

EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
MINUTES OF THE 2016 ASSEMBLY
APRIL 16-18, 2016
Riverbend Hotel, Boise Idaho

PLENARY SESSION I
Friday, April 15, 2016

The Plenary Session convened at 7:30 p.m. following worship.

Bishop Wells officially opened the Assembly.

Bishop Wells introduced Rev. Dr. Herbert Anderson whose presentation theme was “Continuity in God, Discontinuity in Life”.

The Session was recessed at 9:15 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION II
Saturday, April 16, 2016

Bishop Wells convened Business Session #1 at 8:08 a.m.

Steve Gustafson, Assembly Chair: Announcements and drawings

Introductions:

Julia Bennett, Assembly Manager

Gary Gemar, Vice President

Paula Kenney, Secretary

Tami McHugh, Treasurer

David Meyer, Parliamentarian

Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director of the Mission Advancement Unit of the ELCA

Helga Jansons, Director for Evangelical Mission of the ELCA

Cathy Steiner, Synod Staff

Gib Dominguez, Synod Staff

Kristen Koskella, Synod Net-Worker

Jim Peterson, Synod Net-Worker

Linda Howell, Synod Net-Worker

Pr. David Kappus, Synod Net-Worker

Beth Adams, Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation

Charlotte Combe, Lutheran Community Services

Andrea Arey, Portico

Campus Pastors:

 Karla Neuman-Smiley, University of Idaho

 Pr. Shelley Bryan Wee, Eastern Washington University

 Pr. Nick Nicolai, Washington State University

Holden Village:

 Elaine Harrison

 Ralph Begdahl

EPFH Curriculum Team:

 Pr. Kent Schaufelberger

 Pr. Kurt Ruehl

Reception of the Minutes Synod Assembly 2015: The Minutes of the 2015 Synod Assembly were approved by Synod Council at its September 11-12, 2015 meeting and officially received by the Synod Council.

Parliamentarian Report: David Meyer reported that it is his job is to assist the Bishop in keeping things “civil”. Read from Roberts Rules of Order.

The Rules of the Assembly were presented. A couple of sections are not in order and will be addressed; therefore voting on the Rules of the Assembly will be done later.

Agenda was reviewed.

Diana Abken, Registrar, presented a Credentials Report/Quorum Ruling

Total Voting Members: 218
Voting Clergy: 77 – 35%
Voting Lay 141 – 64%
Voting Lay Male: 55 – 39%
Voting Lay Female: 86 – 61%

A quorum is present.

SA 16.04.01 Moved and seconded to approve the Rules of the Assembly. Discussion: None. Vote via voting cards: Unanimous yes by the showing of green voting cards.

SA 16.04.02 Moved and seconded to approve the Agenda. Discussion: None. Vote via voting cards: Unanimous yes by the showing of green voting cards.

Nomination Committee Report – Introduction of Candidates:

Secretary:

Paula Kenney, Advent Lutheran, Spokane Valley WA
Patty Cowan, Zion Lutheran, Deer Park WA

Spokane Westward Cluster Rep:

Dick Thiel of St. Mark’s Lutheran, Spokane WA

At Large Position Lay Male:

Scott Cocking, Peace Lutheran Colfax WA

At Large Position Lay Female:

Rosalie Finlayson, Grace Lutheran, Mountain Home ID
Lisa Therrell, Faith Lutheran, Leavenworth WA

Consultation Committee:

Pr. James Aalgaard, Grace Lutheran, Wenatchee WA
Pr. Betty Kraft, Zion Lutheran, Deer Park WA
Pr. Walter Klockers, Immanuel Lutheran, Moses Lake WA
Pr. Lori Morton, First Lutheran, Sandpoint ID

Discipline Committee:

Lay Male: Ken Tesch, Lord of Life Lutheran, Kennewick WA
Clergy: Pr. Robert Chenault, St. Luke Lutheran, Spokane WA

Returned to the Rules of the Assembly: The Bylaws reference on page 2 should read †S9.08 rather than what is shown as †S9.02.

Resolutions Committee Report: Thanks were expressed to those who served on the Reference & Council Committee.

Memorial #1- To rescind Action on Ministry Policies was received on time and is in order.

Memorial #2 – Welcoming Refugees is in good order for consideration and the Assembly will take action to add to the Agenda this afternoon.

Resolution #1 – Military Personnel, Veterans, and their Families is in good order for consideration and the Assembly will take action to add to the Agenda this afternoon.

