

**Western Iowa Synod Vice President's Report**  
**Tracy Gayer**  
**4/13/26**

Greetings to all and welcome to the 2026 Western Iowa Synod Assembly in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa!

It has been another interesting year in the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA. The Synod Council meets regularly and contains a diverse group of persons with a variety of backgrounds and experiences! You continue to be well represented by these members. I would like to thank each and everyone involved with Synod Council for their work this year. To those members having fulfilled their term on the Council, thank you for your contributions. To those persons coming on board, welcome and I look forward to our time together in service to our Western Iowa Synod.

We elected Bishop Scott Dalen at our last Assembly. He has been a busy Bishop and we are blessed to have him in this position of leadership. Bishop Dalen has put together a mix of new and experienced staff members and they are out and about within the Synod. Please take a moment to get to know each of these hard working and dedicated people that God has placed in the garden we call the Western Iowa Synod.

I would like to thank Bishop Lorna Halaas and her staff for the work that they have done on our behalf and wish them well in their future endeavors!

Another group of servant leaders that we need to recognize is our Conference Deans. Thanks to each individual who has served as Dean among our 6 Conferences.

My work within the Synod Vice Presidents group also continues and I will present some of this on Saturday morning.

I would encourage each of us to find the common ground to continue in relationships that make the Western Iowa Synod a great place to live, work, develop relationships, raise a family, and contribute to our State, Country, and World.

Please find me if you have questions or commentary this weekend!

Have a great Assembly,

Tracy Gayer, WIS VP

## Western Iowa Synod ELCA 2026 Secretary's Report

The purpose of the Synod Council is to conduct synod business between assemblies.

| 2025-2026 SYNOD COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS: | TERM:                  | ENDS:      |
|---|------------------------|------------|
| • Bishop                                      | Pr Scott Dalen         | 6 yrs 2031 |
| • Vice President                              | Tracy Gayer            | 4 yrs 2029 |
| • Treasurer                                   | Tiffany Messerlie      | 4 yrs 2028 |
| • Secretary                                   | Dagna Simmons          | 4 yrs 2026 |
| • Conference - Abundant Fields (lay female)   | Jane King              | 3 yrs 2027 |
| • Conference - Hands of Hope (lay female)     | Open                   | 3 yrs 2028 |
| • Conference - Hands of Hope (rostered)       | Pr Denise Lindemann    | 3 yrs 2026 |
| • Conference - Living Waters (lay female)     | Deb Jordt              | 3 yrs 2027 |
| • Conference - Living Waters (rostered)       | Pr Chuck Meyer         | 3 yrs 2028 |
| • Conference - Rivers of Grace (rostered)     | Open                   | 3 yrs 2028 |
| • Conference - Rivers of Grace (lay male)     | Open                   | 3 yrs 2027 |
| • Conference - Seeds of Faith (rostered)      | Pr Rod Hopp            | 3 yrs 2027 |
| • Conference - Seeds of Faith (lay male)      | Jim Post               | 3 yrs 2026 |
| • Conference - Winds of Hope (lay female)     | Denise Kramer Tolzmann | 3 yrs 2027 |
| • Conference - Winds of Hope (lay male)       | Ken Less               | 3 yrs 2026 |
| • At-large (lay female)                       | Michelle Smith         | 3 yrs 2028 |
| • At-large (rostered)                         | Pr Paige McGrath       | 3 yrs 2028 |
| • At-large                                    | Travis Brincks *       | 3 yrs 2026 |
| • At-large person of color or language        | Pr Inba Inbarasu       | 3 yrs 2028 |
| • At-large young adult (male or female)       | Nick Milbrodt          | 3 yrs 2026 |
| • At-large youth (male or female)             | Open                   | 2 yrs 2026 |

### ADVISORY MEMBERS

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| • WIS Women's Organization | Sue Boblit      |
| • Lutheran Men in Mission  | Brian Underwood |

\* Appointed by the Synod Council to fill vacant conference position

### SYNOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

- August 13, 2025 – Synod Office, Storm Lake
- October 18, 2025 – St Luke Lutheran Church, Sioux City
- January 10, 2026 – Zoom
- January 13, 2026 – Electronic (email)
- March 21, 2026 - Zoom

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROVIDES OVERSIGHT BETWEEN SYNOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Analysis of revenues and expenses
- Staff performance evaluations
- Congregation and pastoral updates
- Other

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- September 10, 2025 – Zoom
- January 6, 2026 – Zoom
- March 10, 2026 - Zoom

## SYNOD COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS:

### ELECTED/APPOINTED SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON SYNOD COMMITTEES

- Executive Committee (in addition to the 4 officers)
  - Pr. Chuck Meyer
  - Nick Milbrodt
  - Pr Denise Lindemann
  - Denise Kramer Tolzmann
- Finance Committee:
  - Nick Milbrodt
  - Michelle Smith
- Endowment Committee:
  - Pr Denise Lindemann
  - Pr Inba Inbarasu
- Companion Synod:
  - Denise Kramer Tolzmann
- Candidacy:
  - Deb Jordt
  - Pr Cara Knutson
- Racial Justice Task Force:
- Hunger Task Force:
  - Ken Less
  - Jim Post
- ABC
  - Pr Denise Lindemann
  - Pr Inba Inbarasu

### ITEMS FORWARDED TO ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL (none)

### RECEIVED REPORTS

- Bishop Scott Dalen
- Staff/office
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Auditor's Report
- Western Iowa Synod Women's Organization (WISWO)
- Lutheran Men in Mission

### CONSIDERED VARIOUS ITEMS

- Conference Dean approval
- Financial status of WIS throughout the year; Mission Support
- Companion Synod activities worldwide
- 2026 synod assembly activities and responsibilities
- Other

