



**La Crosse Area Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's Work. Our Hands.

Rev. Jim Arends, Bishop  
 Rev. Elizabeth Howe, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant. to the Bishop

**2012 Synod Assembly -- June 8-10**  
 Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

February 2012  
*(copy as needed for each voting member)*



Dear Pastors and Lay Voting Members,

It is nearing the time of year when we gather together as a people of God in our Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2012. Lay and clergy members of each congregation take time out of their busy lives for this coming together. But this is a gathering different from typical gatherings for corporate entities of our business world. Our business is not only budgets and voting. Our business, as people of faith, includes worship, prayer, celebration, and Christian fellowship. We demonstrate and live a unity of purpose with our varied gifts and in spite of our varying ways of accomplishing the tasks set before us. We will also find ways to celebrate and lift up the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our synod, 1987 - 2012!

Expect many similarities to past assemblies. Expect refreshing changes. Participants are invited to be open to a spirit of celebration and renewal as we experience the theme,

***“GENEROUS Love - Generous Lives”***

**Important Info**

- Synod Assembly will be held at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, beginning Friday evening, June 8<sup>th</sup> with early registration, choir rehearsal, and evening worship.
- Plenary sessions begin Saturday morning and conclude with closing worship on Sunday afternoon, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration fees are paid by your congregation. Dorm rooms are available for voting members on Friday and Saturday night.
- There will be NO Youth Convo connected with Synod Assembly this year. Plans are being made for this event at another time of year.
- Registration information is available on our website home page – [www.lacrosseareasynod.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynod.org)

**Voting Members**

All congregations send their pastors to the Assembly as voting members. In addition, every congregation sends lay voting members according to this table:

<u>Baptized Members in Congregation</u>	<u>Lay Voting Members</u>
1 - 500	2
501 - 1000	3
1001 - 1500	4
1501 - 2000	5
2001 - 2500	6
2501 - 3000	7

- PLEASE NOTE: The Synod Council also invites each congregation to send, as a voting member to Assembly, a youth/young adult (confirmed youth up through age 24). This voting member can be IN ADDITION to the number of voting members allowed in the chart above.
- **Hopefully you were able to elect your lay voting members (and alternates) at your annual meeting.** Registration forms can be filled out online from our web site by the church office or by each individual. Please follow through to make sure each delegate is registered. See website home page for link . . . [www.lacrosseareasynd.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynd.org).

### Caucus Meetings

**It is necessary that each voting member attend the pre-assembly caucus meeting for your conference. See below for when the**

**caucus for your conference is scheduled.** The caucus meetings provide important preparation for assembly participants, allowing them to:

- Receive an Assembly book and other important information
- Hear the first reading of resolutions and the budget
- Participate in conference elections and nominations to the Assembly
- Serve as a communicator to your congregation about the upcoming Assembly

EAST CONFERENCE – Sun, Apr. 22, 3 pm, Peace, Tomah  
SOUTH CONFERENCE – Mon, Apr. 23, 7 pm, location TBD  
WEST CONFERENCE - Sun, Apr. 29, 3 pm, location TBD  
NORTH CONFERENCE – Sun, Apr. 29, 7 pm, location TBD

Watch Synod Updates and synod website home page ([www.lacrosseareasynd.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynd.org)) for caucus meeting locations.

### Guests

The assembly offers the chance to learn more about ministries that we, as members of the La Crosse Area Synod, either lead or support as part of the wider church.

Guests to our 2012 assembly include:

- Dave Skogen, Pres/CEO of Festival Foods, as keynote speaker,
- Mark Mummert, assembly musician, providing music for worship, plenary sessions, and leading a workshop. He is Dir. of Worship, choral conductor and organist at Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, and
- Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of Congregational and Synodical Mission, ELCA, who will provide the report from the ELCA, and lead a workshop.

We have a God in whose name we gather as we set about our calling --

***“GENEROUS Love - Generous Lives”***

All the members of the body are important – join us as we gather together to God’s glory.

Peace to you!

Cheryl Mader, Synod Vice President  
Co-Chair, Synod Assembly Planning Committee

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