



# ONE STORY: ALWAYS RE-FORMING

## 2016 Synod Assembly Summary

SOUTH-CENTRAL SYNOD OF WISCONSIN, ELCA

**Total Attendance: 382 Voting Members + 64 Visitors = 446 total**

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- Resolution #1: Establishment of an annual Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Sunday
- Resolution #2: U.S. Aid to State of Israel as a Tool for Peace
- Resolution #3: Memorial to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Regarding U.S. Aid to the State of Israel
- Resolution #4: Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment
- Resolution #5: Establishment of a Synod-wide Observance in Support of Lutheran Campus Ministries
- Resolution #6: In Support of Military Personnel, Veterans and Their Families
- Resolution #7: Requesting Changes to On-Leave-From-Call Policy for Rostered Leaders

### ELECTIONS

**By acclamation, the following were elected to Synod Council:** Jessica Guido (Lay Female); Rev. Kathy Jacobson (Clergy Female); Matthew Helmers (Lay Male)

### OFFERING

#### **Global Health Ministries (GHM) Kit In-gathering - 30 Congregations Participating**

Hospice Kits = **722**  
 Newborn Kits = **544**  
 Blankets = **91**  
 Rolled Bandages = **3,249**

*Special thanks to Ted and Jeff Sehmer for managing the transport of the kits to the GHM warehouse and to everyone that donated toward transportation costs.*

#### **Worship Offering** **\$7,611.67**

Designated to split equally between the South-Central Synod of WI Endowment Fund to be used for Outreach and Mission in our synod and the 2016 focus of the Campaign for the ELCA, Hunger and Poverty. \$7,611.67 was gathered (including **\$640.00** online)

#### **Special Music Brought Us Into the Presence of God!**

We were moved by the music of **Jonathan Rundman** who played throughout our assembly. Our assembly plenary time on Saturday was organized within the framework of worship where we Gathered with Morning Prayer. Then at noon, we reflected on the Word and we concluded the day in worship where we were Sent to serve. In addition, award-winning composer **Ben Johnston-Urey** and a fabulous orchestra and choir from Good Shepherd, Madison, breathed life into the Sunday celebration service. Ben & Caitlin Johnston-Urey wrote an original song, "May the Lord Bless You" as did Nancy Raabe, ALM, composer, who wrote, "The Spirit Led by Day." Bishop Eaton surprised us by joining in with the orchestra as a flautist! Visit the synod website for music details which will be posted soon! [www.scsw-elca.org/Events/SynodAssembly](http://www.scsw-elca.org/Events/SynodAssembly).



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

## 2016 Synod Assembly Summary

**Theme: "One Story: Always Re-Forming"**

**Synod Assembly 2016 Overview**

The annual synod assembly was held April 30 - May 1, 2016 at the Kalahari Convention Center - Wisconsin Dells, WI

Our synod gathered in Assembly around the theme: "One Story: Always Re-Forming." Our keynote speaker, ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, used her plenary time on Saturday to **LISTEN** to members of our assembly and asked the following questions:

- What is distinctive about our identity as a Lutheran church?
- What kind of church do we believe God is calling us to become?
- How do we become an inclusive, diverse church that is inspiring and relevant in different communities?
- What is God calling us to do in a world that is facing unprecedented levels of poverty, conflict and violence, inter-religious tension and massive displacement of people?
- What do we expect from our church leaders? And how do we recruit, invest in and support them to lead this church into the future?
- Will our current structures serve the church well into the future? How can we maintain strong local participation and ownership and, at the same time, achieve a connection to ELCA as one church?

On Sunday, Presiding Bishop Eaton invited us to **HEAR** and brought us the message during worship and then shared her impressions of how we are the church together in this time and place during her churchwide report. Bristol Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie was featured in her video!

This theme of *One Story: Always Re-Forming* was carried throughout the Assembly. We remained mindful of it during business sessions, in workshops, during mission moments and during the banquet program where we heard reflections from anniversary honorees, Rev. Roger Eigenfeld (50 yrs), Rev. Ron Nybroten (50 yrs), and Rev. Bud Buchheim (60 yrs).

### Engaging Breakouts

**Fourteen breakouts were offered** on both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning including: Intersections of Faith & Science, Mutual Ministry Teams, Our Changing Lutheran Identity, ELCA World Hunger; Around the World and Here at Home, Caring for Military Families, Faith & Climate Change, Wondering Creatively, Faith & the Arts, Disaster Planning & Your Congregation, Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles, Talking to Youth and Adult Church Members about Human Trafficking, the New Word and Service Roster, and Developing Your Planned Giving Story. All were engaging!

### **NEXT ASSEMBLY GATHERING**

Dates: April 29 - April 30, 2017

Location: Madison Marriott, Middleton, WI



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