

Virginia Synod, ELCA Synod Assembly
June 13 at 1:00 PM- June 15 at 12:00 PM, 2025
at Roanoke College Kerr-Cregger Center in Salem, Virginia



Intertwining Hope

The 2025 Synod Assembly theme
is Intertwining Hope.

“I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you,
you will bear great fruit. Without Me, you will accomplish nothing.”

- John 15:5 (The Voice Translation)

God’s love is the source of our life, both as individual sprouts of God as well as in the vine of Christ. Virginia Lutherans are intertwined by God through our baptisms into the singular hope of Jesus. The hope of Jesus is provision, forgiveness, and beauty in this life, and reconciliation and resurrection in the life to come. The hope of Jesus is new life out of death.

As we abide with God and with each other in the vine:

- God’s hope births us. *1 Samuel 1*
- God’s hope grows us. *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*
- God’s hope prunes and transforms us. *Acts 10*
- God’s hope sustains us. *Romans 5:1-5*
- God’s hope holds us in rest. *Exodus 20:8-11*
- We grieve with hope. *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*
- We die in hope. *Psalms 121*
- God’s hope resurrects us. *John 11:38-44*

This year’s Synod Assembly theme embraces God’s connection with us as Vine and the branch and the unimaginable mission and ministry that could be possible as God works within and through us to accomplish God’s purpose. As baptized believers, we have that hope-filled, confident support to know that our gracious and faithful God is with us.

Our theme, Intertwining Hope, emphasizes the connectedness of our spiritual relationship with the Creator, Redeemer, and Guide. Just as our physical bodies continually need nourishment to sustain life and livelihood, our spiritual dependence on the nourishment we receive through our Holy Connection helps us be strong in our relationships with each other, courageous in our mission and ministry to others, and fearless in following wherever the Holy Spirit may lead.

ELCA Representative

The ELCA representative is Jill Beverlin, Program Director for the ELCA Coaching Ministry.

Assembly Purpose

We are gathered at this assembly to experience and express what it means to be church. Together, as the Body of Christ, we care for necessary business, participate in and experience corporate worship, and engage in fellowship and faith formation.

Pre-assembly Gatherings

We will offer pre-assembly gatherings online to help you prepare for the assembly. Anyone is invited to participate, and each gathering will be recorded and shared following the event. There is no cost to attend. More information, registration, and recordings are available on the assembly webpage.

The gatherings and dates offered will be:

[Resolution and Memorial Writing](#) – January 29 at 7 PM

[Investment in Ministry Plan and Compensation Guidelines](#) – April 29 at 7 PM

[Constitution Updates](#) - May 20 at 7 PM

Assembly Webpage

A dedicated webpage will be the information source for assembly participants. It will include links for forms, the Bulletin of Reports, worship, nominations, and more. This webpage will be updated throughout the event as additional resources and information become available. It can be accessed at vasynod.org/2025-virginia-synod-assembly.

Assembly Worship

A Service of Holy Communion will be held on Saturday evening at Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Rostered ministers are strongly encouraged to vest (stole color will be announced) and participate in the procession. Currently serving synod authorized ministers are strongly encouraged to robe and participate in the procession.

The Assembly will open and close with worship. Each day, we will gather for morning prayer. During a service of necrology, the Assembly will remember and honor rostered ministers and synod leaders who have died.

Worship services will be available on the assembly webpage and projected on the screens during the assembly. You may request a printed copy of the worship services during registration.

Assembly Offerings

Offerings are designated to support Lutheran Disaster Response, which shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with those whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States, such as the flooding in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, the wildfires in California, and other disasters around the world.

Registration Information for the Assembly

Fee Schedule

With the return to a three-day Assembly, the registration fee reflects the actual cost of holding the Assembly, including the cost of six meals, rental of facilities from Roanoke College, projection and audio equipment, voting resources for the elections, and other miscellaneous items for the Assembly, like printing and office supplies. The registration fee for Lay Voting Members and Rostered Ministers Under Call is \$350. Rostered ministers retired or on leave from call: \$175. An early bird discount is available until April 11. [Click here](#) for the full fee schedule.