Memorial #2 and Resolution #1 will be printed and available for review before this afternoon.

Bishop's Report is available on the tables today. Highlights:

- Pastoral care has taken considerable time.
- Synod Council had extensive conversation regarding the Net-Worker initiative and whether a quarter time position is feasible. In the process of re-defining the role, understand for the first 18 months the successes and where we can adjust the roles/duties. Encouraging congregation Presidents to be more engaged with the Net-Workers. A Sub-Committee has been formed to bring a recommendation to Synod Council within the next 5 weeks.
- Campaign for Mission to be addressed by Vice President Gary Gemar but noted the case statement included in the book. \$200K has been committed at this date. Dinners with key individuals will take place from now and over the summer. Roll-out to the congregations in the fall. He is excited about the campaign. Marj Nishek has a display on the work in Tanzania, which is a major part of the Synod Campaign.
- Region I Council: 6 Synods have agreed that the day is changing and number of congregations in our Region is changing so that we won't be able to do business in the future as we have been doing. We need to rethink and recreate a structure of support that makes sense in this day and moving into the future.
- Call process: 16 calls were completed this past year with 6 in process. There is a strong slate of candidates for these calls.
- Bishop Wells shared that he will not be a candidate for Bishop Election in 2017.

Vice President's Report:

- Recognized the Synod Council and the good work they do for our Synod
- This assembly is focusing on the Resolution passed in 2014 – Conversation for the Heart. He has been working with Pr. Kent Schaufelberger and Pr. Kirk Ruehl on the curriculum and encourages attending the workshops this afternoon. 5 of the 7 modules of the curriculum are done. When complete they will be rolled out to the congregations. These are good tools for not only congregations but also to invite members of our communities to participate and learn.
- Initiatives the Synod Council is focusing on:
 - We continue to support the Net-Workers that started with The Way Forward.
 - The Synod Campaign “*My Synod: Moving in Mission Together*” that is in support of the Churchwide Campaign. The goal is to raise \$1.2 Million of which \$200K has been received and pledged to date. The campaign video was presented. The video will be available to all congregations via the Synod web site.

The Bishop read a greeting and thanks for our partnership from Bishop Bernard Intengi of Ulanga Kilombrero Dioceses. He sent wishes for blessed and successful meetings and they are setting aside time to pray for the Assembly.

Additional Introductions:

- Pr. Phil Streufert, Consultation to Clergy
- Pr. Mark Nelson, Director of Mission for Region I

Churchwide Report – Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director of Mission Advancement

- Invited support for many of the missions we share
- Acknowledge all the ways that our Synod is connected with Churchwide through Bishop Wells and John Lohrmann, a member of Churchwide Council
- Her primary purpose is to come and say thank you to the Synod
- Her Tasks:
 - She is a resource person
 - Share what we are working on together as a church
 - Inform what Churchwide is working on
 - Shared a video from Bishop Eaton

Reflections on topics presented in the video.

- We are church, We are Lutheran, We are church together, We are church for the sake of the world.
- Death Cafés
- For the church, what needs to die before we can move forward
- By sharing our stories, representing Christ in the community, we are one body, one church together
- Think about Mission Support and the weekly offering, a portion of which goes to the Synod ministries, a portion of which goes to Churchwide ministries
- Party planning: 2016 Churchwide Assembly, August 8-13, 2016. Freed and Renewed in Christ 500 years of faith in action. For the first time all ELCA members are invited to New Orleans. There will be a Grace Gathering, created for all members to view the assembly and participate in workshops.
- Action at Churchwide Assembly:
 - Elections
 - Vice President: nominations are being made in advance
 - Consideration to unify the 3 official lay rosters (Deaconess, Diaconal Minister, and Associates in Ministry)
 - Adoption of the Budget
 - Memorial Considerations
 - Declaration on the Way
 - AMMPARO – strategy and commitment of the ELCA to accompany children who are forced to flee communities from El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala
 - Uphold and guarantee basic human rights of migrant youth and families
 - 500th Anniversary of Reformation: www.elca500.org for resources for congregations
 - Lutheran World Federation and Catholic Church – October 31, 2016 in Lund, Sweden
 - God’s Work Our Hands Sunday – September 11, 2016
 - Webcasts are available – first two are dedicated to racism. Elca.org/webcasts
 - Voting rights to all citizens elca.org/advocacy

