



Minneapolis Area Synod

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

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In Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible ... in Christ all things hold together, for in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross" (Col 1:16-17; 19-20)

Welcome to the 2019 Minneapolis Synod Assembly!

We gather this spring under the ambitious theme "In This Together: What the World Needs Takes all of Us." Yes, the needs are great – from the melting of the icecaps to disparities in our schools to our deep yearning for grace and beloved community.

At our assembly, we will hear and experience vivid testimony about partnerships boldly engaging the needs of our world:

- Bishop Bruce Ough will describe a United Methodist-Lutheran Church congregational partnership and the new life it has brought.
- Presiding Elder Stacy Smith will paint a vision where young adults find welcome and meaning in a community of faith.
- Larry Rasmussen will talk about the church's distinctive role to lead in a time of climate system change.
- Mikka McCracken will share her faith story as a global citizen – born in Korea and raised in Minnesota.

We'll also hear about such initiatives in our own synod as:

- The Gathering for young adults
- Community organizers working to address payday lending
- Alter Guild podcast using social media for evangelism
- Loving God and neighborhood in Columbia Heights

We know that the Synod Assembly competes with other activities this weekend. And yet, I hope you also know that your presence is deeply appreciated! If what the world needs takes all of us, a good starting place is to build up the "all of us" that makes up the Minneapolis Area Synod. There is so much strength in our synod. Sharing ideas, building on gifts, offering support, holding each other accountable – all these commitments make us stronger, and better equipped to address the world's needs. And, working together as a synod also opens the doors to ecumenical and interfaith partnerships – so critical as we seek to participate in God's healing work in the world.

We'll worship, sing, play, learn from one another, and do the business of being synod.

And, as we lean into our theme, we recall the promise of God – who holds all the needs of the world in the reconciling love of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1).

In Christ,

Bishop Svennungsen