

# Synod Site Profile

## Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA




This is a resource for use in the calling of our next synod bishop who will be elected at the 2025 Synod Assembly on May 30-31, 2025.



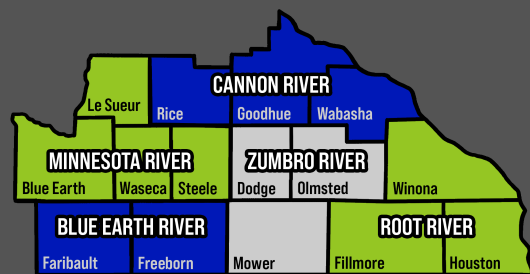
### OVERVIEW

In the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, we are Church in the world, partnering in ministry around the globe, knit together through the Holy Spirit. We are called to walk together, and we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are Church regionally as a synod, spanning many diverse landscapes, from large cities and rural settings, with big urban churches and small country parishes. We are Church locally, supporting the leadership in each of our ministry sites to encourage our members to follow Jesus into a changing world, thankful for God's work among us in the past, and hopeful for where God will lead us in the future. We are Church. Together. We are a Reconciling in Christ synod that, meeting in Assembly, has adopted an Affirmation of Welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

-  [semnsynod.org](http://semnsynod.org)
-  [facebook.com/semnsynod](https://facebook.com/semnsynod)
-  [@semnsynod](https://instagram.com/@semnsynod)

### GEOGRAPHY



### WE ARE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH ROSTERED & LAY LEADERS

As a synod we are fully committed to walking alongside congregational leaders as they shepherd the communities to which they have been called. We do this through, among other things, one-on-one support, council retreats, and leadership development. We support leaders exploring their sense of call to ordained ministry and lay leadership through formation, candidacy, and continuing education.

#### Rostered Minister Synod Statistics:

Total Rostered Ministers: 349  
Active: 159  
Retired: 190

### WE ARE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH CONGREGATIONS

We are 163 congregations with 98,242 baptized members serving 15 counties in southeastern Minnesota. We are organized into five conferences named for the rivers that flow within their boundaries.

Analysis of Attendance	2022	2023
Avg. # weeks congregations worshipped (onsite)	46	47
Avg. # weeks congregations worshipped (online)	30	30
Total avg. weekly worship attendance (on-site)	13,378	14,264
Total avg. weekly worship attendance (online)	8,036	8,967
Avg. att. per congregation (on-site)	85	90
Avg. att. per congregation (online)	80	90
Average att. as a percentage of baptized membership (on-site)	13.26	14.52
Average att. as a percentage of baptized membership (online)	7.97	9.13

### WE ACCOMPANY GLOBAL PARTNERS

Global ministry in our synod is rooted in the practice of accompaniment. We walk alongside three global companions in their ministry of education, health care, and congregational vitality impacting communities in Colombia, the Central Diocese of Tanzania, and South Sudan. We accompany three local South Sudanese worshiping communities in their ministry of worship, fellowship, and care for others. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is also committed to the local ministries of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants through Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) and hunger by facilitating education, engagement, and financial support through local grants that benefit our southern Minnesota communities. We partner with ELCA global mission initiatives, including the support of missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and ELCA World Hunger.

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP STAFF

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The office of the Bishop's staff currently includes the following positions:

- Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop for Generosity, Stewardship, & Financial Administration
- Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry
- Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Leadership, & Congregation Care
- Assistant to the Bishop for Call Process & Congregation Care
- Call Process & Roster Administrator
- Director of Communication
- Office Administrator
- Gifts Officer & Endowment Specialist – ELCA Foundation

The entire staff is coterminous with the bishop, and the configuration of the staff is determined primarily by the bishop.

## FUTURE FOCUS FOR OUR SYNOD

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The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council and staff continually review the future focus and priorities for how our synod boldly fulfills its role. Applying the most recent input from across our synod, we aspire to energetically pursue transformational sharing of the gospel throughout our communities. We are well-positioned for growth, expansion of ministries, and realization of positive missional impact.

The Bishop's role for this transformational context requires keen attention to leadership skills that deeply listen and observe, then harmoniously engage, empower, and connect people with a variety of talents and gifts. The most important personal qualities for the Bishop role, rooted in Christ, include wisdom and sound judgment, open-minded flexibility, and personal integrity.

Our priorities focus on being in relationship with the congregations and leaders of this synod. The synod accompanies congregations and leaders in transition, discernment, and daily discipleship—striving to create a culture where every member is walking together to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS

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The calling of the next synod bishop is a collective effort. All congregations are invited to participate. Learn more and get involved by visiting [semnsynod.org/BishopElection](https://semnsynod.org/BishopElection).