- Campaign is in year 3 and have raised more than \$80 Million. EWAID Synod has contributed to this campaign specifically to the World Hunger goal.
- 2016 campaign emphasis will be around ELCA World Hunger.
- Highlights
 - Can expand work in 10 countries including the United States
 - Exceeded the goal for the Malaria Campaign
 - Responded to water campaign because of the involvement of our youth at the Youth Gathering in Detroit
 - Immanuel Lutheran, Boise for their hunger program
- Planted 62 new congregation
- 134 congregational renewals
- 228 student are graduating from ELCA seminaries with M. Div. degrees
- 73 young adults are in YAGM ministry
- 223 missionaries supported throughout the world
- 92 young adults will be sent out in 2016 in YAGM ministry
- 6 college scholarship to young women from around the world
- Creative solutions to hunger
- Introduced Beth Adams, ELCA Gift Planner who is meeting with people to talk about the ministries you are passionate about
- Video “Called Forward Together in Christ” – not about reinventing who we are, but are we clear about who we are moving into the future
 - What is distinctive about our identify
 - What kind of church is God calling us to become
 - How to be more inclusive
 - What do we expect from our church leaders
- Christine’s 2nd Workshop she will go through the Call Forward Together in Christ process – Bishop Eaton would like broad participation throughout the ELCA. See more at elca.org/future
- 1st Workshop is on the Churchwide Campaign and the overlap with the EWAID Synod campaign
- Ways to be informed
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Living Lutheran
 - Elca.org – center for information and resources

Budget Presentation – David Kappus

- Reprise of Fiddler on the Roof? Presidential Candidates? ObewanKenobi? Mime Group because no one wants to talk about money
- Thanks to the Finance Committee; a journey takes good planning
- Budget will be voted on this afternoon

Business Session #1 recessed at 10:15 a.m.

Business Session #2 convened at 2:11 p.m.

Introductions:

Boise Rescue Mission: Kelsey Verbanac
 Church Mutual Insurance: Deborah Sunset
 Church World Service: Judy Halvorsen
 Life Touch: Kevin Blankmire

Luther Heights: Eric Olson and John Davidson
Mission Building: John Morris
Mission Investment Fund: Joel Wudel
Executive Director of Reconciling Works, Aubrey Thonvold

Steve Gustafson, Assembly Chair: Announcements & Drawings

Bishop Wells introduced Voting Members of Churchwide Assembly:

Misael Fajardo
Gary Gemar
Dave Haven
Megan Manlove
Sheri Nelson
Katie Wee
Martin Wells
Adan Tjierno

DEM Report – Helga Jansons

- It is important to make clear what Jesus means for our lives and to share that with others
- She is Stewardship Coordinator
- She is the bridge between Congregations/Synod/Churchwide
- It is important for us to see each other and network with each other making connections between the Synod and member congregations.
- Summary of Assembly highlights will be emailed to all congregations by next Sunday.
- Purpose Statement: To Equip God's people for Ministry
- 6 Guiding Principles of the Synod
 - Jesus First, Last and Always: We are the body of Christ together. We are all ministers but there are other ministers as well i.e. specialized ministers in hospitals, care centers, campus, outdoor
 - God's Grace, Our Gratitude: This fits well with "We are the church together for the sake of the world." We are so grateful we want to give to others. We have trained many stewards in "Ventures for Growing Stewards". Pastors and lay people are learning together on how to live out our faith together. Different ways we are lifting up the ministries in our congregations and other congregation so we hear how others are living out their faith.
 - The Spirit Powers Us: There are many ways where we see the power of the spirit at work within us. Every person has a story. Offering the candle at baptism and the words of scripture that go along with passing the candle to the newly baptized. Sharing our stories, i.e. Synod Shorts – bright spots. Proposes every congregation and ministry send in a story about life-giving energy events from their congregation. Put those online so all can hear about what they are doing.
 - No Fear Transformation: Workshop with Pr. Phil Streufert to look outside our box; what are our gifts as we think about the next stages of our lives. Quoting Bishop Eaton: "If we don't act on the things that come up, nothing will change."
 - Connections Multiple Miracles: Educational opportunities are being offered in addition to Synod Assembly. Learning about each other's strengths and connecting congregations with each other.
 - Go! Tell and Serve!: The Mission Developers: Wenatchee Valley Lutheran Latino Ministry, Wenatchee – Misael Fajardo; New Day Lutheran Community – Pr. Gina

Herman; Shekinah Christian Community – led by Volunteers; Pasco Lutheran Latino Ministry

- Introduction of Pr. Ron Nitz, who leads Tree of Life in the Yakima Valley

Diana Abken, Registrar, presented a Credentials Report/Quorum Ruling

Total Voting Members: 218
Voting Clergy: 77 – 35%
Voting Lay 141 – 65%
Voting Lay Male: 55 – 39%
Voting Lay Female: 86 – 61%

A quorum is present.

