

Synod Assembly 2022

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

On April 30, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin held its annual Assembly. The theme for this year's Assembly was "Taking it to the Streets: Becoming a Public Church." The Scriptural basis for this theme comes from Proverbs 1:20 and was repeated throughout the day:

"Wisdom cries out in the streets; in the public places, wisdom raises her voice."

This is just a summary of the assembly. The entire content of the assembly including the resolutions, the bishop's remarks and reports, and the Bright Spot awards can be found on the Northwest Synod's web page: [2022-synod-assembly](#).

Resolutions

Five resolutions were included in the business portion of assembly. They were all approved:

1. Financial Mission Plan (Budget).
 - Operating budget for the year
2. Minimum Standards for Compensation and Benefits.
 - Wages and benefits for staff
3. Constitution By-Law Change.
 - Change of conference for Our Savior's Lutheran church in Stanley
4. Care of Creation Green Teams.
 - Congregations are asked to form Green Teams to promote awareness while challenging the congregation to implement effective practices that protect and promote the health of creation with support from the NW synod.
5. Intentional Conversations About Loving Our Neighbors.
 - Congregations are encouraged to engage in ongoing intentional conversation about race and love of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) neighbors

Again, you can read all resolutions in full at the link provided above.

Reports

ELCA

We heard a report from ELCA representative Rev. Sara Cutter talking about the generosity of the NW synod and how this contributes to the ministries of the ELCA. She highlighted several churchwide ministries and events, including:

- Churchwide assembly, “Embody the Word,” August 8-12, 2022 in Columbus OH
- Rostered Ministers Gathering, “Rekindling the Gift Within You,” July 17-20, 2023 in Phoenix, AZ, and
- Youth Gathering, July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, LA

Neighbor to Neighbor

Lidixe Montoya (Mission Developer and deacon candidate) updated us on the work of Neighbor to Neighbor ministry.

Today, Tomorrow, Together: Endowment Fund Appeal

Greg Kaufmann and Gary Hedding invited the assembly and the entire synod into a 2-year appeal for the synod’s endowment fund. Established in 2001, this fund’s purpose is to encourage whole stewardship, strengthen and enhance the synod’s ministry by

- Equipping and supporting leaders – seminary debt assistance, training lay leaders
- Strengthening congregational vitality
- Developing ministry for the next generation

Resolutions Updates

In addition to the new resolutions the bishop updated us on the resolutions that were passed in 2021.

Bright Spot Awards

Bright Spot Awards that were given this year included 7 congregations/ministries/organizations that have been intentional about being a public church, learning about and learning from their neighbors, and taking the gospel of Jesus to the public places in their communities.

You can click one of the links below to hear about each of these awards. The last award listed is for the Lay School of Ministry which some of you have participated in. This year's recipients are:

- [Good Shepherd in Ashland, WI](#)
- [Christ Lutheran in Menomonie, WI](#)
- [English/Bateman, St. James Trinity/Fall Creek, and Chippewa Valley Street Ministry](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Black River Falls, WI](#)
- [Our Saviour's Lutheran in Whitehall, WI](#)
- [Lay School of Ministry](#)