

Western Iowa Synod  
Synod Council Report  
March 19, 2022

2021: What a year - a year of change.

227 members celebrated the Synod Assembly virtually. With the theme "Currents of Grace," this was the first ever assembly held where we could not all be together in one space. However, we were still together doing the work God has called us to do. We look forward to Assembly 2022, "Some Assembly Required," to be held at the Sioux City Convention Center on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As the financial administrator for the Western Iowa Synod, I would like to share some of the joys that have happened this past year as we were able to continue building the faith community of Western Iowa and beyond.

In May we began traveling out to congregations and attending meetings in person. I visited and brought greetings to 10 congregations, and also attended 3 of the 5 ordinations that were held in 2021.

The synod office building was sold in May, and we were busy as we cleaned files and offices to prepare for the move to St. Mark's building here in Storm Lake. The big move was held the last week of July. We are now enjoying our new space and are settled. Thank you to all of those that helped with our move.

I was out with congregations to celebrate Anniversaries of Ordination and of Congregations. I was warmly welcomed and I was able to share in fellowship with the members of these congregations: St. John's Lutheran Craig, Mamrelund Lutheran Stanton, Faith Lutheran Odebolt.

The "Fund for the Future" Endowment was started in January of 2020 and as of today the balance of the endowment is \$34,500.00. On July 30<sup>th</sup> we are planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual BBQ to raise funds for this endowment. This event will be held at the 4 County Fairgrounds in Dunlap, Iowa. Last year over \$7,000.00 was raised at the first BBQ. Please mark your calendar for this event, and bring your whole family, members of your congregations, and friends. Last year was so much fun, you won't want to miss this year's event.

The National Youth Gathering has been canceled; however, Western Iowa Synod Youth are all welcome to Register for the Western Iowa Synod Youth Gathering. This event will take place at Lutheran Lakeside Bible Camp in Spirit Lake, Iowa, July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is open to all youth from 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Reach out to the synod office for more information.

We hold the Southern Diocese of Tanzania in our prayers as they have suffered with Covid and the struggles that come with such an illness. The girl's school has been the recipient of a very generous Endowment gift of \$25,000.00. We are accepting personal donations for this endowment to grow and support the school for years to come. The Igumbilo Lutheran Girls' Secondary School was hit by a derecho, damaging buildings and roofs, but fortunately, no personal injuries were reported. This past year, we as a synod have raised over \$70,000.00 to support our companion synod projects. May we rejoice in the ministry we share as we walk with our brothers and sisters continuing to live our baptismal call.

In January, we welcomed 5 Wartburg Seminary students for a "Rural Immersion" so that they could visit farms and businesses in Western Iowa, have conversations, worship, and learn about the challenges and joys of living in rural communities. Sometimes I think we learn from the students as much as they learn here in our synod. This is a great opportunity for all of us to grow in our faith and our relationship with God and our neighbors.

As I write this report, I am still working with the auditor to close the financial books for 2021-2022. The synod closed January strong and the ministry we share looks promising. Together we are partners in ministry, telling the story of Jesus, raising leaders, feeding the hungry, and caring for our neighbors.

Please call me at the synod office if you ever have any questions. I'm happy to help if I can or I will work to find someone to help you. I am excited about the work of the church in this year ahead and into the future.

Kay Broich