



# THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA  
SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



## 2016 SYNOD ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

The 2016 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly took place on May 6-7 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. Voting members from congregations across the synod came together for the two-day gathering. The event's theme this year was "We are Church Together for the Sake of the World."

### FRIDAY, MAY 6 HIGHLIGHTS:

- The assembly began with worship led by Bishop Steve Delzer and Dianna Parks. Friday evening concluded with a time of prayer.
- Peggy Hahn, Executive Director of LEAD, shared about what it means to be a remarkable congregation.
- Churchwide representative Mikka McCracken highlighted the inspiring work being done throughout the ELCA.
- Rev. Dr. Jim Martin-Schramm, Professor of Religion at Luther College, spoke about the intersections of faith and climate change.
- Terrence Hassanally, chair of the synod's Development Council, shared updates on Leading Together.
- Dr. Allan Bieber presented a report on the churchwide initiative "Called Forward Together in Christ."
- Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto led a Bible study highlighting the Gospel of Luke which included kitchen table conversation with Rev. Hannah Bergstrom de Leon and Bishop Delzer.

### SATURDAY, MAY 6 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Saturday morning worship was led by Rev. Tammy Dahlvang, Rev. Corrine Haulotte, and

- Kelly Bergman.
- Saturday morning provided participants the opportunity to choose from eight engaging workshops.
- Rev. Dr. Barreto presented part two of the Bible study.
- Organizational reports were given and awards presented.
- Bishop Delzer shared his annual Report to the Assembly highlighting the synod's mission statement and top three priorities.
- Jeff Chestnut was elected as synod treasurer.
- Elections took place for a variety of synod positions.
- The 2017 synod budget was passed.

Five resolutions were passed at the Synod Assembly including:

- Resolution 2016-1: Loving Our Muslim Neighbors as Ourselves
- Resolution 2016-3: Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines
- Resolution 2016-4: Thanksgiving for Military Personnel, Veterans, and their Families
- Resolution 2016-5: Dissolution of The Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota
- Resolution 2016-6: Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

Resolution 2016-2 was tabled indefinitely. Copies of all the resolutions are available on the Synod Assembly portion of the synod website: <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2016>.

Videos of the assembly worship services, event speakers, and workshops are available on our synod Youtube channel at <http://bitly.com/semnyoutube>.

A special thanks to all who attended and served at the 2016 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly!