



December 3, 2025

Dear Central States Synod,

Our annual Synod Assembly will take place **June 6, 2026**, online via Zoom. This one-day virtual gathering continues the synod's efforts to mitigate the ever-increasing costs of travel, meals, and meeting spaces. Planning is just beginning, and we hope to offer regional gathering sites to provide opportunities for those who would like to include fellowship in their assembly experience. This will also support those voting members who may like an extra bit of technical support.

In addition to the standard business of the assembly, electing synod council members, adopting a budget, and voting on resolutions, we have a number of constitution amendments to approve. You can find a detailed explanation of the proposed changes at www.css-elca.org/assembly.

Please note, according to our synod constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions:

- All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod, all synod authorized ministers serving under a covenant by authority of the bishop of this synod, all ordained ministers from church bodies in full communion agreements with the ELCA who are serving a congregation of this synod, and all synod council members not otherwise voting members shall have the privilege to be voting members of the assembly.
- At least 60 percent of the voting members shall be laypersons. Each congregation shall be entitled to send two lay voting members. Congregations with baptized membership over 500 are entitled to send additional voting members. Those congregations are listed at www.css-elca.org/assembly.
The synod council shall seek to ensure that at least 45% of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45% shall be men.
- If a congregation needs to send two lay voting members who are both women or both men, **that congregation must submit a waiver to the synod office by March 1, 2026**. Please note that to ensure that at least 45% of the lay voting members are women and at least 45% are men, the synod council may not approve all waivers.
- A congregation may send additional lay voting members provided that the person is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English or the person is a youth, under the age of 18 at the time of their election.

Registration will open by mid-February. Additional information, forms and technical guidelines for Zoom and our voting platform will be shared as they become available. Updated information regarding the assembly will be included in the e-newsletter and on the synod website. We look forward to having you join us this June as we gather to do the work of the church!

In Christ,

Ms. Alesia Rocca,
Central States Synod Council Secretary

God's work. Our hands.

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