### APPOINTED SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES:

- Lutheran Services in Iowa – Pr Jim Mossman

### RECEIVED PRESENTATIONS

- WISWO and Lutheran Men in Mission

### APPROVED

- Designating 2026 assembly offerings to focus on hunger (specifically the Western Iowa Synod Pig Project and local food pantries) and Fund for Leaders.
- Standing Rules for the 2026 synod assembly
- Report of 2026 Assembly nominations
- Persons to serve on the 2026 Assembly Minutes Committee

RECOMMENDED for synod assembly adoption

- 2026 Revised WIS Budget
- 2027 Proposed WIS Budget
- 2027 Compensation and Care Guidelines
- Churchwide recommended Constitution Amendments Resolution

RECEIVED/APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PASTOR AND CONGREGATION CHANGES:

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

- Pr David Grindberg
- Pr Kris Hackbart
- Pr Inba Inbarasu
- Pr Eric Alm

STUDY LEAVE

None

DISABILITY

None

RETIRED

- Pr Lorna Halaas
- Pr Tonna Parsons
- Pr David Halaas
- Pr E Jon Benson
- Pr Judith Johnson

REMOVED/RESIGNED ROSTERED LEADERS

None

ISSUED SYNOD COUNCIL LETTERS OF CALL:

- Pr Chip Borgstadt

REPORT TERMINATION OF CONGREGATION RELATIONSHIP WITH ELCA

- Washington Lutheran, Duncombe

REPORT CLOSING OF CONGREGATION

None

REPORT NEW CONGREGATION

None

REPORT SYNOD AUTHORIZED WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES (SAWCs)

None

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dagna Simmons  
Synodical Secretary, Western Iowa Synod ELCA

## **2026 Report of the Committee of Assembly Business and Council (ABC)**

### **Committee Members:**

Rev. Jane Johnston (Winds of Hope), Chair (2027)  
Rev. Zech Anderson (Seeds of Faith) (2027)  
James Blocker (Hands of Hope) (2027)  
Lori Clark (Rivers of Grace) (2027)  
Bishop Scott Dalen (Ex-Officio)  
Tracy Gayer, Synod Vice President Synod (Council) (2029)  
Rev. Inba Inbarasu (Synod Council)  
Rev. Denise Lindemann (Synod Council)  
Kymberly Pease (Living Waters) (2026)  
Dagna Simmons, Synod Secretary (Ex-Officio) (2026)  
Rev. Anna Wolf (At Large) (2027)

**The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel (ABC Committee)** is described in the Synod Constitution, Section S7.40.04. Two constitutional provisions govern assembly business and parliamentary procedure:

S7.32.01. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly desiring to add an item of new business to the agenda of the Synod Assembly shall present such an item to the chair no later than one-half hour following the close of the first plenary session of the Assembly. The chair shall immediately refer it to the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel.

S7.40.04e. Every motion or resolution submitted to the Synod Assembly and its Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel shall be presented to the Assembly in whole or in part or by reference to the published reports. In presenting motions or resolutions, the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel shall take one of the following actions:

- 1) to report a resolution or motion and recommend its adoption
- 2) to report a resolution or motion and recommend its adoption with amendment
- 3) to report a resolution or motion and recommend its defeat
- 4) to report a resolution or motion and offer a substitute resolution
- 5) to report a resolution or motion and recommend that the matter be referred by the bishop to an appropriate council, board, or committee
- 6) to report a resolution as information (A two-thirds vote of the Synod Assembly shall be required to consider a resolution reported as information.)

### **The resolutions for consideration at the 2026 synod assembly are:**

- 1) Resolution #1 – Western Iowa Synod 2027 Compensation and Care Guidelines: ABC recommends adoption
- 2) Resolution #2 – Adopt the Budget: ABC recommends adoption
- 3) Resolution #3 – Amendments to Western Iowa Synod Constitution per Churchwide: ABC recommends adoption

Report to the Synod Assembly  
Reverend Chip Borgstadt  
Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy

Please hear my gratitude for the call to serve the Western Iowa Synod in guiding and encouraging those preparing for rostered leadership in the church. I am humbled by the many congregations that respond to the Holy Spirit to welcome our candidates and give them supportive communities where they can grow.

Serving in this ministry is both a blessing and a struggle. I see the opportunities for fresh expressions of ministry and candidates eager to bring renewed energy to the Spirit's work. At the same time, I feel the longing of congregations looking for someone to help them retain their historic identity in a time when the world around them is rapidly changing. I strongly believe that the Lutheran foundation of radical grace is a solid base that will carry us into a faithful future.

Dedicated people shepherd the candidacy process in the Western Iowa Synod: Reverend Inba Inbarasu, Reverend Cara LQ Knutson, Reverend Dr. Troy Troftgruben, Reverend Jen Christenson, Reverend Edward Pease, Deacon Eric Haitz, Kim Rothgeb, Sandy Kropf, and Bishop Scott Dalen. We are grateful for these dedicated leaders in our Synod.

And we are just as grateful for our rostered leaders-in-formation, our candidates: Emily Anderson, Grace Baumgartel, Kim Kacmarynski, Damon Hopkins, Travis Brincks, Jon Merritt, Stephen Lewis, Mike Gaffey, Susan Rohan, Sarah Morphew, and Russell Stanislav. In addition to their seminary studies, these eleven people are serving congregations. They are also soon to be joined by others who have already begun the candidacy process. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Beyond those prayers, we also need your help in identifying more people who can lead our faith communities toward a welcoming, caring future. If you know someone who might be a pastor or deacon, please invite them to the Candidacy Retreat at St. John Lutheran in Carroll on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Let us know that you will be coming by sending a simple email to [Candidacy@WISynod.org](mailto:Candidacy@WISynod.org). Your invitation and your presence can make a difference for the Church.

Thank you. You are a blessing!

