

Northwestern Minnesota ELCA Synod

# Connections



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Connecting the Congregational, Synodical, and Churchwide Expressions of the ELCA

## Creating a new vision for mission in vibrant service to God

Over the past year a new vision for Lutherans in our two synods has been emerging—a vision for how we will collaborate more deeply in vibrant service to God's great mission of rescue and renewal in Jesus Christ. Disciples from the Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota Synods, in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's program unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM), are listening to one another, engaging our mission field and exploring new avenues for partnership in the gospel. *Evangelizing Congregations Missional Plan* emphasizes renewed evangelizing congregations, new evangelizing congregations, and missional strategies.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman, executive director for EOCM, invites us to envision ways whereby “bishops lead as missionary bishops, every baptized person is a missionary, every pastor is a mission developer, and every congregation is a mission station for the sake of the world.”

Three missional tables are also being formed. *Note: The image of “table” is like a kitchen table where people gather and are fed and dream and plan, come and go.* Members of

these missional tables will stir up, guide and stimulate imagination, vision, and activity in and through all kinds of congregations, ministries and settings. Work teams will be formed in conjunction with each of the three missional tables—made up of disciples with gifts and passions for putting “feet” under specific missional ideas, initiatives and activities.

The three missional tables being imagined and drawn together are:

**Missional Imagination Table** - This table is a unique and exciting partnership between the Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota Synods. Members will provide oversight for how the synods' think creatively about our theology of mission and how we stir up a “culture for mission” in each synod. This table will also articulate the synods' missional purpose, guiding principles and ways whereby congregations are invited into deeper partnerships with the synods and the churchwide organization. The table will also address unifying strategies and capacity-building for mission.

**New and Renewing Congregations and Ministries Table** - This table will focus on involving congregations and ministries in specific, intentional processes for renewal and/or mission development—including congregations receiving grants from the ELCA's program unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission.

**Mission Faith Practices Table** - This table will invite leaders, congregations and ministries as they facilitate faith practices relating to stewardship of life with God. Among the faith practices that this table will stir up in our two synods are: financial stewardship as individuals and congregations, daily life faith practices, stewardship of creation activities, Bible encounter practices and prayer practices.

### Subscribe to synod's weekly email digest

“Northern Lights” is a weekly email digest containing news, information and upcoming events pertinent to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. You can receive Northern Lights by contacting Michael Stein at [stein@cord.edu](mailto:stein@cord.edu).

### Senior, Middle School Gatherings

*REFLECT* is the theme for the upcoming Northwestern Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota Synod LYO Senior and Junior High Youth Gatherings!

#### **Sr. High Gathering (9-12 grade)**

October 30-November 1, 2009

Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

#### **Middle School Gathering (6-8 grade)**

November 20-22, 2009

Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

**Resources and online registration information at:**  
[www.nwmnsynod.org/lyo/index.html](http://www.nwmnsynod.org/lyo/index.html)

### The Northwestern Minnesota Synod

310 14th Ave. S., Riverside Ctr.-Concordia College,  
Moorhead, MN 56562

218-299-3019 800-452-3692 [www.nwmnsynod.org](http://www.nwmnsynod.org)

## Post-2009 Churchwide Assembly resources online

*Resources and FAQs from ELCA Churchwide and the Northwestern Minnesota Synod*

[www.nwmnsynod.org/2009%20Churchwide%20Assembly%20Resources.htm](http://www.nwmnsynod.org/2009%20Churchwide%20Assembly%20Resources.htm)

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