Dear Friends in Christ,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the 2020 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly and to warn you, this it is going to be different. Really different.

The materials included in the pre-assembly packet are intended to prepare you for your participation in this year’s two-part online assembly. Read them carefully and then read them again.

Additional information will become available as the time for meeting approaches. Registered voting members will receive those updates directly. The first session of this assembly (4:00 pm August 5) will be recorded and available for viewing soon after recess. The entire session on Friday, August 7, including the election of a bishop, will be livestreamed to watch in real-time for friends and visitors who are not voting members.

As we prepare for reports, worship, and elections of Synod Council members, a new Synod Vice President, and our new Bishop, all of what we do is toward the goal of strengthening our public witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. Given the challenges caused by the pandemic and by the social unrest that has awakened many to the systemic racism that plagues this country and this church, our witness has never been more needed.

I hope that the people of this synod who are unable to join us will hold our gathering and the elective process in prayer. For those who will be present online for the gathering, rest assured that we are making every effort to ensure that this new way of gathering goes smoothly. While that will mean inconvenience and, in some instances, cause people to be impatient or frustrated, this new format allows us to gather and complete the business of this assembly.

To be sure, God is moving in this church and in the world and we are being called to move into an uncertain future With a New Song.

Peace to you all,

Michael Burk

Bishop Michael L. Burk
What is a Synod Assembly?
The synod assembly is an annual gathering of pastors, deacons, and lay people from the congregations that make up the Southeastern Iowa Synod. The assembly serves as the synod’s highest legislative authority.

The assembly:
- receives information and reports
- elects nominees to leadership positions in the church
- reaches decisions on matters brought before the assembly
- sets priorities for the synod’s ministry
- equips and educates those who attend to interpret the mission of the synod and the ELCA in local ministry settings

What is expected of me as a voting member?
You will find that your experience as a voting member of a synod assembly can be a spiritually enriching experience. You will also find that the degree to which this is true will depend on your attitude, your own sense of discipleship and commitment, and the manner in which you conduct yourself before, during, and after the assembly.

Things you can do include:
  Pray: Ask to be open constantly to the Lord’s presence and guidance and seek the prayers of the congregation
  Prepare: Study and be familiar with assembly materials
  Attend: Share fully in the assembly’s work in worship, business meetings, forums, and informal settings.
  Act: An effective voting member serves the assembly by functioning as a representative of the synod.
  Listen: Speakers during presentations and debate will provide insight and information. Also listen for special announcements and directions that will be made during the course of the assembly.

The concept of Voting Member
The use of the term Voting Member (and avoidance of the term delegate) in the governing documents of the ELCA is intentional. The idea is that a synod assembly or churchwide assembly is different from a convention of constituent units. Voting members of Synod Assemblies meet, pray for wisdom and the presence of the Holy Spirit, deliberate together, and vote on issues and in elections.
STANDING RULES for SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2020

1. Voting members in the 2020 Online Synod Assembly are responsible for using a laptop or desktop, a personal email address unique to them, and internet service to access the electronic platform being used to conduct the proceedings, which includes all voting.

2. Registered representatives of institutions and agencies supported by this synod, members of synod commissions, and members of synod assembly committees who are not voting members may, at the discretion of the chair, be granted voice to serve as a resource to the assembly. (See S7.23)

3. The Reference and Counsel Committee shall report all resolutions as required by S7.51.04. Resolutions not brought to the floor of the assembly will be referred to the synod council. The deadline for resolutions at the assembly is Friday, August 7th at 9:30 am.

4. Each voting member participating in the assembly wishing to speak shall use the “Raise Hand” function on Zoom to indicate their desire to be recognized. Failing that, they should use the chat function in an effort to be recognized by assembly monitors.

5. Each speaker shall self-identify by name, congregation or other affiliation and clearly state their purpose after recognition by the chair.

6. No speaker shall speak more than twice on the same question at the same plenary session, nor longer than one minute per speech. A second time to speak on one subject shall be granted only after all other voting members desiring to speak on the subject have had the opportunity to do so.

7. Any amendment to the proposed budget for 2021 that would increase a budget area must include a proposal for decreasing another area by the same amount so that the budget total remains unchanged; and, in accordance with S10.04, shall require a 2/3 vote for adoption.