Reverend Chip Borgstadt  
Your partner in ministry

2026 Synod Assembly Report  
Reverend Cara Knutson  
Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility,  
Call Process, & Congregational Care

First of all, what an honor it is to serve you—the people of the Western Iowa Synod. Thank you, Bishop Scott, and to the rest of the synod staff for your patience and support as I continue to grow into this new role. And thank you to the congregations and leaders who have invited me to join you in listening together for where the Holy Spirit is calling us—as congregations, as a synod, and as part of the larger body of Christ.

One of the striking things I heard recently was from my predecessor Pr. Judy Johnson, who shared that just a few years ago congregations in transition could expect a wait of about 9 months to a year before calling a new pastor. Now, many congregations face a wait of 2 to 3 years.

It's been deeply fulfilling to walk alongside colleagues and congregations in the call process. Often what's most needed is simply a space to share experiences and frustrations—and a gentle reminder of where hope for the future still lives.

As our synod staff comes together, it's exciting and deeply fulfilling to see where the Holy Spirit is leading us. One of the clearest calls we've heard is to equip and empower the leaders of the Western Iowa Synod. Pr. Emily Dalen and I have taken a fresh approach to First Call Theological Education, and we continue to explore how we can all collaborate share wisdom with one another—developing practical and relevant skills for ministry in this changing time.

Isaiah 43:19 reminds us, “For behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth—do you not perceive it?” How we *do church together* continues to adapt and shift as our culture changes—but through it all, I see the Holy Spirit at work. God is inviting us to come together as the body of Christ in new and life-giving ways. In my ministry journey, before seminary and across different denominations, I saw again and again how the need for lay ministry leaders continues to grow.

Synodically authorized ministers make it possible for churches to have pastoral leadership when they might otherwise go without. I recently met a young woman for whom the traditional seminary path isn't a possibility right now. As she begins training to become a SAM, she has a meaningful opportunity to explore her call to ministry—and it's a joy to be a part of her journey.

Instead of telling you what I've been learning about our synodically authorized ministers (SAMs), I've asked one of our SAMs to share from their own deep and faithful experience.

2026 Synod Assembly Report  
Director for Evangelical Mission  
Western Iowa Synod

I love a good story. Sometimes in a book, but what I love most is listening to people tell their stories, congregations share their past and their present, and finding creative ways to turn those stories into a lived out ministry. God has given each one of us a story to tell, and we are not supposed to keep those stories to ourselves! We tell our stories because God has called us to do so, because Jesus has given us beautiful examples of how to do it, and of course to share the glory of God with others, so that they in turn can share their stories with others.

This is the work that we get to do together, and that I get to do daily as your Director for Evangelical Mission. It is an honor and a privilege to be with you here in Western Iowa, and I look forward to hearing your stories, to walking with you as you journey through the ups and downs, and to being present with you in your worship spaces, meeting spaces and beyond.

I've got big ideas in my head as we work together, but I want to hear yours. One way that can happen is by inviting me to show up- to worship with you, have coffee with you, or chat on the phone. I would love to visit, and share a greeting from the ELCA and the Western Iowa Synod, and take a few moments to listen to all the amazing and beautiful things you are doing in your congregations.

Thank you for your mission support! Without it, we could not do this vital work. As we seek to follow Jesus and be the church in our communities, we give thanks for the gift of walking together in shared ministry throughout the Western Iowa Synod and the world. What a gift it is to do ministry together!

I look forward to meeting each one of you, and hearing your story. I will pray for you, for our congregations, leaders, synod, and church each day, and would welcome your prayers and your generous support for the work we do together as the church continues to move forward.

We are here, with you. May the Lord bless you and keep you this day and always.

Rev. Melissa Pickering

## **2026 Elections – Synod Council, Officers, Committees, Officers**

### **Synod Secretary**

- Purpose: Take and archive minutes of all Synod Council Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings and Synod Assemblies; is a member of the Committee of Assembly Business and Council (ABC) and Nominating Committee
- Term: 4 years
- Meetings: 20-24/year, Synod Assembly, as needed
- Other Info: May be a layperson or rostered minister
- More Info: Synod Constitution - S8.30.

### **Synod Council**

- Purpose: Conduct synod business between synod assemblies
- Term: 3 years\*
- Meetings: 10-12/year, Synod Assembly, as needed
- Other Info: Will be expected to serve on another synod committee (Finance, ABC, Executive, etc). Includes both laypersons and rostered ministers
- More Info: Synod Constitution S10

### **Committee of Assembly and Counsel (ABC)**

- Purpose: Plan synod assemblies: facilities, agenda, programs, resolutions, contracting with third parties
- Term: 2 years\*
- Meetings: 10-12/year, Synod Assembly, as needed
- Other Info: May be a layperson or rostered minister
- More Info: Synod Constitution S7.40.04

### **Consultation Committee**

- Purpose: Help resolve conflicts within the synod: rostered ministers, congregations, conferences, etc
- Term: 6 years\* No consecutive re-election
- Meetings: As needed
- Other Info: May be a layperson or rostered minister
- More Info: Synod Constitution S11.02 and S17.11 ELCA Constitution Chapter 20

### **Committee on Discipline**

- Purpose: Determine if an infraction has occurred by a rostered minister and impose an appropriate course of discipline
- Term: 6 years\* No consecutive re-election
- Meetings: As needed
- Other Info: May be a layperson or rostered minister
- More Info: Synod Constitution S11.03 ELCA Constitution Chapter 20

## **Nominating Committee**

Purpose: Nominate persons for election at Synod Assembly  
Term: 2 years\*  
Meetings: As needed, Synod Assembly  
Other Info: May be a layperson or rostered minister  
More Info: Synod Constitution S9

\*Note that some of the terms listed on the conference nomination sheet may not be full terms, but finish the terms of current vacancies.

## Western Iowa Synod - 2026 Nominations:

Note: Some of the terms listed are not full terms, but finish the terms of current vacancies  
Youth defined as "Under age 18 at time of election"  
SAM, TEEM, or Vicar qualify as Lay for nominations.

