Action Taken: Recommend adoption  
Date of Action: April 19, 2016
WHEREAS, in its first social statement approved in 1991, “The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective,” the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) committed to “work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless and those who suffer, using its power and influence with political and economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace and the care of creation;” and

WHEREAS, the liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 236) including the intent to strive for justice and peace in all the earth;” and

WHEREAS, staffing of Lutheran Advocacy—Illinois was supported by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) until February 2016 when the position of Director of Government Relations was eliminated due to the organization’s restructuring and because the employee in this LSSI position also served as the Director of Lutheran Advocacy—Illinois, Lutheran Advocacy—Illinois has become inactive; and

WHEREAS, ELCA Advocacy maintains an active State Public Policy Office network and will work with and support synods in their efforts to engage in public policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod be encouraged to contact and work with the bishops of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to appoint a task force, composed of interested, experienced and knowledgeable lay and clergy members to work with the three Synods and the ELCA Advocacy Office with the goal of reactivating Lutheran Advocacy—Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a task force become operational as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the created task force may be funded with up to $1000 from the Social Ministry Committee budget and up to $1,000 from a budgetary or non-budgetary source determined by the Synod Council.

Submitted by: Pastor Paul Carlson, First Lutheran Church, Plano; Pastor Greg Olson, Joyful Spirit Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook; Pastor Rakel Evenson, New Life Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook; Pastor Ben Ingelson, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Channahon; Pastor Michel Clark, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville; Erin Clark-Benedict, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville; Linnea Thompson, St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island; Pastor Janet Lepp, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota; Pastor Don Knowles, Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline; Pastor Larry Conway, Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline; Pastor Len Hoffman, Interim Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Galesburg; Pastor Pamela Marolla, First Lutheran Church, Galesburg; Pastor Robert Franek, Faith Lutheran Church, Wataga; Pastor Vince Marolla, Interim Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Monmouth; Pat Smith, Lay Member, First Lutheran Church, Monmouth; Myrna Andersen, AIM, retired First Lutheran Church, Galesburg; Pastor Stacie Fidlar, St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island, IL

Contact Person: The Rev. Paul Carlson

Date Received: April 5, 2016

Action of the Resolutions Committee

Action Taken: Recommend adoption

Date of Action: April 19, 2016
R-4 Racial Justice

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches us to "mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15); and that, "If one part [of the body of Christ] suffers, every part suffers with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26); and

WHEREAS, Ephesians states that Christ “has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:14); and

WHEREAS, the 1993 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly adopted Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, in which the ELCA committed itself to “advocacy at state, federal and international levels that seeks to eliminate racial and ethnic discrimination;” and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly adopted The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries, which names as sin mass incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and other leaders in the ELCA have encouraged the church to have “difficult conversations” concerning racism;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the Northern Illinois Synod confess our bondage to sin reflected through old patterns of racial injustice, trusting Christ’s forgiveness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod reaffirm that Black lives matter and strive with Christ to eradicate walls of racism in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod be encouraged to participate in Anti-Racism Training events facilitated by certified Anti-Racism Training teams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod encourage congregations through education and prayer to hold difficult conversations about racial and ethnic inequality and advocate for the care of all of God’s people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod memorializes the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reaffirm that Black lives matter and to advocate for racial and ethnic equality through prayer and policy solutions.


Contact Person: The Rev. Josh Ehrler

Date Received: April 18, 2016

Action of the Resolution Committee

Action Taken: Recommend adoption

Date of Action: April 19, 2016
**R-5 Life of Faith Initiative**

**WHEREAS**, we seek to embody ever more fully Luther's Reformation call to the ministry of all the baptized; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gospel of Jesus Christ sets God's people free to serve their neighbors in their daily lives in the various arenas God provides: in families, at work, and in civil society, working for the common good; and

**WHEREAS**, all the baptized share a single vocation of loving God and loving neighbors (Matthew 22:36-40) as lived-out in various roles and relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a deep yearning, especially among young people, to live meaningful lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the church as a gathered and scattered community needs the leadership of bishops, pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers to reorient the ministries of the institutional church to equip the saints for the work of ministry in daily neighborliness (Ephesians 4:12); and

**WHEREAS**, the Book of Faith Initiative is a model for a grassroots movement in engaging the Bible, the Life of Faith Initiative will build upon and extend this effort with a focus on Christian vocation; and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA has a robust theological education network, including seminaries, colleges and universities, lay schools for ministry, synodical schools, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, a Christian Education Network, congregations, and many other entities; and

**WHEREAS**, our church is rich with a variety of resources for teaching and learning, including print, electronic media, service learning, faith practices, spiritual formation, mentoring, congregational education programs, immersions, experiential learning, and other forms of learning;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we "reaffirm the universal priesthood of all believers, namely, that all baptized Christians are called to minister in the name of Christ and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the promise of God in the world and in their various callings and to bear God's creative and redeeming Word to all the world, to meet human needs, to work for dignity and justice for all people, and peace and reconciliation among the nations..." [copied from the first resolution of the 1993 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in response to the Together for Ministry report, in "The Ministry of All the Baptized" section, pp. 13-14; it also reflects section 7.11 of the ELCA constitution, The Ministry of the Baptized People of God]; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call upon congregations to foster Christian vocation by encouraging and equipping people, from children to adults, to discern and claim their call to speak and live the faith in their daily lives through their many varied forms of service with our neighbors in the family, the workplace, and in civil society; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we ask the theological education network—seminaries, colleges and universities, campus ministries, lay schools and outdoor ministries—to collaborate closely in promoting the ministry of all the baptized for the sake of the life of the world; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we ask congregations to join in this grassroots initiative in partnership with the robust theological education network of the ELCA (including Augsburg Fortress Publishers) in sharing and curating a wide range of resources that foster the life of faith in the world; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the theological education network of the ELCA to equip rostered leaders as ministers of the Word to claim their vocation as teachers, forming congregations as teaching and learning communities at the interface of faith and life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon congregations to experiment, create, and innovate so that the Life of Faith Initiative becomes a vital part of their own ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to make the Life of Faith Initiative a central priority in all its expressions—congregations, synods, and Churchwide organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this synod commit itself to the Life of Faith Initiative and report at its next synod assembly the steps taken to implement this resolution.

