



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CRAIG

May 2021

Love God. Love People.

*"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
(Matthew 22:39)*

In July 2020, the Western North Dakota Synod was the first ELCA synod to hold an online only, all digital Synod Assembly. It was quite the undertaking! By the grace of God, we did it. We met to pray, to

worship, to study scripture, to hear about the good work God is doing through our church, and to elect our next Bishop. To be honest, in so many ways, last year's Synod Assembly feels like a lifetime ago.

In just a few short weeks, we will gather again in Synod Assembly. And we will once again pray together, worship, study scripture, hear about the good work God is doing through our church, and elect leadership to serve on Synod Council, ELCA Church Council, synod committees, and as voting members at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. We will also be invited to attend complimentary receptions to get to know one another a little better (Thursday evening) and celebrate the incredible staff our synod is blessed to have (Saturday morning). Our gathering as Synod Assembly will look different again this year. But it will still be sacred and holy time.

The 2021 Western North Dakota Synod Assembly will focus our hearts and minds upon Jesus' command to love our neighbor. To love your neighbor as yourself. Period. Seems simple enough. The past fifteen months or so in our life together as God's children have proven just how hard Jesus' commandment is to live out along our faith journey.

As we gather – on-line and in-person – we will celebrate the many ways God has worked through us to love our neighbor, we will confess the many times we have failed to love our neighbor, and we will seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as God calls us into new ministry opportunities to love our neighbor in our congregations, across the synod, and around the world.

Whether you are attending Synod Assembly on-line or in-person this year, I look forward to seeing you soon!

God's peace,
Bishop Craig

Synod Assembly Information

2021 Western North Dakota Synod Assembly Grand Hotel in Minot and Online

Friday, June 4, 2021 – All plenary sessions and banquet
Complimentary celebrations hosted by Synod Council on Thursday evening, June 3 and Saturday morning, June 5.

Voting members will be able to choose between participating in-person or online. For more information and to register as a voting member, visit: <http://wndsynod.org/synod-assembly/>

No in-person visitor registrations will be allowed due to capacity restrictions. All are invited to follow the assembly live on Facebook on June 4 at: <https://www.facebook.com/wndsynod>

Registration Deadline: May 15

Late Registrations accepted through May 30 (add \$50 late fee)

No Registrations will be accepted after May 30

Hunger Ride will be June 1-3 and will journey around the Minot area, bicycling to raise awareness and funds for ELCA World Hunger.
Contact Mike Olson at 701-240-0770 or mikeolson20@gmail.com