Those in **RED** have not submitted Biography form

- 1) Synod Secretary At Large (4 yrs)
  - a. Pr Jim Mossman, Abundant Fields, Salem Lutheran, Creston
  
- 2) Synod Council
  - a. At Large – Youth (2 yrs)
  - b. At Large – Young Adult (3 yrs)
  - c. At Large – Lay Male (3 yrs)
    - i. Travis Brincks, Living Waters, Faith Lutheran, Odebolt
  - d. Hands of Hope - Rostered (3 yrs)
    - i. Pr Denise Lindemann, Our Saviors Lutheran, Humboldt
  - e. Hands of Hope – Lay Female (3 yrs)
  - f. Seeds of Faith – Lay Male (3 yrs)
    - i. Kyle D Rydell, Grace Lutheran, Spirit Lake
  - g. Rivers of Grace – Lay Male (1 yrs)
  - h. Rivers of Grace – Rostered (2 yrs)
    - i. Pr Jean McCartney, St Paul Evangelical Lutheran, Missouri Valley
  - i. Winds of Hope –Lay Male (3 yrs)
    - i. **Nick Milbrodt**
  
- 3) Assembly Business and Counsel (ABC)
  - a. Abundant Fields – Lay Male (2 yr)
  - b. Living Waters – Lay Female (2 yr)
    - i. Kymberly Pease, Trinity Lutheran, Merville
  - c. Seeds of Faith – Rostered (2 yr)
    - i. Pr Tim Johnson, Estherville Lutheran, Estherville
  
- 4) Discipline Committee
  - a. Hands of Hope – Rostered (6 yrs)
    - i. Pr Emily Sauer-Alvarez, St Olaf Lutheran, Fort Dodge
  - b. Living Waters – Rostered (6 yr)
    - i. Pr Ed Pease, Trinity Lutheran, Merville
  - c. Seeds of Faith – Lay Female (6 yrs)
    - i. Sandy Kropf, Bethel Lutheran, Graettinger
  - d. Winds of Hope – Lay Female (6 yrs )

5) Nominating Committee

- a. Abundant Fields – Lay Male (1 yr)
- b. Living Waters – Lay Female (1 yr)
- c. Hands of Hope – Rostered (2 yrs)
- d. Seeds of Faith – Rostered (2 yrs)
  - i. Pr Brian Jack, First Lutheran, Milford
- e. Winds of Hope – Lay Female (2 yrs)
  - i. Kim Gayer, Bethlehem Lutheran, Inwood

6) Consultation Committee

- a. Rivers of Grace – Lay Female (4 yrs)
- b. Hands of Hope – Lay Male (1 yr)

## Western Iowa Synod - 2026 Nominations:

Note: Some of the terms listed are not full terms, but finish the terms of current vacancies  
Youth defined as "Under age 18 at time of election"  
SAM, TEEM, or Vicar qualify as Lay for nominations.  
Refer to the "Nominations" tab for biographies that were submitted.

- 1) Synod Secretary At Large (4 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Pr Jim Mossman**, Abundant Fields, Salem Lutheran, Creston
  
- 2) Synod Council
  - a. At Large – Youth (2 yrs)  
No Nominee
  
  - b. At Large – Young Adult (3 yrs)  
No Nominee
  
  - c. At Large – Lay Male (3 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Travis Brincks**, Living Waters, Faith Lutheran, Odebolt
  
  - d. Hands of Hope - Rostered (3 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Pr Denise Lindemann**, Our Saviors Lutheran, Humboldt
  
  - e. Hands of Hope – Lay Female (3 yrs)  
No Nominee
  
  - f. Seeds of Faith – Lay Male (3 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Kyle D Rydell**, Grace Lutheran, Spirit Lake
  
  - g. Rivers of Grace – Lay Male (1 yrs)  
No Nominee
  
  - h. Rivers of Grace – Rostered (2 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Pr Jean McCartney**, St Paul Evangelical Lutheran, Missouri Valley
  
  - i. Winds of Hope – Lay Male (3 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Nick Milbrodt**, St John Evangelical Lutheran, Rural Akron

- 3) Assembly Business and Counsel (ABC)
  - a. Abundant Fields – Lay Male (2 yr)  
No Nominee
  - b. Living Waters – Lay Female (2 yr)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Kymerly Pease**, Trinity Lutheran, Merville
  - c. Seeds of Faith – Rostered (2 yr)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Pr Tim Johnson**, Estherville Lutheran, Estherville
- 4) Discipline Committee
  - a. Hands of Hope – Rostered (6 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Pr Emily Sauer-Alvarez**, St Olaf Lutheran, Fort Dodge
  - b. Living Waters – Rostered (6 yr)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Pr Ed Pease**, Trinity Lutheran, Merville
  - c. Seeds of Faith – Lay Female (6 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Sandy Kropf**, Bethel Lutheran, Graettinger
  - d. Winds of Hope – Lay Female (6 yrs )  
No Nominee
- 5) Nominating Committee
  - a. Abundant Fields – Lay Male (1 yr)  
No Nominee
  - b. Living Waters – Lay Female (1 yr)  
No Nominee
  - c. Hands of Hope – Rostered (2 yrs)  
No Nominee
  - d. Seeds of Faith – Rostered (2 yrs)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Pr Brian Jack**, First Lutheran, Milford
  - e. Winds of Hope – Lay Female (2 yrs)
    - i. Kim Gayer, Bethlehem Lutheran, Inwood
- 6) Consultation Committee
  - a. Rivers of Grace – Lay Female (4 yrs)  
No Nominee
  - b. Hands of Hope – Lay Male (1 yr)  
No Nominee

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Synod Secretary     |
| My conference:                         | Abundant Fields     |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | James (Jim) Mossman |
| My congregation:                       | Salem Lutheran      |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Creston IA          |