Originally Drafted by: The Covenant Cluster Task Force on Lay Theological Education: Terry Baeder, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; Arne Bergland, California Lutheran University; Dwight DuBois, Covenant Cluster Network Convener; Darrel Gerrietts, Northeastern Iowa Synod; Lorna Halaas, Western Iowa Synod; Greg Kaufmann, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; Kit Kleinhans, Wartburg College; Jane Mar, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area; Craig L. Nessan, Wartburg Theological Seminary; Gordon Straw, Program Director, Lay Schools for Ministry, ELCA; Marianne Wilkinson, Central States Synod.

Submitted by: The Rev. Denver Bitner; the Rev. Mike Clark; the Rev. Jeffrey Clements, member of LOMC Board; Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, AiM, Synod staff liaison to the Candidacy Sub-Committee; the Rev. Gary Erickson; Ms. Tammie Farley, Synod Treasurer and member of the Lutheran Campus Ministry in Illinois Board; Ms. Karin Graddy, AiM; the Rev. Tim Kenyon; the Rev. Robert Kinnear, Chairperson of the Synod Candidacy Sub-Committee; the Rev. Kurt Nordby; the Rev. Christine Stienstra.

Contact Person: Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann

Date Received: April 16, 2016

Action of the Resolution Committee

Action Taken: Recommend referral to the Congregational Life Committee

Date of Action: April 19, 2016
2017 Salary Guidelines
for Rostered Leaders in the NIS, ELCA

“The gift he gave were that some would be ... evangelists, some pastors, some teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

“Ministry of the Baptized People of God – This church affirms the universal priesthood of all its baptized members. In its function and its structure this church commits itself to the equipping and supporting of all its members for their ministries in the world and in this church. It is within this context of ministry that this church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries in this church.” (ELCA Constitution 7.10 & 7.11).

“We believe ministry in Christ’s name is a gift. Therefore, we encourage the rostered leader and congregation to be in careful and prayerful deliberation when discussing aspects of these guidelines. The gift of ministry must be cherished and respected.” (Purpose Statement for Salary Guidelines, NIS Ministry Support Committee)

The 2017 Salary Guidelines for Rostered Leaders in the Northern Illinois Synod that follow are meant to assist congregations and other organizations in establishing appropriate compensation packages. They include information from a variety of sources. They deal with the general topics of compensation and are developed with awareness of various ministry settings in our synod. These are guidelines. They are not meant to address every situation in every congregation at every time.

As such, close attention and consideration should be paid to the current ministry context. If there are questions, the synod staff should be consulted for assistance and clarification.

Although congregations may struggle to meet minimum guidelines, leaders who receive minimum pay are most vulnerable to current economic realities. Additionally, know that it is synod policy that the guidelines be met for all first call rostered leaders.

These guidelines consider the following factors: the economic climate in our synod, the national economy looking forward, and all Region 5 synods’ compensation guidelines, with special attention given to those synods that border Northern Illinois. For 2017, the guidelines include a 1.3% cost of living increase for rostered leaders on both the base salary and a year of experience. They also include revisions in Section II.B. ELCA Plan through Portico Benefit Services (“Portico”).

May God bless our work together! God’s Work. Our Hands.

Submitted by NIS Salary Guidelines Subcommittee

Pr. Thomas E. Rogers Jr., Chair
Redeemer, Woodstock
Mound

Ms. Carla Vanatta, AIM
Salem, Sycamore

Mr. Daryl Stienstra
Shepherd of the Hills, Scales
Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA
2017 Compensation Guidelines

This document provides guidelines for congregations to use in determining a rostered leader's compensation. This document has two (2) sections: Rationale and Appendices. Then, along with this document, use the interactive Worksheet for your specific rostered leader to develop your financial package.

Rationale

I. COMPENSATION

A. Salary

1. Base Salary – The suggested entry-level cash salary in 2017:
   - For a rostered leader with a Master’s degree is $37,230; a year of service is valued at $765
   - For a rostered leader with a Bachelor’s degree is $32,754; a year of service is valued at $694

For additional years of service, use the tables in Appendix A.

When computing Base Salary there are other factors to consider. The completion of annual continuing education can justify a rostered leader's increase for adding a year of experience. Also, compensation beyond 25 years of experience should be agreed upon by the leader and congregation, taking in to consideration factors such retirement funding, additional vacation time, etc. In addition, it is recommended that compensation for part-time positions, such as interim ministry, should be pro-rated according to time contracted with the congregation. For instance, a leader serving one-half time with a congregation should be paid one-half the appropriate base salary.

Additionally, when determining Base Salary, it is important to consider Previous Career Experience. As more “second career” people enter this ministry, the question of a fair and equitable salary takes on new ramifications. In many cases, previous experience is relevant to the work of the ministry. Therefore, leaders who enter the rostered ministry after years of work in other occupations should be compensated at a rate that recognizes the value of their work experience and maturity. Congregations are urged to consider giving experience credit for previous work. It is recommended for purposes of calculating cash salary, that for every two years of professional experience in another field, the minister be credited with one year of professional experience in the ministry.

2. Annual Merit Increase – An annual salary increase for merit is encouraged. A merit increase in the range of 0-15% of the base salary can be justified by the following factors: attainment of advanced degrees, serving multiple point parishes, or fulfilling additional responsibilities, such as serving as a senior leader on a staff. We encourage the leader and the congregation to evaluate their ministry regularly, remembering that these forms are but one way to consider merit increases. Forms are available online at nisynod.org/resources/mutual-ministry

B. Housing (choose either 1 or 2) – FOR PASTORS ONLY

1. Pastor as Homeowner - If a pastor owns or rents his/her own home, it is recommended that the congregation grant a Housing Allowance. The Housing Allowance is applied to all the home’s expenses, such as mortgage, taxes, rent, insurance, utilities, etc. With this Housing Allowance, the pastor (and family) should be able to acquire and maintain adequate housing within the church's service area.

