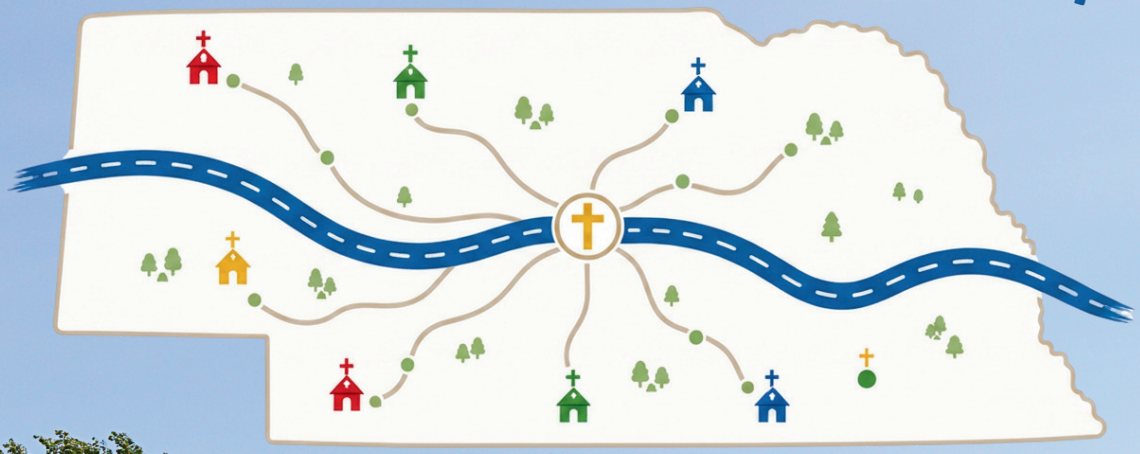
Nebraska Synod ELCA

One Church,

BETTER TOGETHER

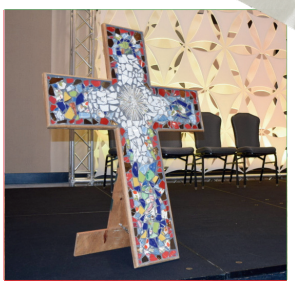
On The Road, Better Together



















Nebraska Synod ELCA

One Church,
BETTER TOGETHER

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?
The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?
Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.
— 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 —



Dear Nebraska Synod, beloved of God,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I once heard a story about a sourdough starter which had been divided and shared among a group of friends, who then divided and shared it among another group of friends, until the number of loaves baked each day from that one starter numbered in the thousands. As some of you may know, sourdough starter is a living organism: it is active, and it grows, and it has a limited lifespan. If you try to hoard it or keep it all to yourself, you'll soon wind up with either a dead starter or more loaves than you could ever eat by yourself.

God's church is like that sourdough starter in several ways. Wherever the church exists, you can trace its history back to the very beginning with Jesus and his first followers. The church is a living, active organism, meant to be growing and moving. This faith that unites us is meant to be given away; keeping it all to ourselves is a recipe for failure.

In recent years, the Nebraska Synod has used the tagline "One Church: Better Together." One thing to remember about this is that we aren't united by our own work. This living, active thing that unites us is the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole church throughout time and space. As you gather for your annual meeting, know that the entire Nebraska Synod gathers with you, and gives thanks to God for the living, active part you play in the mission and ministry we all share in God's church.

In gratitude and hope,
Bishop Scott Alan Johnson

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Hopeful Renewal for Nebraska Congregations

Across Nebraska, leaders are asking the same quiet questions. What does our community need and how do we, as a congregation, respond? What opportunities are we faced we and how do we decide what to say "yes" to? What is God up to in our place, with our people?

On the Road, Better Together was born out of those very questions. In 2027, Nebraska Synod staff will again scatter across the state to spend full weekends with congregations like yours. They are coming to sit in your sanctuary, listen to your stories, and help you notice where God is already at work.

Not Just Another Meeting

On the Road, Better Together is a guided working session with Nebraska Synod staff and neighbors. Together you name what is real in your congregation with honesty and grace, hear how other congregations are navigating similar realities, and see what faithful innovation looks like when you do not have a big staff or a big budget.

Throughout the weekend, you'll try on ideas that fit your context, whether you are rural or urban, large or small. You listen to stories from across the synod so that you know you are not alone. And you leave with a short list of concrete next steps you can begin right away.

Along the way you meet Nebraska Synod staff, Cluster Deans, and local companions who have decided they will not walk this road alone. You are reminded that aging buildings, shifting attendance, and tight finances are not signs that God has left the building. They are often the very places where the Holy Spirit loves to create something new.

One Church, Better Together

We trust that God is not finished with the church in Nebraska. We affirm that the challenges you carry are shared, not yours to shoulder alone. We believe that the most hopeful and faithful ideas for the future are discovered in community, not in isolation.

In 2027, we are coming to congregations from Omaha to Sidney, Lincoln to Lexington and beyond. We come, not with easy answers, but with open ears, practical tools, and deep confidence that God is already on the move in your neighborhood.

An Invitation for 2027

As you look toward the year ahead, consider who in your congregation is longing for something to shift. Think about the questions that keep coming up at council meetings or in the parking lot, and imagine what might become possible if you did not have to face those questions by yourselves.

We invite you to choose one of the 2027 dates, gather a small team, and join us. Bring your worries. Bring your hopes. Bring your questions about what is next.

Join us On The Road in 2027!

January 23 - St. Timothy's Lutheran, Omaha
February 6 - Sheridan Lutheran, Lincoln
April 17 - Our Savior Lutheran,Wayne
July 17 - Holy Trinity Lutheran, Sidney
August 28 - Grace Lutheran, Lexington
September 18 - Messiah Lutheran, Aurora

Learn more and sign up online at
www.nebraskasynod.org/about-us/on-the-road-2027/

One Church, Better Together

Your Mission Share at Work

Thank you for all you make possible—both in your congregation and far beyond it. Mission Share is the portion of your offering that connects your congregation to the wider Nebraska Synod and ELCA. Together, we support ministries across Nebraska, respond to hunger and disaster, and share God's love around the world. Your generosity matters. Your faithfulness makes a difference. Together, we are one church, better together.

