

Synod Assembly Summary

The Nebraska Synod, ELCA gathered for its annual assembly May 30-June 1, 2025, in Kearney. The assembly worshiped, prayed, conducted business, and imagined together.

The theme of “Imagine! Imagine? Imagine...” guided the flow of the assembly, inspired by Ephesians 3:20.

With the spirit and movement of jazz music under the direction of Dr. Jon Ailabouni, the assembly began and ended with rhythm, joy, praise and improvisation. Young adult lay leader, Kate Reynolds, from Family of Christ Lutheran in Kearney preached for opening worship, and Bishop Scott Johnson preached for closing worship, connecting the dots of how as the Nebraska Synod we are one church, better together.

The assembly gathered with the Nebraska Synod’s Companion synod partners from the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania with Bishop Fredrick Shoo, and from the United Evangelical, Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay, Pastora Presidente Mariela Pereyra. Alison Richard, Program Director for Companion Engagement provided a report on behalf of the ELCA Churchwide organization and moderated a panel discussion with the bishops.

In conducting the business of the synod, the assembly reelected, Gwen Edwards, to serve a second term as Synod Council secretary. The assembly discerned and approved the 2026 Nebraska Synod Budget. It also adopted synod resolutions: “Working for Justice and Peace,” “Youth and Vulnerable Person Protection Policies and Safe Gathering Trainings,” and “The Meaning of ‘Israel’ in Scriptural Context.” Memorials to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly were adopted regarding congregational constitutions and “For an End to the Occupation of Palestine and Recognition of Palestinian Statehood in the United Nations.” A resolution regarding a “Bishop Election Process Option” was not adopted.

Bishop Scott Johnson presented his annual report, naming some of the Spirit’s activity as signs of God doing a new thing. He invited the assembly to imagine and wonder what God might be inviting.

As one church, better together, we look forward to more upcoming Synod on the Road Again weekends, as well as to next year’s assembly, May 29-31, 2026, in Kearney.



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