   One way to begin to determine a figure for Housing Allowance is to use an annual fair market rental value of a home in the community by the comparable sales method. To begin, find the median cost of a home in the community. (One resource is at elca.org
when you search “zip code report.” Then, to figure fair rental value, multiply the median cost by a generally accepted rate of return. For this example, we will use 12%. The two examples following show how these values might vary between counties within the synod:

(For these examples, county median home costs are used – specific city information is available)

**Example 1 – McHenry County:** 2009 Median Home Price $246,393

$246,393 x 12% (0.12) = $29,567.16 fair market rental value as guide for annual housing allowance

**Example 2 – Lee County:** 2009 Median Home Price $122,406

$122,406 x 12% (0.12) = $14,688.72 fair market rental value as guide for annual housing allowance

When the pastor receives a Housing Allowance, please note that there are complicated tax implications for both the congregation and the pastor that should be followed. For more information on these implications, please consult Appendices B and D.

2. **Parsonage provided by the congregation** - If the pastor lives in a parsonage, Portico states that the value of such housing must be determined to figure the pastor’s Defined Compensation. They use 30% of the pastor’s base salary.

In addition, the congregation may choose to pay a **Utilities Allowance** and/or a **Furnishings Allowance** reflecting a fair estimate of costs, directly to the pastor. Costs of the allowances are tax deductible up to the actual amount expended. The actual amount of these allowances is added to the value of the parsonage when figuring Defined Compensation.

However, when these accounts are set up for reimbursement, the pastor does not have to keep track of receipts for tax purposes and the receipts are not included in the Social Security Allowance calculation. Instead, they can submit receipts against a predetermined amount in the budget. If the pastor does not reach this amount, the additional funds are not paid. Similarly, if the account is exhausted no further receipts are paid.

In addition, the congregation is also encouraged to provide an **Equity Allowance**. An equity allowance compensates the pastor for the loss of equity associated with not owning a home. An equity allowance helps provide for a pastor and his/her family in the event of retirement, death, disability, or paying for housing later in ministry when a parsonage is no longer available. An annual equity allowance that would represent an annual principal payment in the midst of a mortgage is sufficient. Our recommendation is an allowance in the range of 3-10% of the pastor’s annual cash salary.

Finally, please note the Synod Parsonage Guidelines in Appendix C for detail on the relationship between the pastor and congregation regarding the parsonage.

Unless the equity allowance is invested in a tax-sheltered account for the individual, it becomes taxable income and must be included when figuring Defined Compensation for Portico. However, when such payment is made directly to Portico’s Optional Pension Plan or other tax-advantaged account, it can be excluded. See note II.B.3. below.

When a congregation sells a parsonage, it is recommended that the assets be retained to assist in financing pastor-owned housing.

**II. BENEFITS**

A. **Taxes**

1. **For a pastor (Social Security Allowance for Self-Employment Tax)** – Providing for the retirement of a pastor is the responsibility of the congregation. Pastors are considered “self-employed” by the federal government. They must pay to the Social Security Administration 15.3% of their total annual cash salary and EITHER housing allowance OR
the fair rental value of the parsonage. A Social Security Allowance shares the burden of this tax by providing what most employers provide - half of the Social Security tax. Congregations are encouraged to reimburse at least 50% (7.65%) of their pastor's Social Security tax liability. This allowance is taxable.

2. **For other rostered leaders (Social Security Tax or “FICA”)** – Providing for the rostered leader's retirement is the responsibility of the congregation. They are considered employees of the congregation for tax purposes. The congregation is required to contribute one-half of the leader's Social Security (FICA) tax. The current FICA tax rate for an employee is 15.3% of their total cash salary. Therefore, congregations are required to pay one-half of the tax or 7.65% of the total cash salary.

**B. ELCA Plan through Portico Benefit Services (“Portico”)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan (ELCA Health Benefits Plan)</th>
<th>ELCA Retirement Plan</th>
<th>ELCA Flexible Benefits Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELCA Disability Benefits Plan</td>
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</table>

At the 2013 Synod Assembly, Resolution R-3 was passed that resolved that synod guidelines that most closely resemble the then current ELCA Primary health coverage plan for its rostered leaders be recommended and this be reflected in call documents and that congregations and church leaders maintain that level of coverage of health benefits for our rostered leaders and lay church workers by paying for that option. **That plan is the Gold Plus option.**

The committee recommends that congregations also provide family coverage for spouses and dependents that do not have other coverage.

Employers should make use of calculators and charts for health insurance and other computations available at the Portico website – [employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx](employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx)

This link is shown on the worksheets in this document and may be used online to determine Defined Compensation, which is needed to find Portico insurance and retirement contributions. Click on the Portico website which will take you to “Resources” Then click on “Calculate Benefits Costs” and follow directions. Since health costs are based on age, it asks for the date of birth of the person for whom you are making the calculation. The cost of health insurance and retirement benefits are then entered into the interactive Salary Worksheet.

**For leaders, Portico offers a wide variety of services ensuring wellness in all areas – while working and in retirement.** Their offerings go beyond the scope this document. It is in your best interest to be familiar with them as you develop your financial plan. [myportico.porticobenefits.org](myportico.porticobenefits.org)

1. **Defined Compensation**

   a. For Pastors –Portico uses Defined Compensation to determine the amount of a congregation's required Retirement/Pension Contribution as well as the contribution for a pastor's Health and Other Benefits. **Defined Compensation** is comprised of the pastor's actual cash salary, a housing allowance, and the Social Security Allowance. If housing is provided, the calculation requires that the congregation take a minimum of 30% of the combined total of pastor's annual cash salary plus Social Security Allowance, adding the value of the Social Security Allowance on the parsonage, and adding any furnishings and/or utility allowances paid to the pastor.
b. For Other Rostered Leaders – Portico uses **Defined Compensation** to determine the amount of a congregation’s required **Retirement/Pension Contribution** as well as the contribution for a leader’s **Health and Other Benefits**. **Defined Compensation** is comprised of the leader’s actual cash salary and any additional allowances.

