



A Pocket Guide

to the

Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.nemnsynod.org

Quick Facts about the Synod

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod is one of 65 synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; one of nine synods in Region 3. The territory of the synod is comprised of 13 counties in northeastern Minnesota that are divided into five conferences:

Lake Superior: 30 congregations

The Rev. Peter R. Kowitz, Dean (218.240.1660)

Laurentian: 26 congregations

The Rev. Kevin Olson, Dean (218.263.7422)

Living Waters: 19 congregations

The Rev. Judy Gustafson, Dean (218.675.6335)

Heartland: 36 congregations

The Rev. Jake Dyrhaug, Dean (320-632-6667)

Kettle River: 21 congregations

The Rev. Brenda Wicklund, Dean (320.384.6393)

Total congregations: 132

Baptized Members: 58,723

Rostered Personnel: 232

Synodical Budget (2018): \$1,140,700

Regular Giving by Members (2017): \$20,698,006

Average giving per confirmed member: \$563.94

Synodical Organizations

Synod Council: Serves as the synod's board of directors between synod assemblies. Made up of the officers of the synod, five laypersons, five clergy and five at-large members.

Synod Vice President: Mrs. Brenda Wagner; 218.246.3179

Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO): Works with the synod Coordinator of Youth Ministry to provide leadership and support for Middle School Gatherings, Senior High Retreats, network for youth leaders and workers, and synod youth newsletters and resources.

Coord. of Youth Ministry: Catherine Anderson; 218.724.4424, ext. 124

Women of the ELCA - Synodical Organization: The Synodical Women's Organization assists congregational and intercongregational units to fulfill the purpose of Women of the ELCA. *As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.* www.nemnsynodwomen.org

Chairperson: Ms. Lynda Lochner; 320.360.1343

Partnership with Lay and Rostered Ministry

School of Lay Ministry: is an educational opportunity provided by the NE MN Synod to assist lay people in deepening their Christian identity and pursue lay rostered ministry or specialize in a particular ministry of the church. Ms. Sue Lyback, coordinator; 320-333-1894 .

Candidacy in Rostered Ministry: Individuals interested in pursuing education toward rostered ministry work closely with the synod Candidacy Committee. Those wishing to start this process may contact Pastor Amy Odgren, ext. 125.

Synod Vision Statement

Excerpt from Synod Vision Statement:

- That we will radically welcome the stranger.
- That we do long-term missional visioning, embracing risks and changes that may come, and reviewing annually.
- That we will come to love the question, "What needs to change in this congregation in order to live into God's mission?"

... So That:

- We will be a community that grows leaders – of all kinds!
- People will hear the gospel in a way that makes sense in their context
- Our church buildings serve as a tool for God's mission....

Full Vision Statement at www.nemnsynod.org

Our focus on Leadership Training & Faith Formation

The Discipleship Challenge:

Deepening our faith practices and developing leaders as we strive to follow and love like Jesus on a daily basis.

Discipleship is following Jesus in your everyday life

Faith Formation

Developing faith practices in our own life and with others, allows us to experience, grow and
BE in faith -
to follow and love like Jesus.



Leadership Development

Training and resources equip leaders with a framework for ministry that integrates faith practices into the life and ministries of the congregation.

Each month focuses on one of the Marks of Discipleship:

September: Introduction; October: Give; November: Invite December: Serve;
January: Study; February: Worship; March: Prayer; April: Encourage

Events for youth that build on the Discipleship Challenge:

- Middle School Gatherings
- Cardia Deo
- Synod Journey to the ELCA Youth Gathering

Synodical Contact Information

Address: Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
1105 E. Superior Street, Upper Suite
Duluth, MN 55802-2216

Office hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

On the Web: www.nemnsynod.org

Weekly *Online Reflections* News:

Editor: Anne Laechel; anne@lolbaxter.org
send email address to info@nemnsynod.org

Phone: 218.724.4424 **Fax:** 218.724.4393

Staff: The Rev. Thomas Aitken, Bishop, ext. 121
thomas.aitken@nemnsynod.org
The Rev. Amy Odgren, Director for Evangelical Mission
Assistant to the Bishop, ext. 125
amy.odgren@nemnsynod.org
Deacon Brenda Tibbetts, Assistant to the Bishop, ext. 122
brenda.tibbetts@nemnsynod.org
Catherine Anderson, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, ext. 124
catherine.anderson@nemnsynod.org
Kathy Wimer, Office Administrator, ext. 126
kathy.wimer@nemnsynod.org
Tammy Segel-Crilly, Communications/Office Support, ext. 127
tammy.segelcrilly@nemnsynod.org

Officers of the Synod:

Mrs. Rachel Berry, vice-president; 320.304.3647
Rev. Rolland Bockbrader, secretary; 218.727.1357
Mr. Ted Pfohl, treasurer; 320.260.8009

MN Statute 604.20. Administrator

Deacon Brenda Tibbetts; 218.724.4424, ext. 122

Congregational Constitution Review

Rev. Rolland Bockbrader; 218.727.1357

ELCA Resource Information Service; 800.638.3522

Portico Benefit Services; 800.352.2876