



Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Strong and courageous. Empowered by the Spirit.



“We Are Here”

January 12, 2026

Dear Congregations of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA:

2026 Western Iowa Synod Assembly Friday, April 17– Saturday, April 18 in Sergeant Bluff, IA at the Sergeant Bluff Community Center, 903 E Topaz Dr, Sergeant Bluff. **Voting members will need to bring an electronic device (such as a smart phone or tablet) to be able to vote.** Two people will **NOT** be able to share a device as votes are limited to one per account. Please keep this in mind as you elect your voting members.

Following a more robust Assembly in 2025, which featured the election of a new synod Bishop, 2026 will see a return to a more normal assembly agenda. This will also be the first assembly for the synod under the leadership of our new Bishop Scott Dalen. This year's Assembly Theme is "We Are Here." The theme acknowledges our present reality, both challenges and opportunities, which we are facing at this present moment as part of the entire church and as the Western Iowa Synod. At the same time the theme also serves as a reminder of our ongoing presence within the state and our communities. Our Assembly Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, former Bishop of the Montana Synod, trained Ethicist, and a key individual in the development of the ELCA Social Statement Faith and Civic Life. She will focus on the current reality of our society (from an Ethicist/Sociological perspective), including the influence/presence of social media/AI/Christian Nationalism, and how our Social Statement can empower our engagement in our society from a Lutheran perspective. Together as an Assembly we will share in fellowship, Worship, and conduct our normal annual business items including budgetary approval and general synod elections.

The tentative assembly timeline looks like this:

Voting Members and Registered Visitors

Friday, April 17

4:00-5:00 pm Check-in
5:00 pm Opening Worship
6:00 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Plenary 1

Saturday, April 18

7:45-8:15 am Late Check-in
8:15 am Gathering/Morning Prayer
8:45 am Plenary 2
10:15 am Break
10:45 am Plenary 3
12:00 pm Lunch
1:30 pm Plenary 4/Closing of Assembly

Registration will begin online on February 1, 2026. All assembly **reports** will be available on the synod website at <https://www.wisynod.org/synod-assembly-2026> by March 22, 2026 for downloading and/or printing. Assembly reports will not be printed or mailed out.

The deadline for submitting **resolutions** for consideration at the assembly is Thursday, February 19, 2026. A Guide to Writing Resolutions, the Policy for Handling Resolutions, and a Resolution Submittal Form are available at <https://www.wisynod.org/synod-assembly-2026/resolutions--159>. Please remember that resolutions may be authored by individuals and congregations as well as conferences.

The list of **nominations** needed is available on the synod website at <https://www.wisynod.org/synod-assembly-2026/nominations--158>.

The **assembly offering** is a gift from your congregation. The 2026 offering will be 75% for Western Iowa focus on hunger, specifically the Western Iowa Synod Pig Project and local food pantries and 25% for Western Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders. Please give generously! Congregations are encouraged to bring their offerings to the synod assembly or donate while registering. Checks should be made payable to the "Western Iowa Synod".

Voting membership of the assembly includes rostered ministers and lay congregation members (including youth (up to age 18) and young adults (ages 18-30)). Also be mindful that, according to the current congregation model constitution, voting assembly members are to be elected from congregations.

Online registration is encouraged and will be available on February 1, 2026 at <https://www.wisynod.org/synod-assembly-2026>. An assembly registration form is also enclosed. Registration fees are as follows:

All voting members: Voting members - \$225/person
Visitors - \$225/person

March 15, 2026 **Last day to register! There will be NO walk-in registrations at the assembly. Registrations and payments MUST BE RECEIVED on or before March 15.**

Please share this preliminary information with voting members if they are not registering for themselves. If you have any questions, please contact the synod office at 712-732-4968.

Grace and peace,

Dagna Simmons

Dagna Simmons, Secretary
Western Iowa Synod ELCA

Enclosures:

Registration Form
Voting Membership of Synod Assembly
Lodging in Sioux City, IA
Synod Assembly Offering Flyer 2026

Deadlines:

Resolutions – February 19, 2026
Registrations – March 15, 2026

Resources available at www.wisynod.org:

Membership of Synod Assembly
Policy for Handling Resolutions at the Synod Assembly

A Quick & Easy Guide to Writing Resolutions
2026 Resolution Submittal Form

EVERY GENDER, EVERY RACE, **ALL ARE COVERED BY
GOD'S *Grace* **ALL ARE WELCOME.****

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God's work. Our hands.