2. **Retirement/Pension Contribution** – The Northern Illinois Synod strongly encourages a minimum pension contribution of 12% for all leaders. Congregations may choose to exceed the 12% level. If a congregation is unable to meet the salary guidelines, it is advised that they consider at least making their pension contribution based on guidelines. This has small financial impact yet assists the leader greatly in retirement. Portico can be consulted to ensure the correct transactions occur.

3. **Optional Pension Contributions** – Also, all leaders can use Portico to make additional pre-tax contributions toward their pension, deferring tax liability. These can come from: their salary, making regular deductions; the congregation, making housing equity contributions; or outside sources, such as previous retirement plans and inheritance. Again, Portico can be consulted to ensure correctness.

4. **Health and Other Benefits** – Each year Portico sets the percentage a congregation should contribute for the leader’s Health and Other Benefits. The percentage is based on the expected cost of the plan.

5. **Wellness Discount** – Portico has offered the enrolled member funds that can be used toward health expenses. The first step is taking the online health assessment tool designed by the Mayo Clinic. There are also follow-on activities to maximize the bonus, up to $400. Additionally, if 65% of the enrolled members in our synod complete the health assessment, **all the organizations within our synod will receive a 1% reduction in the health benefit rate**. It is strongly recommended – if offered in 2017 – that members take advantage of this offering for the clear physical and financial benefits.

6. **Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)** – Portico’s FSA allows you to set aside pretax salary dollars for eligible health care and dependent (day) care expenses with no administration fee. There are specific tax benefits and requirements regarding an FSA that go beyond the scope of this document. For more information, go to the “MyPortico” home page at myportico.porticobenefits.org open the “Health and Other Coverage” tab, and follow the link for FSAs under the “Other Coverages” heading.

### C. Other Benefits for the Wellness of Leader & Congregation

There are many other benefits to negotiate in the call process. Discussing the following items in advance can help leaders and congregations avoid conflict later in the call when it seems that the benefits are changing. A section on “Wellness” has been added to this category because of the importance of health to the life of a leader and the congregation that the leader serves.

1. **Workweek** – Because of the “On Call” nature of rostered ministry, serious consideration needs to be given to leader’s self-care. **It is recommended that leaders be encouraged to set aside 1.5 – 2.0 days a week for personal time.**

2. **Vacation** - The need for annual vacation is self-evident. **The congregation should provide four weeks per year (encompassing four Sundays) of vacation with full pay for its pastor(s).** For other leaders, a minimum of two weeks’ vacation with full pay is recommended. The congregation is encouraged to consider the tenure of the leader and his/her individual needs in setting vacation limits. Additional vacation weeks may be negotiated. This does not include continuing education. Time spent on continuing education, Churchwide or synodical committees, congregational retreats, camping programs, or mission trips are not to be considered as vacation time or time off.

   a. **Leadership during vacation** – The congregation is to assume responsibility for a substitute leaders during vacation time. The following fee structure is offered for **Pastor’s Pulpit Supply** as a minimum reimbursement:

   - 1 service: $150 plus mileage @ current IRS rate
   - Additional services on same date should be compensated @ $25/service
• Leading adult forums, teaching confirmation, etc. should be compensated @ $50 each
• These fees assume these tasks: lead worship, preach, and preside at Holy Communion.

3. **Wholeness/Wellness** – It is important that church leaders be well in all areas of the wholeness wheel. In addition to Portico’s resources, our bishop has established the Health and Wellness Subcommittee of the Ministry Support Committee. Their resources can be found at nisynod.org/wellness. Additionally, note the information above in II. B. 4. which demonstrates some of the benefits.

   a. *Spiritual Renewal* – It is recommended that all rostered leaders under call be given three days to one week or more per year for spiritual renewal that is not classified as vacation or educational leave. It is suggested that the rostered leader spend this time at a retreat center or facility where the leader is able to fully focus on “renewal.” Therefore, the leader should have a colleague cover emergencies during this time away.

   b. *Spiritual Guidance* – It is recommended that all rostered leaders be encouraged to have a spiritual guide during their time of call. Resources for finding and selecting a Spiritual Guide can be acquired from the synod’s Spiritual Formation Sub-Committee.

4. **Parental Leave** - The church places a high value on family. These guidelines are offered to help congregations approach situations requiring parental leave in a caring manner.

   a. *Parental leave following the birth of a child* - Six weeks of maternal leave should be available to mothers immediately following the birth of a child. For maternal leave, it is recommended that the congregation pay full salary and benefits. A two-week paid paternal leave is recommended for a father immediately after the birth of a child. For paternal leave, at a minimum, full benefits should be maintained. Factors to be considered in determining salary and benefits during such a leave are vacation time available, housing costs, the leader's length of service with the congregation, and the hardship to the leader or the congregation.

   b. *Parental leave following adoption* - Guideline 4a. above applies to parents adopting children.

   c. *Parental leave granted at other times* - Parental leave may be granted by the congregation at other times, such as during times of severe illness, trauma, or death of a child. The length of the leave and the salary and benefits that the congregation will provide the leader should be mutually negotiated. It is recommended that the congregation, at a minimum, provide full benefits for the leader during any parental leave granted.

   d. *Leadership during leave* – During the leave period, a substitute leader is to be paid by the congregation. See “Leadership during Vacation” under II. C. 2. a.

