

**Meet Bishop Hassanally:** Rev. Regina Hassanally has served as Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA since September of 2019. As bishop she delights in conversations with pastors and deacons, walking alongside congregational leaders, Sunday morning coffee hours, and imagining future possibilities. She believes in the power of God to transform lives and her ministry is focused on gospel proclamation. Prior to being called as bishop, Regina served a vibrant and lively congregation in rural southeastern Minnesota. While serving as a parish pastor, she loved preaching, teaching confirmation, and, along with her congregation, exploring Scripture as they discerned together the ways the Spirit was at work for the sake of God's glory in the world. Regina has a B.A. in Biology Health Professions from Northwestern College, Orange City, IA, and a Master of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary in Wayne, PA. She is married to Terrence, an avid Manchester United fan, and together they parent four active boys who have no trouble finding adventure.



## Meet the Office of the Bishop Staff:



**Cheryse Brenno**

Call Process & Roster Administrator

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**Rev. Emily Carson**

Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, Cultivator of a Culture of Generosity and Care



**Rev. Matt Larson**

Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Leadership, and Congregation Care

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**Rev. Barb Streed**

Assistant to the Bishop for Call Process and Congregation Care

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**Tharan Leopold**

Gifts Officer & Endowment Specialist – ELCA Foundation

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## Be in the Loop:

There are various ways to stay connected, including email! We urge everyone to join our weekly email list called the **RC Weekly**. All rostered leaders should receive the **Monthly Memo** email September through June. Finally, the list for the synod's **Faith Formation Network** is open to anyone interested in Faith Formation meetings and updates.

**Scan the QR code to join now!** (Or visit: [semnsynod.org/RCW](http://semnsynod.org/RCW))



**HOT TIP:** Add the following email address to your contacts list to decrease odds that messages get caught in spam filters: [communications@semnsynod.org](mailto:communications@semnsynod.org)

**A few things you should know about the**

# Southeastern Minnesota Synod

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



**The mission of our synod:  
To walk together proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of over **98,200** baptized people in **165** congregations. It is one of the **65** synods that make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The synod includes **two** synod-authorized worshipping communities (SAWCs), **three** campus ministries, **one** camp, and many South Sudanese worshippers.

**Find the office in-person...**

*(But make an appointment before visiting!)*

418 Sumner Street E, Suite 200  
Northfield, MN 55057

Office phone: (507)280-9457

**...and online!**

[www.SEMNSynod.org](http://www.SEMNSynod.org)

Facebook and Instagram:

[@semnsynod](https://www.instagram.com/semnsynod)

[YouTube.com/c/SoutheasternMinnesotaSynod](https://www.youtube.com/c/SoutheasternMinnesotaSynod)

# Synod means “to walk together.”

The three expressions of the ELCA are congregations and specialized ministries, synods, and the churchwide organization. The synod consists of congregations, groups, leaders, and members. Our domestic partner synod is the New England Synod. Our global partners include Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - Central Diocese (ELCT-CD), and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Africa – Mission in South Sudan (ELCA-MSS).

**The Office of the Bishop is one part of the synod.** It exists to accompany congregations and leaders, serve as a bridge between worshipping communities and the churchwide organization, and equip and empower the people in our communities as they proclaim the gospel of Jesus.

## The Five Conferences:

Blue Earth River Conference  
Cannon River Conference  
Minnesota River Conference  
Root River Conference  
Zumbro River Conference



Each conference serves to cultivate relationships between congregations, provide a community for ministry leaders, select representatives to synod boards and committees, and create workgroups in alignment with the mission of the synod. Each holds monthly meetings and annual conference assemblies. Officers are also elected to represent each conference. Learn more at: [semnsynod.org/conferences](http://semnsynod.org/conferences).

## Call Process:

Pastoral transitions are inevitable and important times for both congregations and leaders. The Office of the Bishop will work with you during this journey to make it as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

The **four phases of the call process** for congregations are:

1. The Transition Process
2. The Self-Study Process
3. The Interview Process
4. Welcoming Your New Pastor



For downloadable resources, important links for rostered leaders, who to contact, and more, scan the QR code or go to [semnsynod.org/call](http://semnsynod.org/call).

## Candidacy:

Candidacy is the churchwide process of preparation and formation leading to approval for the public service in this church as a rostered **Minister of Word and Sacrament (Pastor)** or as a rostered **Minister of Word and Service (Deacon)**. Candidacy calls for active partnership between candidate, congregation, synod, seminary, and the Congregational and Synodical Mission (churchwide unit).

It is by Christ's gift that all baptized persons are called to ministry in daily life. The ELCA is committed to the intentional identification and recruitment of those persons who are so gifted by God that they can provide leadership in this church. Through a process of reflection and discernment, individuals are encouraged to consider whether they are called by God through the church to serve as a rostered minister.

For more information or to start a conversation, send a message to [candidacy@semnsynod.org](mailto:candidacy@semnsynod.org). You can also contact the Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Leadership, and Congregation Care or visit [semnsynod.org/candidacy](http://semnsynod.org/candidacy).

## Dates to Save:

Each year we hold various events, so mark your calendars now! Of course, just as the Spirit moves, our list of events is always subject to change. Check our online calendar regularly for upcoming events and details by visiting: [semnsynod.org/events](http://semnsynod.org/events).

### Reports to Synod Due

*\*Multiple reports from congregations and leaders*  
February 15

### Councils As Leaders

March 14, 2026

### Annual Synod Assembly

May 2, 2026

### Campus Ministry Sunday

Fall (date TBD), 2026

### Fall Theological Retreat

October 11-13, 2026

## Partner organizations:

These partner organizations are financially supported by the synod through mission support dollars.

**Luther Seminary, St. Paul**  
[luthersem.edu](http://luthersem.edu)

**Crossroads Campus Ministry, Mankato**  
[crossroadsatmnsu.org](http://crossroadsatmnsu.org)

**Good Earth Village, Spring Valley**  
[goodearthvillage.org](http://goodearthvillage.org)

**Minnesota Council of Churches, Minneapolis**  
[mnchurches.org](http://mnchurches.org)

**ELCA Region 3 Archives**  
[luthersem.edu/archives](http://luthersem.edu/archives)

**Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota**  
[lutheranadvocacymn.org](http://lutheranadvocacymn.org)

**Lutheran Campus Center, Winona**  
[lccwinona.com](http://lccwinona.com)

## And more:

This brief introduction to the synod isn't everything! Please see the staff positions on the back and visit our website for more on the many moving pieces of this synod.