The ELCA values diversity among the voices in its governance. Several elected positions are categorically reserved in an effort to create or maintain diversity. If the position you are nominated for is reserved by any of the definitions listed below please check the appropriate box. SAM, TEEM, or Vicar qualify as Lay for nominations.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rostered | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female          | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male            | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

I previously served as Synod Secretary for two years prior to taking a churchwide call. I served on the Western Iowa synod council for several years before being Secretary. I'm familiar with the council's role and work. I've been an officer and member of numerous boards, including a campus ministry at Northwestern University and, as of this year, Lutheran Services of Iowa.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I was a history major in college and know the value of good records. I also care about the process of discernment and decision making in organizations. The role of the secretary is to preserve our history and to facilitate a good meeting process for the council, the executive committee, and ABC. I also have what some people might think is a strange fascination with the constitutions of the church. The secretary can also be a resource on constitution questions for congregations. In my own calls, I have worked to keep constitutions in good order, because when you need to appeal to your constitution is not usually the best time to bring it up to date. Finally, I've been part of the synod for 31 years, beginning as an intern pastor. Western Iowa is sort of my home. If I can be of help in this role, I am available and willing.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Synod Council At Large |
| My conference:                         | Living Waters          |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Travis M. Brincks      |
| My congregation:                       | Faith Lutheran Church  |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Odebolt, IA            |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rostered            | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female          | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lay Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

- Served on Synod Council for 5 years.
- Journey Together/TEEM Candidate with Wartburg Theological Seminary.
- Technology Assistance for Synod Assemblies for the past 8 years.
- Served on St. John in Carroll, IA Church Council and now with Faith in Odebolt and Bethel in Kiron.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the Western Iowa Synod. My desire to serve comes from a deep appreciation for the wider church and the ways our congregations work together in ministry across the synod.

As a TEEM candidate, I value collaboration, listening, and thoughtful discernment as we seek to follow where God is leading the church. Serving in this role would be an opportunity to contribute my gifts and perspective while supporting the shared mission of our congregations.

I am motivated by gratitude for the church and a desire to help strengthen the ministries that connect and equip our communities for faithful witness and service. It would be an honor to serve in this way.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Synod Council        |
| My conference:                         | Hands of Hope        |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Denise A Lindemann   |
| My congregation:                       | Our Saviour Lutheran |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Humboldt             |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rostered | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female          | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male            | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

Parish ministry - Both Lutheran and Methodist  
 Hospice - St. Croix - Chaplain  
 Hospital and care facilities - Chaplain  
 Work with many Denominations and Religions  
 Disaster Recovery - organized Hay Lift to Western IA  
 Congregational Church Council  
 WIS Synod Council

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I am always looking for ways to serve the larger denomination.  
 Having work as a Chaplain for over 25 years I have been able to work with different people and situation I can easily shift to meet the needs of those involved.  
 I have been involved in a number congregations as a member so have many ideas that work and didn't work. To add to this experience I have had the opportunity to suppl preach in many congregations

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Synod Council                       |
| My conference:                         | Rivers of Grace                     |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Jean E McCartney                    |
| My congregation:                       | St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Missouri Valley                     |

The ELCA values diversity among the voices in its governance. Several elected positions are categorically reserved in an effort to create or maintain diversity. If the position you are nominated for is reserved by any of the definitions listed below please check the appropriate box. SAM, TEEM, or Vicar qualify as Lay for nominations.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rostered | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female          | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male            | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

I have served as Pastor of St. Paul since June of 2018. This is my first call after graduating from Luther Seminary. Prior to that, I completed two internships (one official, one unofficial) totaling four years. Together, at St. Paul, we've undergone a large renovation (converting the basement to classrooms) but more importantly, we strive to faithfully serve the community.

Active in the Missouri Valley Ministerial, I have served as president. Elsewhere in the community, I've partnered with the police dog and the dog park on Animal Blessings. We've created and distributed flood buckets, provide monthly community meals, and with OSL, brought a mobile food pantry to the town.

I am a "second career pastor." I have taught 7-12 (English, Spanish, Speech, Theatre, Journalism); completed an MA (in management, technology, and distance learning) and started a doctoral program. As I began my Ph.D., I began to work for West Corporation in Training and Development and rose to mid-management. I assisted in overseeing a million dollar budget; I managed a multi-national team. It was in corporate that my call to ministry became loud and clear.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

It would be an honor to serve the Western Iowa Synod in this capacity. I am eager to serve, to learn, to grow, and to walk beside.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean+

## Western Iowa Synod ELCA 2026 Nomination Biography

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Position Nominated for:                | SYNOD COUNCIL - LAY MALE - 3 YR TERM               |
| My conference:                         | WINDS OF HOPE                                      |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | NICK C MILBRODT                                    |
| My congregation:                       | ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - PRESTON TWP |
| Congregation's town/city:              | PRESTON TWP - RURAL AKRON, IA                      |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rostered            | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female          | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lay Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

For the past 3 years, I have been apart of the WIS Synod Council under the Young Adult term. But, time has passed, and so I have thus graduated into the "Above 30" age bracket. That said, I'm still qualified to join through a different position, Lay Male, and want to continue. In the past three years, I've been active in the finance committee, becoming the unofficial "Executive Finance Chair". I've assisted both the past and present Bishops in determining budgets, reviewing and explaining the finances, and looking for ways to make us more efficient. We've been through some tougher moments, but also got to join in some brighter times too.

In my church life, I'm the President of my Church Council for the past 3 Years. Currently undergoing a time period where we are without a fulltime pastor.

And in my personal life, I'm a Civil Engineer. I oversee the design and construction of multimillion dollar projects for local cities/towns throughout western Iowa and eastern Nebraska.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I've enjoyed being a part of the picture of the Western Iowa Synod, being able to explain the good things this Synod does and trying to bridge the gap between the people in my area and the ongoings of the WIS.