5. **Temporary Disability**

   a. *Full compensation and benefits for the first 60 days* – In the event of the temporary disability of a full time leader, it is recommended that the congregation continue to pay the individual’s full compensation and benefits for the first 60 days of disability.

   b. *Providing compensation to supplement the ELCA disability plan* – After the first 60 days of disability, the ELCA disability plan becomes effective and will pay 66 and 2/3% of *Monthly Defined Compensation*. Consideration should be given by the congregation to paying the remaining 33 and 1/3% of *Monthly Defined Compensation*.

   c. *Leadership during leave* – During the leave period, a substitute leader is to be paid by the congregation. See “Leadership during Vacation” under II. C. 2. a.

   d. *Other compensation* - If a full time leader, because of the disability, receives compensation from some source other than the ELCA disability plan, such as Workman's Compensation, then the congregation and the recipient should negotiate compensation so that it shall not exceed the usual monthly compensation.
III. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

Reimbursable expenses are not compensation to the leader, but are business expenses of the congregation. Special care should be given to document these expenses. Leaders should file expense reports with their congregations (an IRS requirement).

(In general, due to tax implications, it is usually better for a leader to be reimbursed for the actual expense instead of receiving an allowance for an expense that may or may not be incurred. For suggestions for handling expenses, consult a reputable tax guide. Portico regularly makes one available for free download online at their website.)

A. Automobile - Reimbursement of automobile expenses for congregational business can be handled in one of three ways. Regardless of the method chosen, the amount should be for a yearly basis.

1. Reimbursement of miles driven - Reimbursement for actual business miles driven at the IRS established rate. *(You can find this rate easily using an internet search engine.)* Be aware that in the past several years, the IRS changed mileage rate during the year, so be informed!

2. Payment of a lump sum - The congregation may choose to pay the leader a lump sum per year, pro-rated to a monthly basis. The leader must maintain accurate records of actual business mileage and provide documentation to the IRS. Under this method, the lump sum, minus expenses, is taxable.

3. Congregation purchases or leases a car – Congregations may consider the purchase or lease of an automobile for use by the leader. Often the cost to the congregation is no greater than a fair cents-per-mile reimbursement. Leaders will assume some IRS liability for non-business use of the vehicle. The congregation may also choose to have the leader reimburse the congregation for personal use of the vehicle at a rate comparable with the above IRS standard.

B. Continuing Education - The 1997 Churchwide Assembly affirmed the importance of lifelong learning for healthy and effective leaders of the church. The leader, in consultation with the congregation, is strongly encouraged to annually prepare and submit a continuing education covenant to the synod office. Such a covenant covers the following topics:

1. Continuing education reimbursement - The ELCA recommends a minimum of $1,500 yearly for a leader's continuing education. The leader should provide 1/3 of this amount, with the congregation providing 2/3. Therefore, it is recommended that the congregation budget a minimum of $1,000.

2. First Call Theological Education (FCTE) - FCTE is a ELCA requirement for a leader's first three years of ministry. It helps them transition from seminary to congregational ministry. It replaces the continuing education requirement above during this time. The same financial breakdown is true: minimum of $1500 total, split 1/3 by leader and 2/3 by congregation.

3. Required time for continuing education – A minimum of 50 contact hours per year of intentional continuing education is strongly encouraged. To meet this requirement, it is recommended that the congregation allow 14 days (including two Sundays) for continuing education. The congregation and the leader should negotiate the way to handle congregational ministry during the leader's absence.

4. Resource reimbursement - Congregations are also encouraged to provide reimbursement for books and resource materials up to $700 per year.

5. Sabbatical leave - Each congregation is strongly encouraged develop a sabbatical leave policy. A policy should especially be in place before the calling of a new leader. Additional information regarding sabbaticals is available at nisynod.org/resources/sabbaticals. Details of such a policy should consider the following basic points:
a. A sabbatical leave is encouraged after 6 years - When a leader has served longer than six (6) years in a given congregation, the congregation is encouraged to grant sabbatical leave to permit participation in a longer program of continuing education. The leader should be encouraged to take not less than two months sabbatical leave for every six (6) years of service without reduction in salary. Some church consultants believe that a sabbatical could be taken more frequently, especially when paired with congregational planning – perhaps every three (3) to five (5) years. These might be shorter but could provide time for rejuvenation to plan for the new ministries ahead.

b. A sabbatical program should be planned - Though a sabbatical includes time for recreation and rejuvenation for the leader, the benefit to the congregation must be considered as well. It is advisable to begin planning a sabbatical at least one (1) year before it will be taken. This planning should be done with the leader and a committee established for this purpose. Then the committee can bring it before the congregational council for approval. It is recommended that the synod office be notified of the sabbatical leave and the plan.

c. A sabbatical program should be funded early – To spread the cost of a sabbatical over time, it is recommended that both the congregation and the leader establish some sort of savings plan. Without this foresight, it becomes a huge burden to leave when the time comes.

d. Responsibility to remain - A leader is expected to remain with a congregation for at least one (1) year, or an appropriate time agreed upon by the leader and congregation, after completion of the sabbatical leave.

6. Leadership during Sabbatical – During all Continuing Education time away, a substitute leader is to be secured and paid by the congregation. See “Leadership during Vacation” under II. C. 2. a. For sabbatical leaves, compensation should be more than the standard supply preaching rate because of the interim leader’s additional duties.

C. Conference Expenses - All leaders under call are required to attend meetings of the Synod Assembly and other meetings called by the bishop. Attendance of the leader at the Synod Professional Leadership Conference is also normally a part of the business of the congregation. Expenses for attendance at these events should be budgeted and paid by the congregation, unless the agency or group calling the meeting reimburses the expenses.

D. Expenses of employment for a leader’s accompanying spouse - Congregations are encouraged to be sensitive to the employment needs of a relocating leader’s accompanying spouse. Recognizing that two income families are now the norm, the congregation can help the spouse find employment by paying for recertification or relicensing. Other non-monetary ways are especially encouraged, such as connecting the spouse with local employment agencies or potential employers.

E. Other expenses - Congregations are encouraged to reimburse the leader for other expenses incurred related to the ministry of the congregation.