Memorial #1: Resolves read by Eric Ohrtman. Pr. Larry Veith moved the memorial be accepted. Second was received. As maker of the Motion, Pr. Larry Veith spoke to the Memorial. No further speakers to the Memorial. Vote: Memorial #1 is defeated by a majority showing of red voting cards.

Portico Report, Andrea Arey: Leaders are stretched with healthy lifestyle choices, retirement planning, resiliency and thriving ministries. Thanks to the Synod Assembly planning team for the food choices on the menu. Offer healthy meeting options. We need a wellness reformation. Together we can have a healthier church for the sake of the world.

Elections:

Synod Secretary: Candidates are Patty Cowan and Paula Kenney. Ballots were distributed, marked and collected. Results: Total votes 203. Number of votes needed for election 102. Paula Kenney received 164 votes and is elected Secretary.

SA 16.04.03 Paula Kenney is elected Synod Secretary.

Synod Council Seat, Cluster Rep for Spokane Westward Cluster: Candidate is Dick Theil, Vitae is shown on the screen. Vote to confirm the election of Dick Theil. Results: Yes by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.04 Dick Theil is elected to Synod Council as Cluster Representative for Spokane Westward Cluster.

Synod Council Seat, At-Large Lay Male: Candidate is Scott Cocking, Peace Lutheran, Pasco WA. Vote to confirm the election of Scott Cocking. Results: Yes by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.05 Scott Cocking is elected to Synod Council as At Large Lay Male Position.

Synod Council Seat, At-Large Female: Candidates are Rosalie Finlayson, Grace Lutheran, Mountain Home ID and Lisa Therrell, Faith Lutheran, Leavenworth WA. Ballots were distributed, marked and collected. Results: Total vote 201. Number of votes needed for election 101. Lisa Therrel received 118 votes and is elected.

SA 16.04.06 Lisa Therrel is elected to Synod Council as At Large Female Position.

Consultation Committee Position 1: Candidates are Pr. James Aalgaard, Grace Lutheran, Wenatchee WA; Pr. Betty Kraft, Zion Lutheran, Deer Park WA; Pr. Walter Klockers, Immanuel Lutheran, Moses Lake WA, and Pr. Lori Morton, First Lutheran, Sandpoint ID. Ballot #1 was distributed, marked and collected. Results: Total votes 196. Number of votes needed for election 98. Results: No candidate received a majority of the votes; therefore a second ballot is necessary. The two candidates who received the highest number of votes will be voted on the second ballot: Pr. Walter Klockers and Pr. Lori Morton. Ballot #2 for Position 1 was distributed, marked and collected. Results: Total votes 194. Number of votes needed for election 98. Pr. Lori Morton received 127 votes and is elected to the Consultation Committee Position 1.

SA 16.04.07 Pr. Lori Morton is elected to the Consultation Committee Position 1.

Consultation Committee Position 2: Candidates are Pr. James Aalgaard, Grace Lutheran, Wenatchee WA; Pr. Betty Kraft, Zion Lutheran, Deer Park WA; and Pr. Walter Klockers, Immanuel Lutheran, Moses Lake WA. Ballots were distributed, marked and collected. Results: Total votes 197. Number of votes needed for election 99. Pr. Walter Klockers received 105 votes and is elected to the Consultation Committee Position 2.

SA 16.04.08 Pr. Walter Klockers is elected to the Consultation Committee Position 2.

The Discipline Committee Lay Female Position will be appointed by Synod Council.

Discipline Committee Lay Male: Candidate for Lay Male is Ken Tesch, Lord of Life, Kennewick, WA. Vote to confirm the election of Ken Tesch. Results: Yes by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.09 Ken Tesch is elected to Discipline Committee Lay Male Position.

Discipline Committee Clergy Position: Candidate is Pr. Robert Chenault, St. Luke, Spokane, WA. Vote to confirm the election of Pr. Robert Chenault. Results: Yes by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.10 Pr. Robert Chenault is elected to Discipline Committee Clergy Position.

Budget:

Bishop Wells called for the vote on the Proposed Budget for the year ending 1/31/2018. There being no questions, vote was taken and the Proposed Budget for the year ending 1/31/2018 was approved by majority vote by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.11 The Proposed Budget for the year ending 1/31/2018 is approved.