Travel Equalization and Travel Reimbursement

Voting members of the assembly pay a \$20.00 Travel Equalization Fee as part of the assembly registration fee. Auto mileage reimbursement will be paid at the rate of fourteen cents per mile. Travel reimbursement checks will be mailed within two weeks of the close of the assembly.

Registration

Registration is online. To [register, click here](#). You will need a debit or credit card to process the registration fees. (Remember to submit the [lay voting member credential form](#) and make [hotel reservations](#).)

Lay Voting Member Credential Form

All congregations should certify their lay voting members using the [lay voting member credential form](#). Congregations are encouraged to turn in this form by May 14, 2025. **The cut-off time for submitting the lay voting member credential form is 10 days before the first day of the assembly. If the credential form is not received in the Synod Office by June 3, the layperson cannot vote (per the Virginia Synod Constitution. (\$7.21.03.))**

Area Hotels

Registration for the Synod Assembly does not include lodging. We have provided a [list of area hotels](#), including prices and discount codes, for you to use when making your hotel reservation.

Resolution Form

The [resolution form](#) is for proposing a resolution to the Virginia Synod Assembly, which will be voted on at the Synod Assembly. **The Synod Constitution states that all resolution requests must be submitted thirty days (May 14) before the first day of the assembly.**

Youth Assembly

Lutheran youth of the Virginia Synod will hold its annual assembly concurrently with the Virginia Synod Assembly. At various times, youth will join the main assembly for worship or to observe it in action. Registration for the Youth Assembly is separate and available at vasynod.org/event/youth-assembly.

Nominations For Synod Leadership Roles To Be Elected At Synod Assembly

For the 2025 Synod Assembly, we seek nominations to serve on the Synod Council, the Committee on Discipline, and the Church Council. Refer to [roles to be elected at the 2025 Synod Assembly](#). If you are interested in serving, please fill out a [nomination form](#).

What is the Virginia Synod Council?

The Synod Council serves a visionary role in the Virginia Synod. In conjunction with the Office of the Bishop, the Council reviews and coordinates all planning proposals and establishes synod priorities. The members of the Synod share their various gifts for the purposes of God's mission and ministry through the Virginia Synod and the churchwide organization of the ELCA.

The Virginia Synod Council also serves as the board of directors of the Virginia Synod and meets quarterly to supervise the administration of the Synod. The Synod Assembly elects these leaders. The Synod Council comprises members of congregations from across the Virginia Synod, including both rostered ministers (pastors and deacons) and laypeople (those not ordained).

What is the Committee on Discipline?

The Virginia Synod Committee on Discipline serves the Consultation and Discipline Process in this church. The consultation and discipline process assures due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church in the discipline process, which governs officers, rostered ministers, congregations, and members of congregations.

What is the Churchwide Council?

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is both the board of directors of a Minnesota nonprofit corporation and the interim legislative authority of the churchwide organization, one of the three "expressions" of a denomination with deep roots in the U.S. In fulfilling its dual constitutional roles, the Church Council exercises fiduciary, strategic, and generative responsibilities to govern the ELCA churchwide organization. The full explanation of roles and responsibilities is linked [here](#).

Synod Assembly Forms

[Lay voting credential form](#), [registration](#), and [resolution form](#) (see above)

[Nomination Form](#) - used to nominate oneself or another individual for an elected position at the upcoming Synod Assembly. This form is due by [May 14, 2025](#) to be included in the Bulletin of Reports.

[At-Large Voting Member Request Form](#) - used to submit names of youth/young adults and persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English, who can be appointed by Synod Council as lay voting members of the Assembly. This form is due by [May 14, 2025](#).

[Congregation Significant Events Form](#) - are used to share any significant milestones or events from your congregation to be celebrated during the Synod Assembly. This form closes on [May 1, 2025](#).