Approved by the Northern Illinois Synod Ministry Support Committee on April 5, 2016
Approved by the Northern Illinois Synod Council on April 09, 2016
# Appendix A – 2017 Rostered Leader Base Salary Charts

## Rostered Leader with Master’s Degree

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Base</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>12</td>
<td>46,410.00</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>56,355.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To figure base salary beyond 25 years of service, begin with the starting salary and then add the multiple of the value of a year of service by the years of service.

**For example, for salary after 30 years of service:**

\[37,230 + 30(765) = 60,180\]

## Bachelor’s Degree

<table>
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<th>Base</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>41,082.00</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50,104.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To figure base salary beyond 25 years of service, begin with the starting salary and then add the multiple of the value of a year of service by the years of service.

**For example, for salary after 30 years of service:**

\[32,754 + 30(694) = 53,574\]
Appendix B – Tax Implications for Housing Allowance

Difference between Housing Allowance in Guidelines and Housing Allowance for Taxes

When figuring housing allowance for these guidelines, this figure might be considered “hypothetical.” That is, it is a number that both the pastor and the congregation can agree on based on the given circumstances.

However, due to tax requirements and implications (as stated below), a pastor can ask for a “real” housing allowance number that reflects the pastor’s actual costs, as long as this meets the IRS requirements. If the pastor suggests a “real” housing allowance number greater than the “hypothetical” one calculated in the salary guidelines, the difference is taken from the pastor’s total salary. This way, the figure has zero net effect on the pastor’s total compensation in the congregation’s annual budget or defined compensation figures for Portico. Congregations may want to merge the “salary” and “housing allowance” line items in the budget to reflect this computation. See Appendix D “Clergy Housing Resolution & Forms” for details.

Here are the tax requirements: (from Portico’s website):

*The clergy housing allowance exclusion allows pastors to exclude a portion of their income from taxes if it can be justified to the IRS as housing expenses. The amount that can be excluded from taxable income as housing allowance is always the smallest of the following:

1. Amount officially designated in advance as “housing allowance” by your congregation or church organization
2. Amount spent for the pastor’s primary residence (i.e., down payment, mortgage principal and interest, utilities, taxes, insurance, furnishings, maintenance, etc.)
3. Fair rental value of the pastor’s home, including furnishings and cost of utilities (owned or rented)*

Justification and Documentation of Housing Allowance

It should also be noted that it is the pastor’s responsibility, and not the congregation’s, for justifying a “real” housing allowance. This justification is between the pastor and the IRS; not the congregation. As such, when the pastor asks for a resolution from the congregational council to satisfy IRS requirements for the documentation of housing allowance, it should be accepted. This resolution should be made at the December council meeting for the following year. To review, it is the pastor’s responsibility to justify the allowance, it is the congregation’s responsibility to document it. This rule is true for all allowances, whether for a rostered or lay pastor.

Here are the tax requirements: (from Portico’s website):

**Reporting housing allowance** – You (the employer) must officially designate a certain portion of the pastor’s income in writing (e.g., a council resolution, meeting minutes or budget line item) as housing allowance, prior to payment being made. You will need to provide this information to your pastor whether or not you provide housing. You must report housing allowance separate from gross income on IRS Form W-2 in Box 14. Label the income as housing allowance.

**NOTE:** This requirement states that a housing allowance must be designated before it is paid. Therefore, if the pastor knows of a previously unforeseen expense during the year, an addendum to the previous housing allowance for such expense might be made, as long as it is documented before the expense is incurred. For accounting purposes, the additional housing expense would be deducted from the pastor’s salary.

Additional Resources

A detailed discussion of the tax implications of housing allowance for clergy is beyond the scope of this document. However, Portico provides excellent resources on both their “MyPortico” and “EmployerLink” websites to inform the pastor and the employer on the specific implications. In the past, they provided for free download a Tax Preparation Guide for Returns. In addition, the following resource is recommended:
Salary Guidelines

- IRS Publication 517: Social Security and Other Information for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers (On the IRS web site at irs.gov)

It is highly advisable that the pastor, as well as the congregational treasurer become familiar with these resources. It might also be in the best interest of the pastor to be in consultation with a tax professional familiar with clergy compensation.

Appendix C – Synod Parsonage Guidelines

A parsonage is the home provided by the congregation for its pastors. It is to be an aid in the carrying out of ministry. In its care of the church, the congregation will want to provide a good home.

The guidelines on the following pages are a way to help both pastor and congregation. Following them will help the congregation become aware of needed improvements and let it know if a synod-wide standard has been achieved. It will be in a position to become aware of abuses of the parsonage property.

Since the parsonage is the pastor’s home, privacy should be respected. Congregation members are expected to follow the same standards of politeness for such things as entering the parsonage as they would for any other home in the community.

Because it is the home of the pastor, the desires of the pastor should be consulted as changes are necessary. Further details about this are in the following guidelines.

The quality of the parsonage should meet a standard set by the homes of the majority of the congregation’s members. The size should be adequate to accommodate families. Contrary to renters, the pastor normally has little choice of residence. The relationship between the pastor and congregation is not based on a lease or rental agreement, but upon a common bond in the service of Christ Jesus.

The following are specific guidelines for congregations with a parsonage. These are guidelines that congregations and pastors should use to discuss the maintenance, repair, and responsibilities relative to a church owned house. These suggestions are not exhaustive; if a local situation is not covered by this document, it should be noted and addressed locally.

1. It is recommended that the following appliances be provided in the parsonage:
   - Stove
   - garbage disposal (optional)
   - refrigerator
   - soft water system (if needed)
   - dishwasher
   - humidifier/dehumidifier (if needed)
   - washer and dryer
   - TV antenna (unless cable/satellite provided)
   - air conditioning

2. It is recommended that the following utilities be paid directly by the congregation:
   - electricity
   - gas
   - soft water service (if needed)
   - cable/satellite TV
   - telephone (ex. personal long distance calls)
   - internet access

3. Items that would normally be supplied by the congregation include:
   - paint
   - wallpaper
   - window coverings
   - floor coverings
   - light fixtures
   - ceiling fan

4. When a pastor first moves into a parsonage the congregation should see that it is thoroughly clean and should usually plan to redecorate.