Resolution #2: Resolves were read by Eric Ohrtman. The Resolution was received on time and is in good order. Eric Ohrtman moved to amend and that this be renamed Memorial #2. Motion was seconded. Vote was taken and the amendment was approved by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.12 Resolution #2 is renamed Memorial #2.

Speakers for and against Memorial #2. A motion was duly made to strike the words “wounded warrior programs” in Line 30. The motion was seconded. Further speaking to the motion to amend. Vote was taken and the amendment was approved by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.13 Memorial #2 is amended to strike the words “wounded warrior programs” in Line 30.

Bishop Wells called for the vote for Memorial #2 as amended. Vote was taken and amended Memorial #2 was approved by the showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.14 Memorial #2 is approved as amended and will be forwarded to Churchwide Assembly.

Former Memorial #2 – Welcoming Refugees is renamed Memorial #3 as an administrative matter. The Memorial was received on time and is in good order. Resolves were read by Eric Ohrtman. A motion was duly made to approve Memorial #3. The motion was seconded. Speaking for the Memorial was the maker, Robyn Lunsford, Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Jackson WY. An amendment is proposed: Lines 24 & 25 to strike the words “by the federal government”. Speakers for and against the amendment. Vote was taken and the amendment was defeated by majority showing of red cards. No further speaking to the motion. Vote taken and the Memorial passed by majority showing of green cards.

SA 16.04.15 Memorial #3 is approved and will be forwarded to Churchwide Assembly.

Announcements:

Location for Net-Worker meetings.

Pr. Shelley Wee extended an invitation to the annual benefit dinner on April 30th and 5:00pm at Advent Lutheran Church, auction to follow. Dinner is free.

Marc Rieke Campaign Consultant is offering workshops on Stewardship around the synod: April 30, 9am-12pm in Moses Lake, May 18, 5:30-8:30pm, Advent Lutheran, Spokane Valley Tri-Cities, one in Pullman and one in Spokane Valley; May 19, 5:30-8:30pm, Lord of Life, Kennewick; May 21, Trinity, Pullman.

Holden Village is alive and well but they do have work opportunities where you can come for a week, work a bit during the week.

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Synod shorts:

Tami McHugh talked about Trinity Lutheran’s Low Income Home project in Nampa, Idaho

LCS in Idaho: Horticulturist will be a part of Children are our Flowers. Money raised will help the Dove initiative which is a literacy program for refugee children in the Boise area

Calvary Lutheran Post falls ID is providing facilities for special events for other religious groups that don’t have kitchen facilities.

Gina Herman, New Day Idaho Falls is on the worship planning committee for Synod Assembly through funding made available thru non-Lutheran contributions.

Faith Lutheran Toppenish: Jillian Ross will be installed as Transition Pastor on May 1st in Toppenish.

Wes Howell, Trinity in Pullman: In honor of the 500th Anniversary, they are working on creation stations for recycling

Mia Crosswaithe: Organized the Idaho Discipleship Conference; a weekend event for inspiration. The next conference will be October 2017 in the Treasure Valley.

Kevin Barnes Central Lutheran: Last winter became one of 3 churches that hosted homeless men and women during the winter months.

Alex Schmidt, Leavenworth: Commended the Synod Council for committing to training on cultural competency. This was 8 hours of training on their own time.

Luther Heights dedicates the new lodge on July 16, 2016.

James Aalgaard: Wenatchee Valley: Catechumenate to examine the baptismal theology themes. Book: Faith Forming Faith. Completed first Catechumenate process at Easter Vigil this year. Opportunities on April 28, 29, 30, 2017 to prepare congregations for the process for the next year.

Business Session #2 recessed at 4:55 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION III

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Synod Shorts

Pasco First Lutheran: A downtown church helped the Union Gospel Mission: a gift \$500 from Scandinavian bake sale; donations during the 4 Sundays of Advent: 1st week blankets, 2nd week toiletries, 3rd week socks and underwear, 4th week toys. During Lent donations from soup suppers were sent to UGM as well.

Pilgrim Lutheran Othello: Pr. Short will be installed April 23rd at 2:00 p.m. They are very active in the Lutheran World Relief quilting effort. The quilts will be blessed and sent off on April 24th. Extended an invitation to come and pack quilts.

Marj Nishek Synod Global Mission Committee: Latest Missionary Directory is available for attending members to take with them.

