

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2019 NE MN Synod Assembly

### **When/Where is the Synod Assembly?**

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), in Duluth MN.

### **How do I register for the Assembly?**

- Register online at <https://nemnsynod-sa2019.eventbrite.com> If you don't have capabilities to register 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.
- 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 Female or Lay Male." "Lay" means someone who is not rostered, ordained or a member of the clergy.

### **Do I have to bring my printed ticket to the event?**

No, you do not need to bring your printed ticket.

### **Is it ok if the name on my ticket or registration doesn't match the person who attends?**

We pre-print your nametag, so to reduce delays at check-in, please contact the Registrar if the name of the person who was registered is different from the person who will be attending.

### **I will be paying by check. How do I note that on my registration, and where do I mail the check to?**

The default payment method is "Pay by Debit/Credit Card". To change, click on the words "Pay by Debit/Credit Card" under Payment information, and change to "Pay by Check". Checks should be made payable to "NE MN Synod" and mailed to NE MN Synod, ELCA, 1105 E Superior St. Upper Suite, Duluth MN 55802

### **What is included in my Registration Fee?**

Your \$200 Registration fee pays for the Keynote Speaker, workshop leaders, activities and materials (handouts, nametags, coffee break), and use of the Convention Center. For individuals attending the full Assembly, your registration fee also includes lunch on Saturday, and the Saturday evening dinner banquet. For non-voting members attending the Saturday keynote presentations and workshops, your \$40 registration fee includes lunch on Saturday.

### **Why would additional non-voting members want to attend this Assembly?**

Our Keynote and workshops presenters are from ELCA Global Missions and it promises to be an energizing, fun and informative weekend. Workshop options include: Cross-generational Engagement, Conversations on Faith & Migration, Global Relationships (including our Companion Synod Relationships with Russia, Honduras & India), Social Action and Advocacy, World Hunger, and Engaging One Another Missionally to become a Multicultural Church. Check out this video for more information: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug91FDowX\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug91FDowX_w) [Glocal Gatherings at ELCA Synod Assemblies]

### **Where do I go to check in when I arrive for the Assembly?**

Check in will be held in the Registration area outside of the Edmund Fitzgerald Exhibit Hall. Enter the City Side Convention Center through Entrance B, go down the ramp to the left toward the Exhibit Hall, and we'll be on the left. Assembly check-in starts on Friday at 2:00 pm. A map of the DECC site is included in the Registration mailing, or you can check it out here: <https://decc.org/wp-lib/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/decc-site-plan.pdf> A map of the interior of the DECC will be included in the Pre-Assembly packet.

### **I need a place to stay while I'm in town for the Assembly. Any suggestions?**

You are responsible for making your own housing arrangements. There are many lodging options in the Duluth area. Visit <https://www.visitduluth.com/lodging/hotels/> to see what is available. For your convenience, the NE MN Synod has contracted with the following hotels for a special group rate. **The prices listed are per room for a two-night stay.** Deadline to make your reservations at these rates is **April 3, 2019.**

- Comfort Suites Canal Park – 218-727-1378 – 408 Canal Park Drive, Duluth
  - One King Bed, City View - \$159 plus tax
  - One King Bed, Lake View - \$179 plus tax
  - Two Queen Beds, City View - \$159 plus tax
  - Two Queen Beds, Lake View - \$179 plus tax

- Holiday Inn & Suites – 218-722-1202 – 200 W 1<sup>st</sup> St, Duluth
  - Standard Room - \$134 plus tax
  - King Suite, Two Bed Suite, Executive Level Room - \$184 plus tax
  - Additional rooms types are an additional cost.

### **Parking**

Parking at the DECC is \$5 paid daily upon arrival. You will receive a ticket for re-entry that's valid until midnight of that day. Purchase your ticket at the Parking Booth on your way in. Accessible parking spaces are available on the surface lot near Entrance B (City Side Convention Center) and Entrance E (AMSOIL Arena). Additional accessible spaces are available in the ramp on all levels. The elevator is located in the northeast corner of the ramp. The elevator transports guests to the ground floor or to the skywalk level (3rd level) of the ramp that connects directly to the DECC and Marcus Duluth Theatre. Guests are encouraged to drop off individuals with accessibility needs at their event entrance and then park. Elevators are located at entrances B, E & F.

### **I'd rather not pay for parking. Is there a shuttle bus?**

Some of the local hotels do offer a shuttle service between the hotel and the DECC. Please contact the hotel to ask if they offer that service.

### **Will the Camps be hosting a Camp Café again?**

Catering restrictions at the DECC mean that the Camps will not be hosting their regular Camp Café. Regular and decaf coffee and water will be available outside the Lake Superior Ballroom/Plenary Hall during the entire Assembly. Vending machines are available throughout the DECC. The Camps will be hosting a Saturday Reception, location pending.

### **What about Friday Night's Brew with the Bishop?**

Bishop Tom will be hosting a Reception on Friday evening, in the Edmund Fitzgerald Exhibit Hall. Due to the above-mentioned catering restrictions, he will not be providing his own home brew, but a Cash Bar will be open. Come for a time of fun, fellowship and a spin around the display area. We will again be having a prize drawing for those who visit the displays during the Reception.

### **I'd like to have a table in the Display area. Who should I contact?**

Pr. Kim Sturtz is the Display coordinator. She can be reached at [pastorsturtzge@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsturtzge@gmail.com). There is a cost of \$30 per table, with additional cost if you need access to an electrical outlet.

### **What about kids? Can I bring my children with?**

Yes! Child care will not be provided, but we will have a child friendly area with some toys and comfortable chairs in the back of the Plenary Hall. You are welcome to bring your child's favorite quiet toy(s) with as well.

### **The Quilt Auction/Marketplace are my favorite parts of the Assembly. Where will they be?**

The Quilts will be displayed in the City Side Convention Center Lobby, many of them over the handrails overlooking the Lobby. It is quite the sight. The Marketplace will be held in the French River Rooms, at the top of the escalators, across from the Lake Superior Ballroom/Plenary Hall.

### **Anything else I should know?**

- The DECC is committed to environmental stewardship, so they have bins available for paper, plastic and other recyclables. To help reduce paper waste, please plan to bring a travel coffee mug or water bottle with you to the Assembly. Special water fountains are available for you to refill a water bottle.
- The Prayer Room, a quiet space for prayer and contemplation, will be in the St. Louis River Room.
- If you're a first-time attendee (or just want a refresher course), Parliamentarian Pr. Rollie Bockbrader will be holding a voting member orientation on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> before the start of the Assembly. Time to be announced.
- Seating in the Plenary Hall will be separated by Conference. Please look for the tables marked with your Conference name (Your conference will be printed on your nametag).

### **Who can I contact if I have additional questions?**

Contact Registrar Anne Laechel at [anne.laechel@gmail.com](mailto:anne.laechel@gmail.com) or 218-851-2214 (please leave a message), or Kathy Wimer in the Synod Office at [kathy.wimer@nemnsynod.org](mailto:kathy.wimer@nemnsynod.org) or 218-724-4424 ext 126.