8. At the discretion of the chair and in light of the digital platform of this assembly, the chair shall have the authority to make adjustments to the approved agenda and program, including with regard to the timing of the various aspects of the election for bishop.

9. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, in person attendance at the production site will be limited to those necessary for the running of the assembly as determined by the Office of the Bishop in consultation with the Executive Committee of Council. All attendees shall maintain physical distancing and shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth except when eating/drinking or, if necessary, when addressing the assembly.

10. In the event the Bishop is unable to preside over any portion of the Synod Assembly, the Vice President or the Bishop’s designee shall assume the chair.

11. The Bishop may remain in the chair during the oral presentation of his report to the Synod Assembly.

12. Any Assembly business not completed by the Voting Members at the time of adjournment shall automatically be referred to Synod Council for disposition.
13. The first (nominating) ballot for the election of a bishop may be cast upon the adoption of
the agenda and the standing rules.

14. An opportunity shall be provided on the Synod Assembly agenda to engage nominees for
the Bishop Election in a process as approved by the Bishop Election Committee and the
Synod Council and is consistent with this synod’s governing documents.

15. The representative of the Presiding Bishop shall facilitate business related to the election of
the synod bishop.
Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly Schedule
With a New Song | August 5 & 7, 2020

Wednesday, August 5
3:00 pm Check-In Process Begins
4:00 pm Plenary Session 1
   First Ballot for the Election of a Bishop
6:00 pm Recess until Friday, August 7th at 9:30 am

Thursday, August 6
The assembly is not in session*
8:00 am Results of this First Ballot for the Election of a Bishop posted at www.seiasynod.org and the voter portal.
11:00 am Deadline for nominees on the First Ballot for the Election of a Bishop who choose to remove their name from the election process.
12:00 pm Names of nominees who will be on the Second Ballot for the Election of a Bishop will be posted at www.seiasynod.org and the voter portal.
3:00 pm Deadline for nominees for the Election of a Bishop to submit a biographical form if not already completed.

Friday, August 7
8:15 am Check-In Process Begins
9:30 am Plenary Session 2
   Second Ballot for the Election of a Bishop
10:35 am Worship
11:00 am Plenary Session 3
   Seven nominees for the Election of a Bishop address the Assembly Third Ballot for the Election of a Bishop
12:35 pm Recess for Lunch
1:15 pm Plenary Session 4
   Three nominees for the Election of a Bishop respond to questions Fourth Ballot for the Election of a Bishop
   Two nominees for the Election of a Bishop respond to questions Fifth Ballot for the Election of a Bishop
4:10 pm Closing of Assembly
Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer was elected Aug. 9, 2019, to a six-year term as secretary of the ELCA by the Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee.

Secretary Rothmeyer began her ministry as a lay campus minister with Lutheran Campus Ministry at Iowa State University in 1984. With her passion for campus ministry, Secretary Rothmeyer continued her work at the churchwide organization in 1995. Before transitioning to the Office of the Secretary in her role as assistant to the secretary and executive for Office of the Secretary administration in 2012, Secretary Rothmeyer served in various positions in youth, young adult and campus ministry. She is the first deacon and first woman to serve as secretary of the ELCA.
June 22, 2020

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
—Romans 1:16

Dear friends in Christ,

As we enter a new decade, I invite this church to consider what it might mean to thrive. Think about your congregation, your synod, the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). What does thriving look like? What has God provided for us to spread the gospel and deepen faith for all people? How do we renew and strengthen evangelism?

This year is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s treatise *The Freedom of a Christian*. I’m inviting members of our church to study and reflect on it. One way to think about what it means to be a thriving church is by reflecting on God’s liberation of the world in Jesus Christ.

While you are together at your synod assemblies, take time to hear and share stories of who you have seen Jesus to be. I pray that this time might be an opportunity for us to listen to one another and develop a deeper understanding of who we are as a Lutheran church and of our Lutheran witness of the Christian faith as it relates to God’s narrative of freedom in Christ.

In 2020, the ELCA observes the 50th anniversary of women’s ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament. We also celebrate 40 years of women of color being ordained and the 10th anniversary of the church’s decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender marriages.

