



## NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD

E V A N G E L I C A L L U T H E R A N C H U R C H I N A M E R I C A

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### North/West Lower MI Synod Council Meets on April 11, 2026

The [N/W Lower MI Synod Council](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met via Zoom on Saturday, April 11, 2026. This council serves as the synod's board of directors and interim legislative authority between meetings of a synod assembly.

This meeting included the following activities and actions:

- Approved Synod Council Minutes from February 7, 2026. Received Executive Committee Minutes from February 3, 2026.
- Approved a roster change recommended by Bp. Schneider-Thomas.
- Approved updates to multiple Continuing Resolutions within the NWLM Synod Constitution recommended by the NWLM Synod Constitution Committee.
- Continued planning for the **2026 Synod Assembly** on May 15-16, 2026 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, MI:
  - Moved the following forward to the 2026 Synod Assembly for consideration:
    - Agenda
    - Rules of Organization and Procedure
    - Nomination Slate for General Elections
    - Required / recommended amendments to the NWLM Synod Constitution based on changes to the ELCA Model Constitution for Synods approved by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly
    - Proposed resolution “Care for Creation – Responding to the Emergent Dangers of Climate Change” recommended by the NWLM Synod Resolution Committee.
    - Proposed 2027-28 NWLM Synod Budget
  - Previous decisions & actions related to the 2026 Synod Assembly:
    - Approved the theme “**Connected**” (aligned to Revelation 5:13) along with the high-level agenda, deadlines and registration fees
    - Approved worship offering designations, including a planned “special” offering of pennies, to be divided evenly between “Samaritas – New American Services” and “Lutheran Disaster Response – Ukraine”

- Moved proposed “2027 NWLM Synod Compensation Guidelines” (with a recommended 3.0% increase to Rostered Minister salary models) forward to the Assembly for consideration.
- Approved the 2027 Synod Assembly to take place May 14-15, 2027 at Trinity – Midland. Discussed possible locations for future Synod Assemblies, including Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Traverse City.
- Received the Report of the Treasurer, including:
  - Review of financial statements for the first month (through February 2026) of the 2026-27 fiscal year (ending 1/31/27).
  - Income and spending continue to be in line with expectations based on the approved budget and planned grant and ministry support activities.
- Approved updates to the NWLM Synod Fund Description document as recommended by the NWLM Synod Endowment Committee.
- Next Meetings:
  - 2026 NWLM Synod Assembly: May 15-16, 2026 at Prince of Peace - Portage
  - Executive Committee: September 29, 2026 via Zoom
  - Synod Council Retreat: October 2-3, 2026 (location TBD)