



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

## Synod E-news

News & Events from the Western North Dakota Synod

September 1, 2025



EVENTS CALENDAR



MINISTRIES



TRANSITIONS

THAT EACH OF THEM MAY EAT AND DRINK, AND  
FIND SATISFACTION IN ALL THEIR TOIL—  
THIS IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

— ECCLESIASTES 3:13



# Bishop's Convocation

## at Metigoshe Ministries

September 14-16, 2025

[Register Now](#)



The Rev. Dr. Nate Frambach from Wartburg Seminary joins us September 14-16 at Metigoshe Ministries in Bottineau, ND for the **2025 Bishop's Convocation** (*formerly the Rostered Leaders Gathering*). All leaders need to be reminded of the beauty of their call to ministry. The Rev. Dr. Nate Frambach will lead us with generous space for connecting with ourselves, and with one another, to help us fully appreciate and remember that you are a human and a beloved child of God. The Bishop's Convocation will be space to not worry about what's expected of you to "do" or to "learn."  
Together this retreat will be created for your nourishment.

#### 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



Nathan and Diane Frambach live in Dubuque, Iowa...the "masterpiece on the Mississippi"... and the home of Wartburg Theological Seminary. Nate is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology; recently retired after serving twenty-five years as a teaching theologian at Wartburg. He currently serves as part-time pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Dubuque. Diane is also recently retired, having worked in public education her entire professional career as a school counselor. She now enjoys serving as a certified spiritual director. They have two young adult children, Garrett and Andres, who live in Madison, WI, and Lakeland, MN, respectively.

# FUN FACT

**For the first time ever,  
the Bishop's Convocation will  
be at Metigoshe Ministries.**

Rostered Leaders: Have  
you registered yet?

[Register Now for the Bishop's Convocation](#)

## Post-Convocation Workshop

Following the Bishop's Convocation, all WND Synod SAMs (*and other leaders interested*) are invited to join Jon Halvorson and Cole Bentley for a workshop to refresh knowledge of Luther's catechism. The workshop will be held at Metigoshe Ministries and will last from 2 to 5PM on Tuesday, September 16th. **All sessions will be offered at no cost.**

[CLICK HERE to download the informational flyer.](#)



If you know a student attending Minot State University this fall, please let them know that if they can find Pastor Rachel in the LCM office on the 2nd floor of the Wellness Center (near the skyway entrance), she will give them a **free drink** coupon that can be used at the Starbucks in the Beaver Dam.

You can also send Rachel their email address and she will reach out to them once they arrive on campus. [Contact Rachel.Simonson@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:Contact.Rachel.Simonson@MinotStateU.edu)



WND SYNOD PRESENTS

# SUNDAY SERMONS

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.

The next monthly sermon is for **September 21st**. When it's uploaded, you will find it on the [Congregations](#) page of the WND Synod website. You can find the complete list of sermon videos and manuscripts on that page. When the next video and manuscript have been produced, the links will be activated and can be downloaded for use.

For those who like to plan ahead, the October sermon will be done to go with the liturgy for Hunger Sunday on October 12th.

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



## Hunger Sunday, October 12th

The first official Hunger Sunday will be celebrated in WND Synod on October 12th, 2025. [Here you will find a worship liturgy to use.](#) It is our hope that these worship resources could be used by congregations so that in unity with other ELCA congregations we can pray and seek an answer to the crippling hunger needs of our time. You are welcome to use all or some of the liturgy, sermon, children's sermon, hymn suggestions etc. to enhance your worship experience. They are offered in love from fellow pastors and congregation leaders to aid our worship together.

## MORE QUILTS NEEDED!

Heart River Lutheran Church/Bridges of Hope is in need of more quilts. If you have quilts to share, please contact Linda Beechie at (701) 663-6520 or email Linda at [blbeech@bis.midco.net](mailto:blbeech@bis.midco.net).



## FALL CLUSTER GATHERINGS



The **Western Prairie Cluster** Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, September 13, 2025 at Zion Lutheran Church, Berthold, ND. Registration the day of the event will be at 9:30am CT with Cluster activities starting at 10am CT.

The **Badlands Cluster** Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, September 20, 2025 at Belfield Lutheran Church, Belfield, ND. Registration the day of the event will be at 9:30am MT with Cluster activities starting at 10am MT.

