

# THE GREAT NWMN SYNOD GET TOGETHER

MARCH 21 | 10AM-3:30PM

Calvary Lutheran Church, Bemidji MN



## WORSHIP

*We will begin and end our day grounded in worship, centering ourselves in God's presence and grace. Together, we will remember that all our work is rooted in the Gospel and sustained by God's grace.*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Our keynote speaker, Pastor Ian McConnell, will guide us in exploring this year's theme, Grace in the Digital Space. Pastor Ian will help us reflect on how we remain rooted in the Gospel while engaging authentically in today's digital world. Through honest conversation and practical insight, he will invite us to consider how we speak plainly about faith, navigate differing viewpoints, and lead with grace, clarity, and integrity—both online and in our congregations. Together, we will explore how church leaders can faithfully embody the Gospel in a rapidly changing and deeply connected world.*

## JOIN US MARCH 21!

*This one-day event is all about reconnecting, learning, and sharing ministry. Registration opens at 9:00am, with opening worship beginning at 10:00am as we gather to center ourselves in God's presence. Throughout the day, we'll enjoy fellowship, conference time, and worship—plus a preview of our 2026 Synod Assembly theme, Grace in a Digital Space. Together, we'll begin exploring what it means to live our faith in an increasingly virtual world while strengthening our connections with one another and our shared ministry.*

REGISTER BY MARCH 13



## CONFERENCE GATHERINGS

*Each of the eight conferences will have dedicated time to gather, connect, and prepare for the upcoming Synod Assembly on May 30. These conference meetings will provide space to share important information, ask questions, and strengthen relationships with others serving in your region.*



# 2026 NWMN SYNOD ASSEMBLY

*...grace in a digital space*

*"...You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth." — Acts 1:8*

*We are excited to invite you to join the 2026 Synod Assembly!*

*Please read on for important information that will make your voting member registration experience easier.*



**When**

*May 30, 2026*



**Where**

*Online*

*This year, our synod gathers around a theme that is both deeply ancient and radically new: Grace in a Digital Space.*

*In Acts 1:8, Jesus promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit will empower them to be witnesses—starting right where they are, and extending outward “to the ends of the earth.” For the early church, that meant dusty roads, crowded marketplaces, and kitchen-table communities. For us, it also includes Wi-Fi signals, livestream worship, text-message prayer chains, podcasts that reach across time zones, and digital connections that knit our congregations together in ways the first believers could never have imagined.*

*The Holy Spirit has never been limited by geography. And today, “the ends of the earth” look a lot like the phones in our pockets and the screens on our desks.*

*At this year’s Synod Assembly, we will explore how grace shows up in places that are sometimes chaotic, sometimes noisy, sometimes overwhelming—and yet still holy. We’ll reflect on how digital tools help us share the gospel, foster relationships, tell the truth, and bear witness to Christ’s love in an online world hungry for connection. We’ll ask what faithful digital discipleship looks like for congregations of every size. And we’ll celebrate the many ways God continues to work through creativity, courage, pixels, and people.*



# Eligible Voting Members:

- Rostered ministers under call in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.
- Lay members elected by congregations of the synod.
- Lay members of the Synod Council not elected as voting members by their congregation.
- SAMs are eligible to attend as an additional lay voting member for their congregation.
- All retired ministers of Word and Sacrament.



Congregation Size	Voting Member Number	Gender (as near as possible)
0-175	1 or 2	any
176-750	2	1 male, 1 female
751-1250	3	1 male, 1 female; 1 any
1251-1750	4	2 male, 2 female
1751-2250	5	2 male, 2 female; 1 any
2251-2750	6	3 male, 3 female
2751-3250	7	3 male, 3 female; 1 any

Congregations: use this chart for Synod Assembly lay voting members.  
This number does not include your rostered leader.

# Registration Information

Register each voting member online by scanning the QR code or visiting the synod website: <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/synod-assembly>



Take advantage of the early rate by registering prior to **March 21, 2026**

## Early Rate:

Prior to 3/21/2026

- Voting Member: \$100

## Regular Rate

After 3/21/2026

- Voting Member: \$125

# Congregation Office Staff:

In many congregations it is the responsibility of the congregation office staff to register the elected voting members of the Synod Assembly. To better prepare you, here is the list of information needed:

- Full Name (first and last)
- Home address
- Email address
- Phone number
- Housing selection (if staying on campus)

# Attendee Information



## *Rostered Ministers Under Call*

All Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service serving under call on the roster of this synod and attending the Synod assembly shall be voting members. Note: retired rostered ministers currently serving under contract as interim ministers in congregations shall also register under this category.

## *Synod-Authorized Ministers (SAMs)*

All Synod-Authorized Ministers under contract can be an additional lay voting member, they do not need to be an elected lay voting member; but must register as a SAM.

## *Lay Voting Members*

Congregations with fewer than 175 baptized members shall elect a minimum of one lay voting member and may elect up to two lay voting members (a male and a female).

Congregations with 175-750 baptized members shall elect two lay voting members (one male and one female).

Congregations with 751 or more baptized members may register additional lay voting members (half male, half female) as described in the listing of congregations of the synod at: <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/synod-assembly>

**Note:** All congregations are expected to send voting members to the Synod Assembly, and all costs for the Synod assembly are paid out of registration fees. Congregations that register fewer than the required number of lay voting members will be charged \$95 per absent member. This fee may be paid through the online registration form.

## *Non-Voting Members and Guests*

Non-voting members and guests shall attend via Livestream on Facebook free of charge. They may have voice to address the assembly only if provided in the agenda, invited by the chair to speak, or upon majority vote of the voting members present and voting.

## *Rostered Ministers Not Serving Under Call*

- Ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of the synod who are retired or disabled may register at a reduced rate and will have both voice and vote.

**Note:** Congregations may not elect retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament as Lay Voting Members

- Ministers of Word and Service on the roster of the synod who are retired or disabled may register at a reduced rate, with voice but not vote.

**Exception:** Retired or disabled ministers of Word and Service may be elected by congregations as Lay Voting Members, with both voice and vote. The congregation, however, must register them at the full Lay Voting Member rate.

- Rostered ministers on the roster of the synod who are “On Leave” may register at a reduced rate with voice but not vote.

	<i>Early Registration*</i>	<i>Regular Registration**</i>	<i>Voting Rights</i>	<i>Speaking Rights</i>
<i>Rostered Minister Under Call</i>	\$100	\$126	Yes	Yes
<i>Synod Authorized Minister</i>	\$100	\$125	Yes	Yes
<i>Lay Voting Member***</i>	\$100	\$125	Yes	Yes
<i>Retired Pastor****</i>	\$100	\$125	Yes	Yes
<i>Retired Deacon*****</i>	\$100	\$125	No	Yes
<i>Additional Youth Voting Member*****</i>	\$70	\$95	Yes	Yes
<i>Rostered Minister On-Leave</i>	\$70	\$95	No	Yes

\*Early registration closes at 11:59PM on March 20, 2026.

\*\*Regular registration closes at 11:59PM on May 22, 2026.

\*\*\*No Minister of Word and Sacrament may be registered as a Lay Voting Member.

\*\*\*\*Exception: retired pastors currently serving under contract as interim pastors shall register as “Rostered Ministers Under Call.”

\*\*\*\*\*Exception: as members of the laity, retired ministers of Word and Service may be registered as Lay Voting Members, but their congregations must pay the full Lay Voting Member registration fee.

\*\*\*\*\*This applies only to additional lay voting members ages 15-30. If a confirmed youth or young adult is elected to fulfill the congregation’s minimum number of lay voting members, they must be registered as a Lay Voting Member.