5. The colors, fabric, design, etc., selected in the redecoration would normally be selected by those who will be living in the house in consultation with the appropriate committee. The congregation, of course, would determine the price ranges for these
Parsonage maintenance and repair should be listed as a separate line item in the annual budget, with a clear understanding of who has the authority to spend these budgeted funds.

6. There should be an annual inspection of the parsonage that is conducted with the pastor.

7. The pastor and congregation should develop and annually update a list of necessary and desired repairs, maintenance, modernization, redecorating and remodeling projects and together prioritize these projects.

8. There should be clear understanding about how regular maintenance and emergency repairs are to be handled. It is suggested that the pastor be authorized to spend a specified dollar amount at his or her own discretion. Any repairs in excess of this amount would require approval of the property committee or the congregation council.

9. The grounds around the parsonage are primarily the responsibility of the congregation. The congregation should see that the lawn, shrubbery and flower beds are in good condition when a pastor moves into the parsonage. The pastor may be expected to care for these grounds (mow, rake; remove snow; apply fertilizer, insecticides, and herbicides) or these responsibilities may be shared by the congregation. (The division of labor should be negotiated by the pastor and the council immediately after the pastor’s arrival.)

10. Congregations should consider taking care of the grounds around the parsonage while the pastor is on vacation or study leave, if it is decided this is the pastor’s responsibility.

11. The congregation should provide suitable garage space for the pastor’s automobile(s). Normally, this would be space for two vehicles.

Revised March 2009
(adopted from the Nebraska & Southeast Iowa Synods, ELCA)
Appendix D – Clergy Housing Resolution & Forms

The Internal Revenue Service requires congregations and agencies to pass a resolution annually designating a specific amount of compensation to be used toward housing. The amount to be designated should be decided with the ordained minister based on his or her anticipated housing costs. This amount is one of three factors affecting the amount of housing a minister can claim on their taxes.

Draft Language for Church Council Action on Housing Allowance

(This wording may be used to officially describe the Council's action on a housing allowance and should be revised as appropriate for your setting.)

The __________________ Committee advises the church council that under the U.S. income tax laws outlined in the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), enacted by Congress in Title 26 of the United States Code (26 U.S.C.) an ordained minister of the Gospel is not subject to Federal Income Tax on the amount of his or her compensation that the employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus cost of utilities.

The council, after considering the request of the Rev. __________________________ to designate an amount of compensation as a housing allowance for the amount expected to be spent to rent or otherwise provide a home during the period _______, 201__ to _______, 201__, and in light of the Federal Income Tax law and of the established salary level, on motion duly made and seconded, voted to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the Rev. __________________________ is to receive a total cash salary of $________________ for the year 201__, of which $____________ is hereby designated as housing allowance in response to his/her request and acknowledgement. While Rev._____________ is called to serve this congregation (_____________________) in his/her current position, the above amount of designated housing allowance shall apply to all future years until modified.

Secretary’s Signature ____________________________ Date ________________

Draft Language for Notification of Housing Allowance by Congregation

(This may be used to officially notify a pastor of the approved housing allowance.)

Date ________________

Dear Rev. ________________,

This is to advise you that at a meeting of the church council held on ________________, your housing allowance for the year ________ was officially designated and fixed in the amount of $__________. Accordingly, $_________ of the total compensation payable to you during the year ____________ will constitute housing allowance and the balance will constitute “salary” (as interpreted by the U.S. income tax laws outlined in the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), enacted by Congress in Title 26 of the United States Code (26 U.S.C.)).

Secretary’s Signature ____________________________
Pastor’s Estimate of Housing Expense

(This form may be used to help the pastor determine an estimate of expenses qualifying under the pastor’s housing allowance.)

To: (Name of Congregation)
From: (Name of Pastor)
Date:
Re: Housing allowance for year extending from ________, 201__ to ________, 201__.

The amounts set forth below are the amounts I expect to spend during the above period (as above) to rent or otherwise provide a home for my family and me.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Payments on purchase of a home (including down payment, acquisition costs, mortgage payments [principal and interest])</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Garage rental (if not included above)</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Real estate taxes</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Utilities (gas, electricity, water, sewer, oil, trash pickup, phone/cable/satellite/internet)</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Insurance (rental, homeowner’s, fire, extended coverage, liability, contents, flood)</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Improvements and remodeling</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Furnishings and appliances</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Maintenance items (household cleansers, light bulbs, pest control, etc.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Yard maintenance and snow removal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Other housing expense</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Signed ____________________________ Date __________________

Adopted 2013, revised 2014
Augustana College

Telephone and Addresses of Campus Buildings Used During Synod Assembly

Augustana College Switchboard
639 38th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201
309-794-7000 (Switchboard)

Centennial Hall
3703 7th Avenue, Rock Island
309-794-7459 (Art Museum)
NOTE: The Centennial Hall number may be used to reach participants during NIS Assembly business sessions.
When assembly is not in session, please contact Augustana College campus switchboard at 309-794-7000

College Center
3750 7th Avenue, Rock Island
309-794-7715 (Control Desk)

Gerber Center
3435 9 1/2 Ave.
Information Desk (309) 794-7742
Dining Services (309) 794-7250

Swanson Commons
1010 38th Street, Rock Island
309-794-3875

Northern Illinois Synod - ELCA
3400 7th Avenue, Rock Island
309-794-4004 Campus Map
Directions to Augustana College

Arriving on Interstate 80 from the east

Continue on 80 West as it changes to Interstate 280/74 West.
Exit 5A Interstate 74 West for approximately 1/2 mile.
Exit 4A John Deere Road / Highway 5 West.
Follow signs for Blackhawk Road/Highway 5 West.
Turn right on 38th Street in Rock Island (use Rock Valley Plaza and K-Mart store on left-hand side of Blackhawk Road as landmarks).