The **Upper Missouri Cluster** will be held Saturday, October 4, 2025 at Grace Lutheran Church, Wildrose, ND. Registration the day of the event will be at 9:30am CT with Cluster activities starting at 10am CT.

The **East Missouri Cluster** will be held Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Peace Lutheran Church, Lincoln, ND. Registration the day of the event will be at 9:30am CT with Cluster activities starting at 10am CT.

The **Heart River Cluster** will be held Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Zion Lutheran Church, Beulah, ND. Registration the day of the event will be at 9:30am CT with Cluster activities starting at 10am CT.

The **Lonetree Cluster** will be held Saturday, October 11, 2025.

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## The Western Whirlwind

In the latest edition of the Western Whirlwind, you'll find information on the upcoming Cluster Gatherings as well as the 2026 WELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa, July 16 - 19, 2026. The theme for this event is "I Am Worthy".

[Read the September, 2025 Western Whirlwind](#)



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## 2026 WELCA Gathering Announced!

**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**July 16-19, 2026**

The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

This statement serves as a reminder of God's promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division. By repeating the phrase "I am worthy," we can recognize the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society, and the world. When we declare, "I am worthy," we align ourselves with God's promises. There is great power in our resolve.



july 16-19, 2026 ✨ des moines, iowa

[Register to Attend This Event](#)

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## SAVE THE DATE

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025



## GIFTS Event

Karoline Lewis, author of "A Lay Preacher's Guide: Crafting A Faithful Sermon" will be speaking at the GIFTS Lay Preaching Academy

October 11, 2025  
Springbrook Bible Camp  
Epping, North Dakota

One-on-one coaching will also be available with a local pastor.  
Registration information is still pending.



## WATCH THIS



### Meet the Bishop-elect of the ELCA, Rev. Yehiel Curry

On July 30, the Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected presiding bishop of the ELCA.  
Learn more about Bishop Curry and his journey of faith.



## Youth & Children Ministry Conference

Are you a leader in youth or children's ministry? Join us for the upcoming YCM Conference at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Bismarck on September 27th!

This special event is all about connection, inspiration, and equipping. You'll have the opportunity to meet with others who share your passion for ministry, exchange ideas, and discover new resources to help you grow in your role and strengthen your impact.

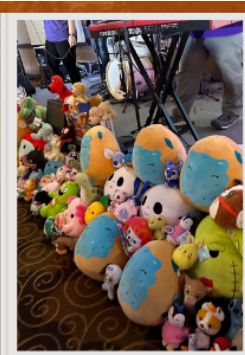
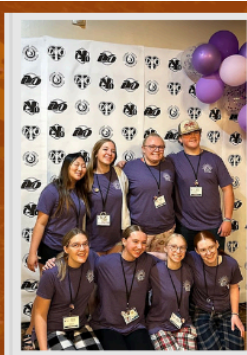
[Download this PDF](#) to learn more.

[Register here!](#)



### Save the Date!

September 27, 2025 - 10 am to 4 pm  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
1143 N 26<sup>th</sup> St, Bismarck, ND 58501



**LYO 2025: Wanted**  
**Astoria Hotel, Dickinson, ND**  
**High School: October 16-17, 2025**  
**Middle School: October 17-18, 2025**

Gather your group and get to the event of the year! **LYO 2025: Wanted** will be held October 16 & 17 (high school) and October 17 & 18 (middle school) in Dickinson, ND. [CLICK HERE to find the details and to register online.](#)

[The Adult Leader Guide is downloadable here.](#)

Also, we are taking youth nominations for the LYO Board. Fill them out, along with an Adult Recommendation form, and get them to [WND Synod LYO Coordinator, Lora Isakson](#).



You are invited to Zoom into an upcoming Synod Webinar for Portico plan members and employers.

### FOR SPONSORED PLAN MEMBERS:

**Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11am (CST)**

If you are sponsored in the Portico Benefits plan, this webinar is for you. Join Rev. Tim Schroeder, your Regional Representative, who will review the Portico bundle of benefits, the upcoming changes to the Portico ELCA-Primary health plan for 2026 and provide timely updates regarding annual enrollment.

Follow this link to join the Zoom meeting

<https://sdsynod.zoom.us/j/89430161253?pwd=Ga3s5ZQgDGFsBIScKM5wDrDi58umKq.1>

### FOR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

**Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm (CST)**

If you make decisions regarding benefit selections in your organization, this webinar is for you. Join Rev. Tim Schroeder, your Regional Representative, who will review the upcoming changes to the Portico ELCA-Primary plan for 2026 and share other information that will be helpful as you prepare for annual enrollment.