I also enjoy being a part of the ministry that the WIS has, through the Pig Project, Disaster Relief Projects, Care and Assistancess throughout the WIS, and meeting new people.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Lay Male - Synod Council |
| My conference:                         | Seeds of Faith           |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Kyle D Rydell            |
| My congregation:                       | Grace Lutheran           |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Spirit Lake              |

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Lay Female  Young Adult (18-30)

Lay Male  Person of Color/non-English primary language  Non-English Primary Language

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

|   |
|---|
| <p>Working in Outdoor Ministries for 10 years.<br/>SAM for 6 years.<br/>Current Camp Director at Lutheran Lakeside Camp</p> |
|---|

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I would like to be more involved with The Western Iowa Synod. Strengthen the relationships with the synod, congregations and Outdoor Ministries.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | ABC                     |
| My conference:                         | Living Waters           |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Kymberly A. Pease       |
| My congregation:                       | Trinity Lutheran Church |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Moville                 |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rostered              | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lay Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male              | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

I have been active in the church my entire life. I have served on church council, education, and fellowship committees, and in general helped wherever it was needed. I have also served as president of my quilt guild, and am currently active in our town's historical society.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I love being part of the church at both the local level and beyond. I love my congregation, but the body of Christ is bigger than our church. I want to make sure that the voice of laypeople from smaller, rural congregations gets heard. I also believe that if the church is going to continue to flourish into the future then younger people need to be actively involved.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA**

**2026 Nomination Biography** (Enter your information in the spaces below)

**Position Nominated for:** Assembly Business and Council (ABC)

**My conference:** Seeds of Faith

**My name (first, middle initial, last):** Tim J Johnson

**My congregation:** Estherville Lutheran Church

**Congregation's town/city:** Estherville, Iowa 51334

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Rostered

Youth (under 18)

Lay Female

Young Adult (18-30)

Lay Male

Person of Color/Non-English Primary Language

Non-English Primary Language

**Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relation to the position you are nominated to serve:**

Prior to becoming a Pastor, I worked in the Telephone, CATV, and Internet industries for 33 years. Serving as a Technician, Plant Manager, and then as a General Manager for 10 years. I have been working for Estherville Lutheran for 11 years as a TEEM candidate for 5 years while attending the Seminary, and now as a Rostered Leader for 6 years. During my 11 years at Estherville, I walked with this congregation through many Capital Projects, mostly updating the building. Worked closely with the council on every aspect of the daily workings of the congregation and individuals.

**Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated:**

I have been attending Synod Assembly for approximately 13 years and have seen many changes during that time. My hope is to continue to be part of the inner workings of the synod to ensure that the Assembly moves forward in a way that serves its members.

## Western Iowa Synod ELCA

**2026 Nomination Biography**(Enter your information in the spaces below)

Position Nominated for: Synod Discipline Committee

My conference: Seeds of Fatih

My name (first, middle initial, last): Sandy Kropf

My congregation: Bethel Lutheran

Congregation's town/city: Graettinger, IA

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Rostered                       Youth (under 18)  
 Lay Female                       Young Adult (18-30)  
 Lay Male                         Person of Color/Non-English Primary Language  
    Non-English Primary Language

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relation to the position you are nominated to serve:

I am a retired elementary teacher. As a former educator I was involved in many meetings with staff and parents to resolve conflicts. As a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, I have served on Council (including the role of President 2 times), chairman of Prayer Team, and working with other leaders in Sunday School, Food Pantry Committee, and Shared Ministry. Although these church roles aren't usually a source of conflict, there were times we had to discuss how to deal with a situation which may not have been acceptable to those involved. After retirement I became a member of the Western Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee. This has been an enjoyable experience to walk along with Candidates as they go through the process, however there have been times we had to discuss issues with candidates that were not going well and could possibly cause them to be removed from pursuing their career as a rostered minister.

Please use this space to share what motivate your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I was asked by my Pastor to serve on this committee. I am a good listener, and try to be a person that listens to all information involving a situation which has been brought before a committee. I have had experience in other committees where we had to tell someone they could no longer continue to be part of the group they were working with in the church, or the position they were pursuing with Candidacy. It is never an easy decision, but it is always a decision that was made asking God's guidance in the process.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Position Nominated for:                | Discipline Committee (Living Waters-Rostered) |
| My conference:                         | Living Waters                                 |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Edward W H Pease                              |
| My congregation:                       | Trinity Lutheran Church                       |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Moville                                       |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rostered | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female          | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male            | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

I have served on the Discipline Committee for 1 year, completing a term that was vacant. I currently serve on the Candidacy Committee. I am a Rostered Leader, serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Moville, IA. Before that I served as a Synod Authorized Minister as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rock Valley, IA.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I desire to serve the church and the people of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA. Serving on this committee while not particularly glamorous, is one way that I can serve.

I think that it is important that we take seriously all allegations and handle them in timely, victim-centered, and justice oriented ways.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Discipline Committee   |
| My conference:                         | Hands of Hope          |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Emily D. Sauer-Alvarez |
| My congregation:                       | St. Olaf               |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Fort Dodge, Iowa       |

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- Rostered     Youth (under 18)  
 Lay Female     Young Adult (18-30)  
 Lay Male     Person of Color/non-English primary language     Non-English Primary Language

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

I've been a pastor for 19 years in Iowa and Illinois. My current call is to St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa where I have served the last 6 years. The general knowledge I bring to this position is an understanding of the complexities of leading a congregation. The inner workings of the church can be fascinating as well as challenging. I also know what it's like to be a pastor and the unique joys & challenges that a person faces in this position. On this committee I would bring the skills of leadership, active listening, and discernment.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I've been in Western Iowa Synod for 6 years and felt it was time to have a more active role within our synod.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Nominating Committee      |
| My conference:                         | Winds of Hope             |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Kim S Gayer               |
| My congregation:                       | Bethlehem Lutheran Church |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Inwood IA                 |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rostered              | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lay Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male              | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language                 |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