[Display Area Request Form](#)—The Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse will host displays depicting the synod's many ministries, agencies, and institutions. These displays will be maintained throughout the assembly, and all voting members and visitors are urged to view them. This form closes on [May 14, 2025](#).

Livestreaming

The Synod Assembly will be livestreamed on our [YouTube channel](#). Stay updated with videos as they happen live, or you can watch the videos following the Synod Assembly.

Parking

[Parking](#) is available in any parking area shown on the Roanoke College map. **Handicap parking** will be available in the Upper Olin Parking Lot located on High Street across from Luther Plaza. **General Parking** is available in the parking lot across from the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse on High Street and the second parking lot on Peery Drive. **Golf carts** will be available to transport guests who need assistance.

Event Check-In and Information

You must check-in and pick up your materials for the assembly in the lobby of the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse. Check-in will open at 10:00 AM on Friday, June 13.

[Voting Member Information](#) and Orientation

Each congregation of this synod with 400 or fewer baptized members is entitled to two lay voting members at the assembly, usually one a man and one a woman. For each additional 200 baptized members, the congregation is entitled to an additional voting member. All voting members will have an optional orientation on Friday, June 13, at 11:30 am.

Plenary Sessions and Seating for Plenary Sessions in the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse

All voting members and official visitors will be seated at tables on the floor of the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse. During all elections, visitors will be required to move to extra seating on the sides of the Fieldhouse. Visitors are asked to honor this arrangement so that voting members have an adequate workspace at the tables, to facilitate the distribution of ballots, and to count in cases of “division.”

We recommend dressing in layers or bringing a sweater to the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse. Those with hearing concerns may choose to sit nearer or farther from the speakers. This is a large space, and it is difficult to maintain the same temperature and sound levels in all areas.

No food or drink except water will be allowed in our meeting space for Synod Assembly; please plan accordingly. This is a Roanoke College policy for the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse. Please be respectful of the space.

Basic Synod Assembly Schedule

Friday, June 13	Location	Pre-Event
10:00 am-1:00 pm	Kerr-Cregger Center	Event Check-in
11:30 am-12:00 pm	Antrim Chapel	Voting Member Orientation
11:00 am-1:00 pm	Colket Center Commons	Lunch (<i>included with event registration</i>)
Friday, June 13	Location	Plenary Session 1 (<i>Anticipated Activities</i>)
12:00 pm-5:30 pm	Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse	Opening Worship, Organization of the Assembly; Introductions & Recognitions, Reference & Counsel; Exploration of Assembly Theme; Report of Nominating Committee
5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Colket Center Commons	Dinner
Friday, June 13	Location	Plenary Session 2 (<i>Anticipated Activities</i>)
7:00 pm-8:30 pm	Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse	Celebrations of Anniversaries and New to the Synod; Report of the Ministerium; Serving Boldly Awards; PNG Presentation
Saturday, June 14	Location	Plenary Session 3 (<i>Anticipated Activities</i>)
7:00 am-8:00 am	Colket Center Commons	Breakfast
8:30 am-12:00 pm	Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse	Morning Prayer with necrology; ELCA Rep presentation; Committee Reports; Report of the Officers; Elections; Report of Synod Council
11:30 am-1:30 pm	Colket Center Commons	Lunch
Saturday, June 14	Location	Plenary Session 4 (<i>Anticipated Activities</i>)
1:30 pm-5:00 pm	Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse	Introductions of Synod Council; Additional Elections if needed; Resolutions; Report of the ELCA
5:00 pm-7:00 pm	Colket Center Commons	Dinner
7:30 pm	Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse	Festival Worship
Sunday, June 15	Location	Plenary Session 5 (<i>Anticipated Activities</i>)
7:00 am-8:00 am	Colket Center Commons	Breakfast
8:30 am-12:00 pm	Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse	Opening prayer, Reports, Report of Reference and Council; Report of Youth Assembly; Sending Worship with Installations

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s Synod Assembly!

All information, forms, and online links for the 2025 Synod Assembly can be found at:
<https://vasynod.org/2025-virginia-synod-assembly/>