Trinity Lutheran Bonners Ferry: Grief Support Group and new Young Women's Group for Bible Study and Fellowship; working on cancer support group for men; Pr. Hinderlie has started a new mid-week service; a come as you are service that is casual and over 30 people attended for the first time last week.

Shepherd of the Mt. Jackson Wyoming: Extended an invitation to come see the total eclipse August 27, 2017 and they are planning a worship service to celebrate God's creation.

American Lutheran, Newport WA: 5-6 years ago a Dr. went to Haiti and began working in his spare time in Haiti. A week ago members from their church (age 16 and older) returned from a trip to Haiti.

St. Paul Lutheran, Chewelah: Lifting up Mission Interpreters: Love Synod Shorts and you can have this experience in your congregations. To tell the stories of what is going on in other congregations, the Synod and Churchwide. Looking for more Mission Interpreters. Lutherans are doing amazing things around the world and those stories should be shared. Opportunity for resources for congregations. Global Mission: take a folder on where your dollars go and get some M&M's.

Peg Harvey Morose, Lewiston Shared a vision from a member: cart with children's books, distribute the books and have story time along with their community dinner. Literacy is a huge issue in the area. Started a come read with us literacy project and have distributed books to kids of all ages. 1 child in 300 who live in poverty owns a book. They are helping to change that statistic.

Pr. Gail Heart, Tscemicum Cluster: 65 homes were burned in the 2015 fire; money from the Synod went into a fund to help rebuild homes in Kamiah. In Orofino the money went to the lifeline food bank as well as an emergency need fund. Fish fry on Pentecost and money will go to the food pantry.

Central Lutheran, Yakima: Update on the after school mentoring (on the corner) and tutoring program. SHARE grant of \$2,000 funded 20 students in the beginning (5 years ago). Now have up to 70 kids with a paid administrator and volunteers. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 and is very rewarding to help these kids. Within the last year because of donations from wealthy families they were able to build a \$1.3 Million gymnasium.

Celebration Lutheran, East Wenatchee: Lifting up Misael. They are privileged to have him as Intern 3-4 years ago. He is involved with the children in the community. Because of this ministry the ministry extends beyond his direct ministry into other areas and congregations in the community.

St. Paul, Colville: Fotopower generation (solar power). Inspired by Leavenworth's project. How they could work with the community to create a solar energy project. Couldn't do it for the community so they did it for St. Paul Lutheran. Looking long term into the future regarding stewardship. Care for creation. This has inspired 9 other solar power systems (daughter systems). If you have interest there are people who can help to build projects for anyone interested

King of Glory, Boise: Kumamoto Japan major earthquake last Thursday. King of Glory has missionaries in Kumamoto and others. Encouraged establishing relationships with missionaries through Global Mission. Spoke about the members from Africa who entertained at the banquet. New American Scholars program at King of Glory.

Charlotte from Lutheran Community Services: David Duea is unable to be here but shared how much LCS is supported by the EWAID Synod and Charlotte read a message of thanks from David.

Lake Chelan Lutheran, Chelan: This weekend, called to be an anchoress a person who holds up clergy, and world in prayer. Has been here praying through the Psalms throughout the assembly.

Misael Mission Developer WVLLM Continues to minister to the Latino Community in many ways. One of the main events Los Posados around the neighborhood. Kids came dressed as angels and shepherds. Continuing to build on the relationships they have built and building new

relationships. Collaborating with nonprofit organizations for the redevelopment of a park in front of the community center. Expressed thanks for the support of everyone; this is a shared ministry, and is closing the gap that exists in the community.

Salem Lutheran, Spokane: The team from Salem are grieving the loss of The Book Parlor. Even in grief for the loss of that ministry, they are grateful for the support and love. Ministry for now is dormant, but they are striving to believe that there will be a rising from the dead, not sure what it will look like in the future.

Pr. Kimmy Meinecke is on loan to the Episcopal Church, St. David's in Spokane. The congregation is now working with Thrivent for Christians putting together bags with snacks and water to give to those who are on the corner asking for money. Youth sign the cards that are in the bags.

John Hergert, Holden Village: Works in the post office. Can feel disconnected when you are there. This year during the fire, he felt so connected with ministry partners. Actually were evacuated 3 times. It is an honor to be part of the Synod that embraced them and thanks to the groups involved in the day to day care of these refugees.

Steve Gustafson: Final Announcements. He expressed thanks to the Assembly Planning Committee.

Closing Eucharist Service & Closing of the Assembly took place at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. Kenney, Synod Secretary