Previous experience on nominating committee

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I enjoy being useful

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA  
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Position Nominated for:                | Nominating Committee |
| My conference:                         | Seeds of Faith       |
| My name (first, middle initial, last): | Brian D. Jack        |
| My congregation:                       | First Lutheran       |
| Congregation's town/city:              | Milford              |

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Rostered  Youth (under 18)

Lay Female  Young Adult (18-30)

Lay Male  Person of Color/non-English primary language  Non-English Primary Language

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

|  |
|--|
| <p>I have been on this committee for several years and have chaired it for the last three years.</p> |
|--|

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I seek to serve the synod's needs in some capacity, but don't feel as though I have a lot of extra time needed to commit to most of the positions needed. I feel I have the time to commit to the needs of this particular committee. I enjoy connecting with leadership across the synod. I don't mind extended periods of awkward silence after asking for a significant commitment.

**APPENDIX A – WESTERN IOWA SYNOD  
CONFERENCES**

The six (6) conferences in the synod are listed below and include the following congregations and Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities (SAWC):

**Winds of Hope Conference (30 congregations)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× In Lyon County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immanuel (George)</li> <li>2. Bethlehem (Inwood)</li> <li>3. Immanuel (Rock Rapids)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Osceola County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. American (Melvin)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Sioux County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. American (Hawarden)</li> <li>2. Our Savior’s (Rock Valley)</li> <li>3. Hope (Sioux Center)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In O'Brien County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grace (Pringhar)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Clay County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bethany (Spencer)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Plymouth County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immanuel (Akron)</li> <li>2. St. John (Akron)</li> <li>3. St. Peter (Brunsville)</li> <li>4. St. John (Craig)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Christ (Le Mars)</li> <li>6. Living Faith (Le Mars)</li> <li>7. St. John (Merrill)</li> <li>8. St. Paul (Merrill)</li> <li>9. St. Paul (Remsen)</li> <li>× In Cherokee County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bethlehem (Cherokee)</li> <li>2. Faith (Marcus)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Buena Vista County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our Savior’s (Albert City)</li> <li>2. St. John (Albert City)</li> <li>3. Trinity (Alta)</li> <li>4. Trinity (Linn Grove)</li> <li>5. Grace (Marathon)</li> <li>6. Nain (Newell)</li> <li>7. Immanuel (Rembrandt)</li> <li>8. Our Saviors (Rembrandt)</li> <li>9. First (Sioux Rapids)</li> <li>10. St. Mark (Storm Lake)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|---|

\*\*\*\*\*

**Seeds of Faith Conference (20 congregations)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× In Dickinson County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First (Milford)</li> <li>2. Grace (Spirit Lake)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Emmet County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nazareth (Armstrong)</li> <li>2. Estherville (Estherville)</li> <li>3. Trinity (Estherville)</li> <li>4. United (Ringsted)</li> <li>5. Wallingford (Wallingford)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Palo Alto County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bethany (Emmetsburg)</li> <li>2. Bethel (Graettinger)</li> <li>3. Lost Island (Ruthven)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× In Kossuth County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First (Algona)</li> <li>2. St Paul (Lakota)</li> <li>3. Good Hope (Titonka)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Winnebago County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immanuel (Forest City)</li> <li>2. Zion (Rake)</li> <li>3. Bethany (Thompson)</li> </ul> </li> <li>× In Hancock County –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First (Britt)</li> <li>2. St. John (Corwith)</li> <li>3. Immanuel (Titonka)</li> <li>4. St. John’s (Woden)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|--|

\*\*\*\*\*

**Living Waters Conference (14 congregations)**

- × In Woodbury County –
  1. Trinity (Menville)
  2. Augustana (Sioux City)
  3. First (Sioux City)
  4. Riverside (Sioux City)
  5. St. John (Sioux City)
  6. St. Luke (Sioux City)
  7. St. Mark (Sioux City)
  8. Trinity (Sioux City)
- 9. United Lutheran (Sioux City)
- × In Monona County –
  1. Faith (Onawa)
  2. Soldier (Soldier)
- × In Ida County –
  1. St. Paul Evangelical (Holstein)
- × In Crawford County –
  1. Bethel (Kiron)
- × In Sac County –
  1. Faith (Odebolt)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hands of Hope Conference (18 congregations)**

- × In Pocahontas County –
  1. St. Peter (Pocahontas)
- × In Calhoun County –
  1. Augustana Evangelical (Manson)
  2. St. Paul Evangelical (Manson)
  3. St. John (Pomeroy)
  4. St. Paul's (Rockwell City)
- × In Humboldt County -
  1. Our Saviour's (Humboldt)
- × In Webster County –
  1. Emanuel (Dayton)
  2. Christ (Fort Dodge)
  3. Grace (Fort Dodge)
  4. St. Olaf (Fort Dodge)
- 5. The Church of the Damascus Road (Fort Dodge)
- 6. Zion (Gowrie)
- 7. Faith (Harcourt)
- 8. Fulton (Moorland)
- 9. South Enes (Vincent)
- × In Wright County –
  - (none)
- × In Hamilton County –
  1. Trinity (Webster City)
- × In Boone County –
  1. Trinity (Boxholm)
- × In Sac County –
  1. Emanuel-St. John (Lytton)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rivers of Grace Conference (17 congregations)**

- × In Monona County –
  1. Bethesda (Moorhead)
- × In Harrison County –
  1. St John (Dunlap)
  2. St. Paul (Missouri Valley)
- × In Pottawattamie County –
  1. Emanuel (Council Bluffs)
  2. Our Savior's (Council Bluffs)
  3. South Sudanese Thanksgiving (Council Bluffs)
  4. St. John (Council Bluffs)
  5. St. Paul (Treyner)
  6. Underwood (Underwood)
- × In Carroll County –
  1. St. John (Carroll)
  2. Ascension (Coon Rapids)
- × In Audubon County –
  1. Ebenezer (Audubon)
  2. Exira (Exira)
- × In Cass County –
  1. St. Paul's (Atlantic)
  2. Faith (Griswold)
- × In Greene County –
  1. Christ (Jefferson)
- × In Adair County –

