



Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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DATE: January 18, 2018
TO: Congregational Leaders
FROM: Registrar: Anne Laechel (218.851.2214)
RE: Procedure for Registration,
Early Bird Registration Deadline: March 1, 2018



Assembly Highlights

- The theme of the 2018 Synod Assembly is *Living in God's Kingdom Changes Everything*. The Rev. Mark Tranvik, Professor of Religion and CCV Senior Fellow at Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN will be our keynote speaker. Our theme verse is Matthew 6:10.
- The Assembly will convene Friday, May 4, 2018 - Sunday, May 6, 2018 at Cragun's Resort, Brainerd MN.

How to Register

As a congregational leader, you are responsible for ensuring that you and your voting members are registered.

- Register online with the Synod for attendance at the Assembly. Two ticket types are available:
1) **Lodging at Cragun's**, for those who will also be registering for Lodging and Meals at Cragun's Resort, and 2) **Commuter**, for those who will be lodging at home or off-site. The Commuter ticket includes Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner banquet, Sunday breakfast, and a resort fee. The link to register online is <https://nemnsynod-sa2018.eventbrite.com/> If you don't have capabilities to do so online, please find someone in your congregation that can assist you or register for you. **You may also call Registrar Anne Laechel at 218.851.2214 for assistance.**
- Register online with Cragun's for Lodging and Meals using the link you will receive in the Assembly Registration confirmation email.
- All attendees, including visitors, must register to receive a nametag. A nametag is required for admittance to the Plenary Hall/Sports Centre.
- When registering for Synod Assembly, some congregation members are unsure what their voting status is. Congregation Members who are attending as voting members on behalf of their church should register as "Voting Member - Lay," "Lay" meaning someone is not rostered, ordained or a member of the clergy.

Deadlines and Fees

Early Bird Registration for the Assembly is \$90 on or before March 1. Late Registration after March 2 is \$95. All attendees must complete the Synod Assembly registration form online at <https://nemnsynod-sa2018.eventbrite.com>. The registration deadline is April 4. Please contact the Registrar with any substitutions, to help avoid issues at check-in.

Lodging and Meals

- If you plan to register for Lodging and Meals at Cragun's Resort, please follow the registration link that you will receive in the confirmation message after you register for the Synod Assembly. Cost for Lodging and Meals at Cragun's is \$198.25 for double-occupancy and \$323.62 for single-occupancy.
- **Voting members age 18 and under must be housed according to the synod housing policy for youth.** This policy will be available on the Synod website, along with other registration information.
- Additional tickets for the Saturday evening Dinner Banquet are available for \$25 each by contacting Kathy Wimer in the Synod office.
- The Commuter Meetings & Meals package is \$90 per person. This amount is included in the Commuter registration price.
- There is no option for Commuting-No Meals because the Meetings & Meals package includes a resort fee for use of the facilities. *For individuals with dietary restrictions (vegetarian, gluten-free, other), please note your dietary restrictions in the space on the Synod registration form and Cragun's will contact you for further details.*
- For those considering lodging at another local hotel, please remember that the Cragun's rate includes four meals, which would have to be purchased separately at the Commuter rate. Comparable local hotels have a double-occupancy rate of \$250-\$360 for 2 people for two nights.
- **Friday Dinner Update** - Cragun's Resort Dining Room will be open Friday evening for dinner before the Assembly, serving a Taco Bar w/ seasoned beef & chicken, Spanish rice, refried beans, corn w/ black beans, hard & soft shells, assorted taco toppings, assorted cookies, coffee, tea or water. *If lodging at Cragun's, pre-order your ticket using the Cragun's Resort registration link. If commuting, pre-order your ticket on the Synod Assembly registration form.*

Assembly Materials

- The **Bulletin of Reports**, which includes the agenda, election information, resolutions, and other materials will all be available at <http://www.nemnsynod.org/2018-synod-assembly.html> approximately April 1. Please be certain that you, your voting members, and any others attending from your congregation **have read these materials before the Assembly and have printed out materials necessary to have in hand at the Assembly.**
- **Check out our Synod Assembly app from Guidebook.com**, which will feature the Bulletin of Reports, agenda, maps of the Conference Center, and more. While at the Assembly, we encourage you to connect with other Assembly-goers with through Facebook and Twitter at #NEMNSA. Information about how to access the app will be available at the Synod Website after April 1.

Entitled to Vote

According to the Northeastern Minnesota Synod constitution: *"a minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to the synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members."* *"All congregations having more than 500 confirmed members, shall be entitled to elect an additional voting member for each additional 500 confirmed members or major fraction thereof."* The following churches are allowed more than two lay voting members:

First, Aitkin (3)	Good Shepherd, Duluth (3)	Immanuel, Princeton (3)
Lord of Life, Baxter (3)	St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids (3)	Trinity, Princeton (3)
Trinity, Brainerd (4)	Zion, Grand Rapids (3)	Bethlehem, Two Harbors (3)
Zion, Cloquet (3)	Our Savior's, Hibbing (3)	Hope, Walker (3)
Crosslake, Crosslake (3)	Church of the Cross, Nisswa (3)	
First, Duluth (4)	Our Redeemer, Pine City (3)	

Constitution Notes

S14.21. *“All ordained ministers and associates in ministry under call who are unable to attend the Assembly are to secure an excuse from the bishop in advance. In our synod, all retired rostered personnel have voice and vote.”*

S6.04.B09. *“It is the goal of this synod that at least 10% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly...be youth and young adults...the term ‘youth’ means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term ‘young adult’ means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.”*

Changes/Alternates

Please inform the Registrar of a change in voting members immediately. The 2018 Proposed Rules and Procedures state: *“Voting members for each congregation shall be the same person for the three (3) business days of the Assembly. The vote is not transferable to an alternate or other person after the opening of the first plenary session Friday. An alternate not listed on the registration rolls must have a letter of authorization from their congregational officer or pastor in order to be registered as an official voting member.”*

Assemblyships

\$100 Assemblyships are available for: **1) those congregations in need of financial assistance**, who would not otherwise be able to send voting members to the Assembly due to the financial burden; **2) retired rostered leaders** to assist in meeting the expenses of attending the Assembly; **3) congregations sending a new youth voting member** to attend the Synod Assembly. Ten Assemblyships will be given to each of the three groups. Submit written requests for Assemblyships to the synod office, attention Kathy Wimer, **no later than March 30th**. Assemblyships are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other Information

- On-site registration is Friday, May 4 from 2:00-5:00 pm in the lobby at the Resort. After 5:00 pm registration moves to the Exercise Room outside of the Sports Centre.
- On-site childcare will not be available, but a Kid’s Zone with space for young children and their parents will be set up in the back of the Plenary Hall. To help us know how many to plan for, please include the names and ages of the children on the Synod Assembly registration form.