Follow this link to join the Zoom meeting

<https://sdsynod.zoom.us/j/89264056856?pwd=3jqr8alqPBCr7gzRVsFMNKf52D9V9Q.1>

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## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



### 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.

[Browse upcoming live courses.](#)



**SPIRIT** IN THE DESERT

### 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.](#)



### 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.



The most recent [Mission Support Memo](#) provides a picture into the 2025 Churchwide Assembly where almost a thousand ELCA Lutherans made their way to toasty Phoenix, Ariz., to gather July 28 to Aug. 2. Hear about what a joyous, thoughtful and busy week it was for the voting members who considered resolutions, memorials and social statements and also elected a new presiding bishop and secretary to lead our church for the next six years. Assembly also included a NEW [ELCA Mission Support video](#) available for all to learn what mission support does and to share with others. Each memo ends with words of gratitude and this month we express how extremely grateful we are for all the people who made Churchwide Assembly run successfully.

You can even get the [memo in pdf](#) too!

If you want to access the memo in other ways, attached is both a .pdf and in Word .doc. We cherish hearing about the inspiring stories in your synods, regions and congregations - feel free to reach out to Karen at [karen.kretschmann@elca.org](mailto:karen.kretschmann@elca.org).

**GROUP & INDIVIDUAL  
CRISIS INTERVENTION**

**(BASIC GROUP CRITICAL INCIDENT  
STRESS MANAGEMENT)**

**SEPT 23-25, 2025  
TUE-THURS  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Minot City Auditorium  
420 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW  
Minot, ND 58701**

Sponsored by the North Dakota Dept. of Human Services, the Group and Individual Crisis Intervention course is an invaluable educational resource for all who deal with critical incident stress management.

The course will be instructed by Carol Staben-Burroughs who is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in private practice in Bozeman, MT. She is a past president of the American Mental Health Counselors Association and the Montana Clinical Mental Health Counselors Association. Carol is a retired instructor at Montana State University in the Dept of Education, Health and Human Development.

She is a trainer for the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation and has been an active volunteer in the Montana Critical Incident Stress Management Network. Carol lectures on a wide variety of subjects relating to first responders and has a humorous, high-energy, interactive training style.

[Click to download a flyer containing course details and registration information.](#)

# LATINE MINISTRY COMPETENCY WORKSHOP



## RESISTING - RESTORING - RENEWING

RENEWING THE CHURCH THROUGH THE  
FAITH AND WITNESS OF THE LATINE  
COMMUNITY

There are 1,000+ ELCA congregations with significant Latinx population in their zip code. Is your church one of these?

How are you equipping yourselves for cross-cultural ministry among the fast-growing Latine community?



**THE REV. DR. RUBEN DURAN**, leads three sessions on Latine Ministry Competency along with a team of experienced practitioners. Through Coaching, Consulting, and Cross-Cultural Immersions, Pr. Duran equips leaders for Evangelism and Justice ministries in church and world.



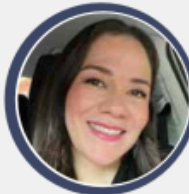
Rev. Patricia Avila



Rev. Alvaro Nova



Rev. Peter Olson



Ms. Elizabeth Sanchez



Rev. Violeta Siguenza

The Latine community is moving forward with deep faith and courageous spirit, despite the negative narrative, divisive rhetoric, and a culture of fear at work in the public arena. You are invited to be in dialogue with a group of learners and practitioners seeking to share insights and strategies to start or enhance ministry among the diverse Latine community in your context. Learn ways to become an ally and accompany your Latine neighbors at this crucial time. Open your church to be renewed by the faith and witness of the Latine community.

This initiative is part of an ELCA churchwide effort to "activate ourselves so that more people may know the way of Jesus and experience community, justice and love."

