**June 9, 2018**

Many of us started the final day of Synod Assembly on our feet moving to the rhythm of music by the Global Music Educators.  This was followed by a reflection from PMA, Jill Duis on God’s Story Our Voice. Her story of an ordinary day at Walmart with her grandchildren highlighted how two granddaughters shared God’s story by singing simple songs including *Jesus Loves Me* and *This Little Light of Mine*. Shoppers smiled, joined in the song, and had an overall more positive demeanor.

Dr. Adam Pryor continued the Bible Study from yesterday. Now that we have wrestled with our Ultimate Concern. We now know what we can witness to.  Why might we struggle with the idea of witnessing? To share our Ultimate Concerns is to witness to the unimaginable.

* When do we invite our neighbors to name their anxieties and what space do we provide?
* Are we empathetically Listening to the concerns of our neighbor even though they may not be our concerns?
* Can I encourage a charitable exchange that critiques without seeking to persuade?
* We confess that we seek to escape from the worldly anxieties of others by deeming them ultimately irrelevant.
* How do I invite others to question what to give up, or should be given up, so we can more fully live with our neighbors in their concerns and anxieties?

Everyday ask:  What am I going to give up today and for whom?

We viewed a message of Hope from Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Keeton, followed by the inspiring Rev. Ruben Duran of the ELCA. He reminded us that we are Church Together. The work we do here in the Central States Synod together with the work we do though the ELCA impacts the world. He highlighted several ministries of the ELCA. He also shared the 5 goals approved by the Churchwide Council summarized by two initiatives: ***Congregational Vitality and Leadership***.

The Assembly concluded with a dynamic worship service.