



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

Synod E-news

June 8, 2026

News & Events from the Western North Dakota Synod



EVENTS CALENDAR



MINISTRIES



TRANSITIONS



Summer Hours

Through Labor Day,
Synod offices will close
at Noon on Fridays.



THAT'S A WRAP!

Nearly 300 members of the Western North Dakota Synod gathered in Watford City for the WND Synod Assembly from May 29th – 31st. The theme for the event was based on Luke 10:1-9 and focused on “Walking Together.” As people of faith who call the congregations of this synod their faith home, we are called into relationship and sent into the world two by two.

At this year's assembly, we gathered for worship, holy conversation, and faithful decision making; highlighted by the election of a new Synod Bishop, Rev. Lisa Lewton. We were invited to deepen our connections, strengthen our common life, and recommit ourselves to God's mission of healing, hope, and peace in our congregations, communities, and across western North Dakota.

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE FULL RECAP](#)

You are invited to Nazareth Lutheran in Kenmare (401 N Central Ave) for supper and a presentation by Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, The Most Rev. Dr. Musa Pantil Filibus, on June 13, 2026, at 5:30pm.

This gathering will be a relaxed evening with time to ask questions and visit. We will get to hear about the Lutheran Church in Nigeria and its mission.

Over 100 years ago, Trinity Lutheran Church of rural Kenmare (4 miles north and 1 mile east) had a hand in the formation of the Lutheran Church in Nigeria. Archbishop Musa will be traveling to Kenmare to preach at their 10am service of Holy Closure on June 14.

Please come and join us for this special guest in our Synod. Contact Pastor Pauline Crowder at 701-399-9472 with questions .



Paul Marsh - GSB Fundraising
WND Synod Stewardship Specialist
[Email questions to Paul Marsh](#)

Recruiting Volunteers

Today we find that recruiting volunteers is harder in many cases than inviting a major financial gift. So how do we go about inviting volunteer service?

Here's the GSB process:

- Create a list of every volunteer role needed at your church;
- Write a one-page job description for each role, that includes 3 to 5 tasks, a section describing the positive impact, the timeframe, contact information for a congregational leader in case of problems, and a couple of quotes from members who have served in this capacity before;
- Meet in person with the prospective volunteer, go over the job description and then ask them to serve;
- Provide a thorough half-day training and orientation.

Is this laborious? It is. But if you incorporate this process over a 3-to-4-year time period, you will see growth in dedicated volunteers and deeper engagement throughout your ministry.

Esther, the Beautiful Queen

Dakota Pro Musica is presenting a special concert on Sunday, June 14 at 3:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck. The performance is of "*Esther, the Beautiful Queen*" by the famous American hymn composer William Bradbury. Esther was a Megahit in 19th Century America selling over 250,000 copies of the score between 1856 and the Great Depression.



Sponsored by Mayo Pharmacy
SUNDAY, JUNE 14 3:00 PM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BISMARCK, ND
PRESALE TICKETS AVAILABLE

Esther, the Beautiful Queen is an oratorio/ opera telling the story of Esther from the Bible and how she helped to save the Jewish people. Tickets will be available at the door, or can be purchase online at www.dakotapromusica.org

The Western Whirlwind

Get the latest from the WND Synodical Women of the ELCA. The WND SWO requests that you take a moment to consider your gifts and how those might be used within our women's organization. Fill out the "Nomination Form for the SWO Board" form included in the latest edition of *The Western Whirlwind*.



To help satisfy a growing need, DEM Tera Kossow has arranged for pastors of the WND Synod to provide one video sermon and manuscript to share each month.

When videos and manuscripts have been produced, the links are activated for download on the [Congregations](#) page of the WND Synod website. You can find the complete list of sermon videos and manuscripts on that page.

The list of available sermons will be updated on this page as they become available. Check back often.

WATCH THIS



[The Year in Review](#)

Sometimes the best way to express things are to let the pictures do the talking. This video tells the story of the Western North Dakota Synod over the past 12 months.

SAVE THE DATE



2026 BISHOP'S CONVOCATION

When: September 20th, 21st & 22nd, 2026

Where: Metigoshe Ministries, Bottineau, ND

Accommodation Options:

On-site through Metigoshe Ministries - (701) 263-4788

Lake Metigoshe Quilt Inn - (701) 263-6500

Cobblestone Inn in Bottineau, ND (701) 534-2121

Workshop for Women in Ministry



Ministry is hard enough. It's so much harder when you've been taught: To second-guess yourself, doubt your decisions, and worry people will finally find out you're incompetent. Learn to have your own back no matter what and live more fully in your calling.