**Cost: Individual \$250 or Congregation \$600**

**Register: Online at [wartburgseminary.edu/CTLM](http://wartburgseminary.edu/CTLM)**

### Three Sessions:

**October 2, 2025**  
**5 p.m. – 8 p.m. (CST)**

**October 3, 2025**  
**5 p.m. – 8 p.m. (CST)**

**October 4, 2025**  
**9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (CST)**



**FREE  
EVENT**

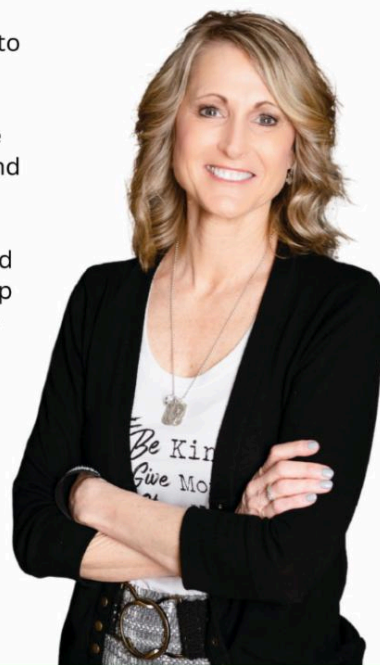
# DEB HADLEY

**FREE  
EVENT**

## INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

We all have dreams and plans for what we want our life to look like, and in a moment, everything can change through a loss, illness, or unexpected tragedy.

Deb Hadley shares her personal story of surviving the devastating loss of her two children, Kaylie and Tyler, and through her suffering gives hope to others as she has learned to live life with joy and purpose despite the hardships she has endured. With her practical tools and resilient faith, she brings healing, and inspiration to help others live their best life. Deb's message will have you laughing, crying, and hanging on to her every word!



### Belfield Lutheran Church

506 2nd Ave NE • Belfield, ND

**Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Coffee • 9:30am**

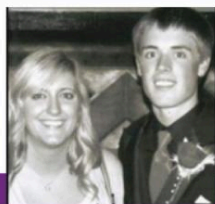
**Deb Hadley • 10am-Noon**

**For more info contact**

**Rita Freitag 701.440.1228 or**

**Deb Patterson 701.523.6482**

Deb is living out her life mission serving God using her gifts as an inspirational speaker, author, podcaster, blogger, grief coach, and founder of KT Humble Hearts. Deb is a wife, mom, bonus mom, grandma, and lives in Alexandria, MN.



KAYLIE & TYLER

**Men, Women  
& Young Adults**  
**\* sorry no daycare \***



debhadley.com



kthumblehearts.org



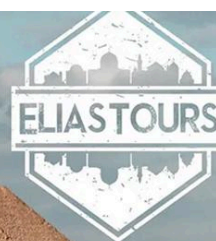
kthumblehearts@gmail.com



KT Humble Hearts - Deb Hadley

sponsored by The Badlands Cluster, the women of SWND ELCA churches (WELCA groups)

## BEST OF EGYPT with WND Synod



Join Bishop Craig A. Schweitzer and the Western North Dakota Synod on an unforgettable journey to Egypt—a land where ancient wonders and vibrant culture come to life.



Stand in awe before the Pyramids of Giza, sail along the majestic Nile River, and wander through temples that have stood for thousands of years. Feel the pulse of Cairo's bustling bazaars, marvel at sweeping desert landscapes, and, if you wish, unwind along the pristine shores of the Red Sea. Discover Egypt's deep Christian heritage as you visit historic Coptic churches, including the Hanging Church and the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus—believed to have sheltered the Holy Family during their time in Egypt—as well as the sacred St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai. From exploring its pharaonic treasures to savoring the bold flavors of Egyptian cuisine, every moment in this captivating country will leave you with memories to treasure for a lifetime.

#### DETAILS:

- Trip departs on January 22, 2027, and returns on January 31, 2027

#### PRICING:

- \$3,790.00 per person based on double occupancy (*Land Only*)
- Single room supplement - \$790.00

#### PAYMENT PLAN:

- \$300.00 deposit per person with registration to secure space
- Balance due on or before September 26, 2026

#### REGISTRATION:

- Registering online? [CLICK HERE](#) and fill out the online form; you can pay by check or with a credit card (*a nonrefundable 4% platform fee applies*)
- Registering by mail? Please download and complete the registration form (both the personal information page and the terms and conditions page signed at the bottom) with a copy of your passport and a deposit of \$300.00 per person made payable to Elias Tours and mailed to 4941 Chalden Ln NE, Marietta, GA 30066



#### NEW POSITIONS JUST POSTED!

#### 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 our Website](#)



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