

Synod Assembly Report 2023
Kay Broich
Office and Financial Administrator

A year of ministry, conversation and growth.

I am happy to report that this has been another year of new experiences and growth. I have been able to continue with the financial work of the synod and I do so enjoy this work. As I write this report, we have not had our annual audit as of yet. The auditors want to wait until tax season is over to do an audit, therefore, we will present unaudited reports. We have a new audit firm this year and they will come to the office in June to do our 2022-2023 audit. Please find all the financial reports on the assembly page on the synod website. At this time, all reports are submitted as unaudited and we will post the audited reports when we get them back and they have been presented as approved by council sometime in July.

Synod Treasurer Michael Jacobson and I have worked very hard this year to be able to present the budget and raise the mission support to churchwide to 44.48%. At the time of writing this report, we have 30 congregation mission intent forms in. If you are one of the 30, THANK YOU. If you are one of the 85 that have not turned your report in, please do so when you return from assembly!

I was able to bring greetings from the Bishop and Synod Staff to a number of congregations as well as celebrate Pastor and Congregation Anniversaries. I went to Gowrie to show our support to Pastor Jim Davis and Zion Lutheran. What a wonderful expression of love and witness to Pastor Jim as the community held a heart felt fundraiser for the Davis family. I was able to attend Denise Lindemann's ordination for "Word and Scarcement" and Deacon Eric Hartz's ordination to "Word and Service." The Endowment Committee presented \$4,500.00 in grants to congregations and organizations here in the Western Iowa Synod. I was able to share in the presenting of some of these grants.

We held our first Administrators Gathering at St. Mark Lutheran here in Storm Lake since the pandemic: *Tips and Tricks – Some Assembly Required*. It was great to be together and share with the group.

The Heart of BBQ "Fund for the Future" raised over \$14,700.00 last year. Please put July 22, 2023 on your calendar for the upcoming BBQ, which will be held in Dunlap, Iowa. You don't want to miss this event! There will be games and food for everyone with lots of new activities to participate in. This is a fundraiser so bring your checkbook and bid at the auction. You might find a really good cake, pie, or even ribs. Help us to break last year's amount raised!

We were able to partner with Iowa Interfaith Power and Light and held our first Faith, Farm and Climate Day on September 22nd, 2022, at Pastor Tonna and Joel Parson's farm near Webb, Iowa. During this event, we had conversation about climate farming and climate in the agricultural world today. We met again in January at St. Mark's Lutheran in Sioux City with our guest Presenter Rev. Pete Speiser from Emerson, Nebraska. Pete is also an adjunct professor in Religious Studies at Morningside.

The Racial Justice Vision Trip, held in February 2023, had a committee of 5 to plan and organize the trip, and 27 travelers participated. This was a vision trip, opening our hearts and minds to things we may not have known or understood before, and still today we can't really truly understand. We move forward with love and justice for our

neighbors. I was so glad that I was able to take this trip and share it with my oldest daughter Erin and husband Marty. “Do the best you can until you know better, then when you know better, do better” - Maya Angelou. WE. NOW. KNOW. BETTER.



My family: Eric, Kay, Marty, Wendy and Erin



2023 Racial Justice Vision Trip Travelers.



My She Shed where we go to relax in the summer and our garden.

Thank you for allowing me to continue my work for the Western Iowa Synod. I look forward to working with all of you again this coming year. If you or your congregation would like me to visit, please call the office 712-732-4968 and we will arrange a time.

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