

2016 Churchwide Assembly Reflections

We invited our voting members to reflect on the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. Here are a few of their responses:

- Dennis Allerheiligen

My experience at the CWA in New Orleans was heart warming and uplifting! We are a diverse Church and an ever changing Church. Yes, we are 500 years old in 2017 but we have baby steps to take. This is an exciting time to be a Lutheran! One item I lift to you: We approved "Declaration on the Way" memorial by an overwhelming vote to commune with our brother and sisters from the Catholic faith. Many other exciting days are ahead of the Lutheran Church. But most importantly we need to keep this in our minds and our hearts: We Will Never Change The World by Going To Church. We Will Only Change The World By Being THE CHURCH!

- Donna Florio

The enthusiasm that was felt throughout the entire week at the Churchwide Assembly, the excitement felt when praising God through worship, and the love and acceptance of our differences and the willingness of all to work for justice and equality for our neighbors; are all areas of motivation I hope to be able to share with the local congregational members, so that we may strive to do God's work, as God's people.

Seeing the church in action has renewed my spirit in the fact that we are a living church at work in the world and all our difference in context just add to our effectiveness in changing our world for the better. Each local congregation doing God's work in their neighborhoods adds up to positive change for the sake of the entire faith community. We do not have to all do the same exact thing to be church.

- Janis Hutchinson

I am very proud to be apart of a church taking a stand on problems in the world and moving towards inclusiveness of other church denominations. Churchwide reminds me how awesome our church is and that it is growing in the right direction. I know that in order for our church to continue we need youth, we have them, and they are excited to participate.

With each year I leave excited about the direction our church is heading. I would like

my congregation to realize we are apart of something so much bigger than our church and the those that sit in the pews on Sunday morning. We are a church that serve God's children all around the world. I would like for them to feel the pride I do when I hear what our donations are doing. Our church provides clean water for the thirsty, food for the hungry, and the first ones with disaster relief. And because my church is an African-American church I would love for them to know what a big part people of color have in making this all work. I want them to feel included and as proud as I am to be apart of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

- Amy Truhe

The Churchwide Assembly really brought to my attention the varied voices in our Church. It was inviting to hear people's passion about topics I rarely engage and to hear the opposite passions from those who were equally engaged and vocal. I was struck by the many gifts of our Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. She is a very aware, connected person who seems to speak several languages and who knows the Roberts Rules of Order! She has a quick wit and a sense of balance that kept things flowing while not running over topics in a dismissive manner. Worship was a real treat as well. We had several preachers who live the gospel in ways Salina, Kansas does not seem to call one to live the gospel, yet, their proclamation held a message for me (and for everyone, I hope!) that drew me to greater attention to the justice and social issues of our lives. The music was filling and uplifting; with a thousand voices singing praise to God, it was really amazing!