



SYNOD ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

The Nebraska Synod of the ELCA met in Assembly on June 3-4, 2022 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE. There were 530 voting members present (170 rostered ministers and 360 lay members). Visitors joined in person and online via the live stream.

We gathered under the theme of 'Let Your Light Shine'. The theme verse was from Matthew 5:15-16. It was under this theme that we remembered and celebrated all that is made possible as God's people and through God's work with our hands, minds, hearts, and whole selves.

REV. SCOTT ALAN JOHNSON Bishop-Elect of the Nebraska Synod



Rev. Scott Alan Johnson of Fremont, Nebraska was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Nebraska Synod. Pastor Johnson was elected on the fifth ballot with 315 votes.

Johnson was born and raised in Nebraska and currently serves as the Director of Campus Ministries at Midland University.

Johnson will officially take office on September 1, 2022. He will be installed on September 24, 2022 at 1:00PM at First Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE. (3315 Avenue G, Kearney, NE 68847)

BISHOP MICHAEL RINEHART "What does it mean to plant a garden?"

Bishop Michael Rinehart from the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod joined the Nebraska Synod Assembly as our keynote speaker. Using the analogy of a garden, Bishop Mike explored what this new season of ministry could look like in our congregations.

He says "We have an opportunity now to rethink who we are as a people and as a church together."

Major themes of Bishop Mike's time included the importance of prayer, creating a culture of invitation, the value of listening, why we need to connect, the crucial need for healthy conflict management, and inviting our 'helpers'.





DR. LAWRENCE CHATTERS

"Every one of us is responsible for making a difference in this country"



Dr. Lawrence Chatters, the Executive Associate Athletic Director for Strategic Initiatives for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and member of the Nebraska Synod "Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" team, joined the Nebraska Synod Assembly as one of our keynote speakers.

Chatters shared stories about his life growing up in Nebraska and how faith has impacted his journey. Key points of his address included ideas for strengthening our communities, with major themes being forgiveness, advocacy, intentionality, truth, and humility. Chatters invited us to carry these themes with us as Huskers, Lutherans, and Nebraskans.

BISHOP BRIAN MAAS

"Relationships Matter."

Bishop Brian Maas gave his final report to the Nebraska Synod Assembly. His report included updates on the ministry and work happening throughout the synod, words of encouragement and gratitude, and future of what church may look like.



A celebration of Bishop Maas' ministry and service to the Nebraska Synod was held on Friday evening. The celebration included stories of Bishop Brian's career, messages of thanks from congregations and synod partners, the announcement of the Bishop Maas Leadership Development fund that was established and seeded by the Synod Council, a presentation of gifts to Brian and his wife Debbie, and final words of thanks in the multiple languages that make up our Nebraska Synod.



MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- Elysia McGill was elected as the Vice President of Synod Council after three ballots
- Representatives were elected to the Synod Council, the Consultation Committee, and the Committee on Discipline.
- Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary of the ELCA, gave her report from the Churchwide office. Secretary Rothmeyer lifted up the work being done in natural disaster response, global mission, seminary scholarship recipients from Nebraska, and words of appreciation for Bishop Brian Maas and his service to the Nebraska Synod.
- Bishop Susan Candea of the Central States Synod joined as a special guest of the assembly and preached at the Opening Worship.
- The 2023 budget was approved. Compensation guidelines for pulpit supply were increased and will go into effect in 2023.
- One resolution was brought to the floor and did not pass.
- All Synod Assembly recordings can be accessed on the Nebraska Synod Youtube page at https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjzWCoB-35CEtz1PPq34H2_MREbUweNNI.