

Resolution Concerning Restoring Pre-2009 Churchwide Assembly Policies

Action: The Assembly voted not to consider this resolution on the basis that the congregation which submitted the resolution has voted to leave the ELCA and affiliate with another denomination in the time since the resolution was submitted.

Resolution Concerning Conventional Farming

Action: Passed with amendments.

By this resolution, the Western North Dakota Synod of the ELCA voices its strong support of, and solidarity with, farmers and ranchers in their responsible use of modern science and technology in producing the safest and most abundant supply of food and fiber in the world; and memorializes the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to do the same by adopting this same resolution.

Thank You . . .

Assembly Offerings

Friday Worship: \$4,691.00 for ND Lutheran Campus Ministries

Friday Banquet: \$3,136 for our Badlands Ministries

Sweet Deal for C.A.R.: \$54,165+ (some congregations have notified us that additional donations will be arriving in the coming weeks)

Spring Box for Central African Republic: \$3,121

Mission Fest Silent Auction & Live Auction: \$13,640

Assembly Planning Team

East Missouri & Heart River Conference Churches for providing food for the Mission Fest.

Mission Fest Volunteers and Donors for gifts of items and time to support the ministry carried out by the Mission Trust Fund and Ministry Trust Fund.

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Pastor Nathan Keith for serving as our Assembly Chaplain.

Musicians for leading us all in joyous song.

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Bible Study Leaders & Rev. Ruben Duran

Voting Members for giving of your time and energy in carrying out the ministry of this synod on behalf of your congregations.



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Synod Assembly 2011: Brief Report of Actions

Assembly Theme: **Missionary Me!!!**

Lutherans have an understanding that God has claimed us in baptism and gifted each of us. These God-given gifts are meant to be used for the sake of our neighbor. This year's assembly theme, Missionary Me, flowed out of that understanding of baptism.

Participants dug into scripture together, led in Bible study by four of our first call pastors: Rev. Renee Splichal Larson of Heart River Lutheran Church of Mandan, Rev. JT Burk of Beach Lutheran Parish, Rev. Pauline Crowder of the Bowdon Bremen Concordia Lutheran Parish, & Rev. Craig Schweitzer of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Bismarck.

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What is a missionary? A simple definition is one who carries the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. A Missionary does their work through the words they speak and through their actions. It is through these words and actions that we witness or testify to our faith in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Bible Study, participants were asked, "What prevents us from being a missionary or what might be excuses to not live out discipleship and mission. Are we terrified that we are carriers of the Gospel?" This question comes with responsibility, but also with great joy and excitement. God has a great purpose in sending us.

Missionary Me.

Calling all Ordinary People . . . Who is a missionary? A missionary is an ordinary person living out each day who God calls him or her to be. The ordinary places of our lives are the places where God calls us to live into and live out his mission. It is into this life, this missionary life that Jesus calls us, ordinary, everyday people, people from all walks of life, discovered and called by Jesus to bear Jesus' word and continue Jesus' mission.

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hands and voices one Sunday - baking muffins for their neighbors, painting, raking and serving various agencies, providing music at area nursing homes, cooking an appreciation meal for local emergency personnel, and much more. Ordinary people, in ordinary places, doing ordinary things.

Who is a missionary? WE ARE!

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God's mission is centered in God's promise for us. Jesus comes to us first, often by surprise in ordinary places, crossing all kinds of boundaries to meet us and presenting us with an astonishing gift. His life-giving promises grow trust in us, so that we are set free and then moved to do mission. The promise of Christ, the delight in Christ, bursts in upon us and propels us forth to tell others the story of what Christ has done. Missionary Me? Absolutely!

Throughout the assembly stories of amazing grace were told and acts of generosity happened that enabled and will go on to enable God's mission and ministry to be done locally and globally. Our assembly chaplain, Rev. Nathan Keith reminded us that faith comes from what is heard, seen, and experienced.

Thursday, before the assembly even began, participants gathered at a pre-assembly workshop to be inspired in discussion and bible study with Rev. Ruben Duran, ELCA Director of New Evangelizing Congregations, who reminded us that God is at loose in the world, already at work, inviting us to come alongside and join God's mission that is already in process—a theme that he built on in enthusiastic presentations throughout the assembly.

Before the assembly started on Thursday and again Friday afternoon, other assembly-goers put their bodies to work at sandbagging sites in Bismarck/Mandan, assisting in flood –relief efforts.

Workshops and displays offered resources to equip folks for ministry and shared ideas about existing ministries that others can partner in. Musicians from Heart River Lutheran in Mandan and Trinity Lutheran of Bremen & Concordia of Fessenden provided inspiration for mission through the gift of music.

On Saturday morning, participants dispersed to Services of Blessing throughout Bismarck/Mandan, gathering to pray God's blessing upon the places and varied vocations of those who live and serve our host community.

Missionary WE!

Through prayer and relationship, God connects us to one another. Our unity comes to us as gift and it is in this unity that we serve as missionaries for Christ with our brothers and sisters. Not individually, but in community. God did great work through this gathering of churches together.

The community gathered for a Mission Fest at Trinity Lutheran Church, enjoying music, food and a silent auction to benefit the synod's Ministry Trust Fund and Mission Trust Fund. The Ministry Trust Fund provides scholarships and debt relief grants to seminarians and first-call pastors. The Mission Trust Fund will provide seed grants to congregations for mission projects in their local and global communities. Between the silent auction and the live auction that took place during the Friday evening banquet, **\$13,640 was raised to be divided evenly between Ministry Trust Fund & Mission Trust Fund.**

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