Drive approximately 2.5 miles on 38th Street.
You will pass Swanson Commons residence hall on the left.
Continue traveling 38th Street to 7th Avenue (7th Ave is at traffic signal)
Turn left (West) on 7th Avenue.
Centennial Hall and parking lot will be on the right (North) side of 7th Avenue (Note: Immediately after turning onto 7th Ave).

Arriving on Interstate 88 from the east

Continue on 88 West as it changes to Highway 5.
Travel Highway 5 West (John Deere Road/Blackhawk Road).
Follow signs for Blackhawk Road/Highway 5 West.
Turn right on 38th Street in Rock Island.
Warning: There is a 38th Street in Moline but do not turn there! Use Rock Valley Plaza and K-Mart store on left-hand side of Highway 5 as landmarks.

Drive approximately 2.5 miles on 38th Street.
You will pass Swanson Commons residence hall on the left.
Continue traveling 38th Street to 7th Avenue (7th Ave is at traffic signal)
Turn left (West) on 7th Avenue.
Centennial Hall and parking lot will be on the right (North) side of 7th Avenue (Note: Immediately after turning onto 7th Ave).

Arriving on Interstate 74 from the east

Follow signs as 74 West changes to Interstate 280/74 West.
Exit 5A Interstate 74 West for approximately 1/2 mile.
Exit 4A John Deere Road / Highway 5 West.
Follow signs for Blackhawk Road/Highway 5 West.
Turn right on 38th Street in Rock Island (use Rock Valley Plaza and K-Mart store on left-hand side of Blackhawk Road as landmarks).

Drive approximately 2.5 miles on 38th Street.
You will pass Swanson Commons residence hall on the left.
Continue traveling 38th Street to 7th Avenue (7th Ave is at traffic signal)
Turn left (West) on 7th Avenue.
Centennial Hall and parking lot will be on the right (North) side of 7th Avenue (Note: Immediately after turning onto 7th Ave).
Arriving on Interstate 80 from the west

Exit 290 onto Interstate 280 East.
Cross the Mississippi River and Exit Highway 92 East to Rock Island.
Take the 31st Avenue Exit.
Turn right onto 31st Avenue.
Continue to 38th Street and turn left.
Drive approximately 2 miles on 38th Street.

You will pass Swanson Commons residence hall on the left.
Continue traveling 38th Street to 7th Avenue (7th Ave is at traffic signal)
Turn left (West) on 7th Avenue.
Centennial Hall and parking lot will be on the right (North) side of 7th Avenue (Note: Immediately after turning onto 7th Ave).

Arriving on U.S. 61 from the north

Follow Highway 61 South through Davenport until you reach Fourth Street (a one way to the right).
Turn right and go four blocks to Gaines Street. Turn left on Gaines Street and travel across the Centennial Bridge into Illinois.
Go straight off the bridge until you reach 5th Avenue (a one way to the left).
Turn left on 5th Avenue and proceed to campus. As you approach the

campus you will see the football field on your right.
5th Avenue will bend to the right just past the football field.
Turn right (West) on to 7th Avenue at the traffic signal.
Centennial Hall and parking lot will be on the right (North) side of 7th Avenue (Note: Immediately after turning onto 7th Ave).
# Assembly Schedule at-a-Glance

## Thursday - June 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong> - Centennial Hall (Lobby)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Orientation for Voting Members</strong></td>
<td>Bergendoff Hall (Larson Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Resolutions Committee Forum</strong></td>
<td>Bergendoff Hall (Room 113)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:55 PM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session I</strong> - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Highlights: Bishop's report, VP report, Bishop election instructions, 1st ballot for bishop</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:35 PM</td>
<td><strong>Celebration of the Ministry of Bishop Gary and Polly Wollersheim</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>Celebration Dinner</strong> - Gerber Center (Located in the Tredway Library)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Friday - June 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15 AM</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong> - Gerber Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Registration Open</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Holy Communion</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session II</strong> - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Highlights: Report of 1st ballot, Bible Study</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK / Bishop Election “Request for Withdrawal Form” and “Biographical Information Form” due</strong></td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal Bergendoff (Larson Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Lunch A</strong> - chance to visit Displays</td>
<td>Forum A - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:40 PM</td>
<td><strong>Forum B</strong> - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
<td><strong>Lunch B</strong> - chance to visit Displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10 PM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:25 PM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session III</strong> - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Highlights: 2nd ballot for bishop, Recognitions, Reports, Churchwide Representative, Report of 2nd ballot, Resolutions</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:40 PM</td>
<td><strong>Friday Afternoon Forums #1</strong></td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal Bergendoff (Larson Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:25 PM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:35 PM</td>
<td><strong>Friday Afternoon Forums #2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:20 PM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Dinner</strong> - Gerber Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:50 PM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session IV</strong> - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Highlights: General Election Ballot collected, speeches by the remaining 7 candidates, 3rd ballot for bishop</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>Sleep well - see you in the morning!</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Saturday - June 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15 AM</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong> - Gerber Center</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Prayers of Remembrance</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50 AM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session V</strong> - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Highlights: Report of 3rd ballot, Bible Study, Questions and answers with the final 3 candidates, 4th ballot, Action on budget, Churchwide Representative, Resolutions, Recognitions, Report of 4th ballot, 5th ballot</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:20 PM</td>
<td><strong>Lunch A</strong> - and chance to visit Displays</td>
<td><strong>Special Interest Forums A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Special Interest Forums B</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch B</strong> - and chance to visit Displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session VI</strong> - Centennial Hall (Auditorium)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Highlights: reception of Freedom Lutheran Church, report of 5th ballot for bishop</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td><strong>Holy Communion with Ordination</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Reception for Newly Elected Synodical Bishop</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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