(none)
- × In Mills County –
  1. St. John (Mineola)
- × In Guthrie County –

(none)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Abundant Fields Conference (10 congregations)**

- × In Fremont County –
  1. St. Paul (Northboro)
  2. St. John's (Essex)
  3. Emmanuel (Shenandoah)
- × In Montgomery County –
  1. Fremont (Essex)
  2. Bethlehem (Red Oak)
  3. Mamrelund (Stanton)
  4. Tabor (Stanton)
  5. Strand (Villisca)
- × In Page County –
  1. Bethesda (Clarinda)
- × In Adams County –

(none)
- × In Taylor County –

(none)
- × In Union County –
  1. Salem (Creston)
- × In Ringgold County –

(none)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Rostered Leaders & Congregations Anniversary Report 2026

### Word and Sacrament:

#### 5 Years:

Rev. Denise Berns  
Rev. Anna Wolf

#### 10 Years:

Rev. Zechariah Anderson

#### 15 Years:

Rev. Charles Meyer  
Rev. Ben Worley

#### 20 Years:

Rev. Cynthia Johnson

#### 25 Years:

Rev. Elizabeth Pfeifle

#### 30 Years:

Rev. Jane Johnston  
Rev. Daniel Kahl  
Rev. Jean Morse

#### 35 Years:

Rev. Inba Inbarasu  
Rev. David Keschull

#### 40 Years:

Rev. Craig Miller

#### 45 Years:

Rev. Thomas Hagen  
Rev. C. Peter Maisenbach

#### 50 Years:

Rev. James Berka  
Rev. Julian Swanson

#### 55 Years:

Rev. Frederick Jordan

#### 60 Years:

Rev. Harvey Hanson  
Rev. James Quitno

#### 65 Years:

Rev. Stanley Peterson

### Word and Service:

#### 15 Years:

Deacon Mary Collmann

### Congregational Anniversaries

#### 100 Years:

Zion Lutheran, Rake

#### 150 Years:

Our Savior's Lutheran, Council Bluffs  
St. John's Lutheran, Essex  
St. John Lutheran, Sioux City

## 2026 Assembly Roster Update

June 2, 2025 to April 10, 2026

### Pastors New to the Western Iowa Synod

| <u>Name</u>                   | <u>From</u>                  | <u>To</u>   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Rev. Gary Panko               | Nebraska Synod               | Western Iowa Synod - Retired                              |
| Rev. Melissa Pickering        | Northwestern Minnesota Synod | Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM), Western Iowa Synod |
| Rev. Beverly Rautenberg-Panco | Nebraska Synod               | Western Iowa Synod - Retired                              |
| Rev. Drew Riter               | South Dakota Synod           | Immanuel, Rock Rapids & Immanuel, George                  |
| Rev. Jacqueline Ziemer        | Southeastern Minnesota Synod | Trinity, Estherville                                      |

### Western Iowa Synod Pastors Accepting Calls Within Synod

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>From</u>                      | <u>To</u>                             |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rev. Chip Borgstadt  | St. John, Mineola (Interim)      | Mamrelund, Stanton (Interim)          |
| Rev. C. Alan Cummins | St. Paul, Remsen & Faith, Marcus | Bethlehem, Cherokee                   |
| Rev. Scott Dalen     | Underwood, Underwood             | Bishop, Western Iowa Synod            |
| Rev. Jay Denne       | Faith, Griswold (Interim)        | Faith, Griswold (Called)              |
| Rev. Scott Egbers    | On Leave                         | First, Sioux City                     |
| Rev. Rod Hopp        | Immanuel, Forest City            | First, Algona                         |
| Rev. Inba Inbarasu   | On Leave                         | Bethlehem, Red Oak & Fremont, Red Oak |

### Western Iowa Synod Ordinations

| <u>Name</u>              | <u>To</u>            |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Rev. Jessie Fritz-Rapsch | St. Mark, Sioux City |
| Rev. Cecilia Mickells    | St. John's, Essex    |

### Western Iowa Synod Pastors Accepting Calls in Other Synods

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>From</u>            | <u>To</u>               |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rev. Wayne Gallipo   | Retired                | Lower Susquehanna Synod |
| Deacon Eric Haitz    | Western Iowa Synod DEM | Nebraska Synod          |
| Rev. David Halaas    | Retired                | Minneapolis Area Synod  |
| Rev. Lorna Halaas    | Retired                | Minneapolis Area Synod  |
| Rev. Judith Johnson  | Retired                | Northeastern Iowa Synod |
| Rev. Kristine Stedje | On Leave               | St. Paul Area Synod     |

### Western Iowa Synod Rostered Leaders Retiring/Disability

| <u>Name</u>         | <u>From</u>              |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Rev. E. Jon Benson  | St. John, Council Bluffs |
| Rev. David Halaas   | St. Mark, Sioux City     |
| Rev. Lorna Halaas   | Western Iowa Synod       |
| Rev. Judith Johnson | American, Melvin         |
| Rev. Tonna Parsons  | First, Sioux Rapids      |

### Western Iowa Synod Rostered Leaders On Leave From Call

| <u>Name</u>                      |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rev. Eric Alm                    |                               |
| Deacon Lynn Egesdal              |                               |
| Rev. Joy Gonnerman (study leave) | United Seminary at Gettysburg |
| Rev. David Grindberg             |                               |
| Rev. Kristie Hackbart            |                               |
| Rev. Ben McIntire (study leave)  | Medical Residency in Omaha    |

### Death of Rostered Leaders

Rev. Paul Bengtson  
Rev. Ronald Nelson  
Rev. Brian Palmer