This church has been blessed and has thrived by the gifts of ministry of those called to serve as pastors and deacons. Through all that we do, this church is committed to equipping new leaders for evangelism and empowering congregations and communities of worship for deepening faith, hope and openness to change. Together, we will create a vision for the ELCA that we are becoming, a thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people.

Thank you for your faithful partnership and witness to the gospel. May God bless your time together as you gather and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

With hope,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Roster Changes April 1, 2019 through July 6, 2020

Ordinations and Consecrations
Pastor Murph Hutson, Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines
Pastor Hayden Kvamme, St. Paul, Davenport
Pastor Travis Segar, Good Shepherd, Des Moines
Pastor Paris White, Seeds of Faith, Lisbon

New to Synod
Pastor Bill Flemr, retired, Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod
Pastor Susan Flemr, retired, Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod
Pastor Roberta Pierce, retired
Pastor Peter Pettit, St. Paul, Davenport
Pastor Dirk Statlander, Freeland
Pastor Fran Victor, retired
Pastor Stephanie Wood, Grace, Davenport

Change in Call
Pastor Patricia Decker, Gloria Dei, Cedar Rapids
Pastor Kristine Dohrman, Zion, Princeton
Pastor Amy Diller Guida, St. James, Bettendorf
Deacon Heidi Larson, Capitol Hill, Des Moines
Pastor Joel Nau, Redeemer, Bettendorf
Pastor Nate Montover, Hope, Cedar Rapids
Pastor Fran Victor, retired
Pastor Lisa Parker, Redeemer, Indianola

Synod Council Calls / Churchwide Call
Pastor Emily Ewing, Trinity Las Americas United Methodist, Des Moines
Pastor John Grebner, Interim Durant/New Era Parish
Pastor Duane Miller, Interim, Memorial, Nevada
Pastor Brian Mortenson, interim, St. Paul, Winterset
Pastor Jan Rippentrop Schnell, Professor of Liturgics, Wartburg Seminary
Pastor Heidi Williams, interim, Resurrection, Ankeny

Serving under Contract (new since previous assembly)
Pastor Dave Aanonson, interim, Trinity, Walford
Pastor Rhea Evanson, Interim, Ascension, Marion
Pastor Kathryn Franzenburg, St. Andrew, Cedar Rapids
Pastor Myron Herzberg, interim, St. Paul, State Center
Pastor Richard Hutton, interim, First, Charter and Christ, Corydon
Pastor Randy Kasch, Interim, Bethlehem, Vinton
Pastor Bonnie Parker, interim, Luther Memorial / Grandview, Des Moines
Pastor Roberta Pierce, interim, Calamus Parish
Pastor Bill Runaas, interim, St. John, Grinnell
Pastor Dennis Wright, interim, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion

On Leave From Call
Pastor Travis Borkosky
Pastor Stacy Grau Christianson
Pastor Bonnie Parker
Pastor Del Preston
Pastor Kathy Roys

Retirement with continuation on the roster
Pastor Jerry Collell
Pastor Paul Finger
Pastor Myron Herzberg
Pastor Ron Huber
Pastor Dennis Johnson
Pastor Linda Livingston
Pastor Nancy Reed
Pastor Bill Runaas
Pastor Jerleen Schlesser
Pastor Joan Swander
Pastor Mark Urlaub
**Transfer to another Synod**
Pastor Kelsey Fitting-Snyder, Northern Texas/Norther Louisiana Synod
Pastor Zach Johnson, Southwest California Synod
Deacon Angie Larson, Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Pastor Josh Kestner, South Carolina Synod
Pastor Miranda Klosterboer, La Crosse Area Synod
Pastor Joan Swander, Central States Synod
Pastor Robert Wessels, Nebraska Synod

**No Longer on the Roster of the ELCA**
Zach Bey
Elizabeth Bachman-Caulfield
Carol Guard

**Deaths**
Pastor Gene Anderson, March 16, 2020
Deacon Linda Bets, February 29, 2020
Pastor Robert Foster, June 20, 2019
Pastor Don Harding, September 30, 2019
Pastor David Vigen, May 9, 2019
Pastor Paul Werger, May 11, 2020
Deacon Cyndee Young, May 1, 2019
Pastor Otto Zwanziger, July 2, 2019