Join this free workshop series, Stop Second Guessing, Trust Your Gut: Lead Confidently as A Woman in Ministry with Dr. Crystal Hall. [Register here.](#)

LSM Choral Gathering

A Day of Singing in Community



LUTHERAN
SUMMER
MUSIC ACADEMY
& FESTIVAL

at St. Olaf College



Wednesday, July 1, 2026

St. Olaf College • Northfield, MN

Featuring Dr. David Cherwien

*Lutheran Summer Music, faculty
National Lutheran Choir, former Artistic Director*

Sing works by Abbington • Cherwien
Krentz Organ • Palestrina • Rizza

Learn More & Register

LSMacademy.org/choral-gathering

You are invited to join fellow singers for a day of inspiring, community-centered music-making at the LSM Choral Gathering. Led by Dr. David Cherwien, LSM faculty member and former Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir, this event offers a welcoming introduction to the music, people, and artistic life of Lutheran Summer Music at St. Olaf College.

Invite your choir members and join us! Register today: LSMacademy.org/choral-gathering

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



LUTHERAN FAITH COMMUNITY
NURSE ASSOCIATION

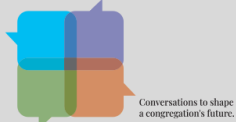
Lutheran Faith Nurses

A national search is on for Registered Nurses who are trained as Faith Community/Parish Nurses and who are interested in joining the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association. If you are or know a Faith Community/Parish Nurse, please consider joining this vital network. A search is also on for ELCA churches that are interested in beginning a Health Ministry Program.

[Learn more and join this association.](#)

Conversations Shaping the Future

Here you will find practical tools to help leaders develop skills, confidence, and capacity for the future.



DIALOG WORKS

[Browse upcoming live courses.](#)

Connect. Refresh. Renew.

Spirit in the Desert hosts programs and retreats for participants of all faiths to experience reconciliation, renewal and healing.

[Browse upcoming events.](#)



SPIRIT IN THE DESERT

Suicide Prevention Skills for Rural Ministries

Together with a cohort of other faith leaders, you will learn approaches and skills that equip you for prevention, intervention, and postvention (bereavement) tasks so you can effectively care for people struggling with thoughts of suicide or those impacted by suicide.

[Learn More and Register for this course](#)



Welcoming the Stranger

Guided by our call to welcome the stranger, Global Refuge (*formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service*) has developed resources especially for you and your congregation.

- [Welcome the Stranger Worship Order](#): Everything you need to lead worship highlighting scripture, prayers, liturgy and hymns about seeking and providing refuge.
- [Journey to Welcome Educational Simulation Exercise](#): An educational and service-based activity which is a great fit for students, church youth groups and even adults.
- [Disinformation Toolkit](#): a toolkit for countering disinformation through common myths and facts as well as talking points and stories to share with community.
- [Fresh Change Service Project Opportunity](#): Pack bags to welcome our neighbors at the border and throughout the country with care and dignity.
- [Bulletin Inserts](#): Download bulletin inserts about our new name and what we do to share in your community.



Our [most recent Mission Support memo](#) immerses us in the story of Concordia Lutheran Church in Worcester, Mass. Founded to serve the needs of non-English-speaking immigrant families, the church has come full circle today, once again serving a diverse neighborhood of immigrants and refugees. This congregation is deeply committed to remaining an inner-city ministry that accompanies the community as it changes. Read the memo to learn about their journey and discover their incredible ministry for kids and teens. You will also find registration information for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference, taking place September 21–23 in Baltimore, MD. Download the memo as

In these times, staying connected through our stories seems vitally important, so please share your stories by contacting us at missionsupport@elca.org.

As always, you can [get the memo in pdf.](#)

In Search Of...



Will you host a baby shower? A diaper drive?

Heart River Bridges of Hope is inviting you to help us meet a need at the Heart River Correctional Center, a women's prison located on the same campus as the Youth Correctional Center. There are currently about 70 women incarcerated at that facility, and a much larger women's prison is under construction on the same campus.

Unfortunately, some of the inmates are pregnant and babies will be cared for by family members or friends during the mother's incarceration. HRCC staff have reached out and asked for help with baby items. Here's the message we received:

We are in need of some baby items as we continue to have pregnant women transferred to our care. We love to be able to send them off with some starter items to help ease the burden of families and to make their pregnancy time feel special. I don't know if the church can assist with any of these, but here are some of our current needs if you are able to help us out:

1. Newborn diapers (smaller packs are best)
2. Baby wipes
3. Baby hygiene items (lotion, baby wash, diaper cream, towels etc.)
4. Bibs/Burp cloths
5. Baby socks and onesies
6. Baby hats/glove sets
7. Footed snowsuits
8. Newborn or 0-3 month clothing (especially neutral or for girls).

We still have plenty of receiving blankets and washcloths. We are totally okay with gently used items.

Please contact Pastor Gail Hagerty with questions info requests – pastor.gail@heartriverlutheran.org.


Thank you for the ongoing gifts of quilts and fresh start kit supplies. Our ministry to youth and women who are incarcerated is truly a ministry of the synod and a ministry that touches lives.




Employment Opportunities

If you or someone you know is being called to work as a congregational leader, [CLICK HERE](#) to check our website for job openings at some of our WND Synod Congregations.

Visit the WND Synod Website

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