



North/West Lower MI Synod Council Meets on December 2, 2025

The N/W Lower MI Synod Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met via Zoom on December 2, 2025. 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:

- Appointed three new voting members to [Synod Council](#):
 - **Pr. David Hueter** (St. Thomas – Cheboygan) – filling the unexpired Rostered Minister – Male term ending August 31, 2026 vacated by Pr. Jake Lehman due to his recent move to Scotland.
 - **Ms. Teague Meckstroth** (United Campus Christian Fellowship – Grand Rapids) - filling the unexpired Synod Council Young Adult term (Female – Lay or Rostered) ending August 31, 2027 vacated by Pr. Kate Van Valkenburg as she moved to the synod staff.
 - **Ms. Anna Scheck** (Grace – Hastings) – filling a new (additional) Synod Council Young Adult term (Male or Female – Lay or Rostered) ending August 31, 2028.
- Welcomed Dr. Timothy Lundgren as our new NWLM Synod Attorney.
- Approved the September 26-27, 2025 and October 29, 2025 Synod Council meeting minutes. Received the September 23, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes.
- Acted on roster changes at the request of Bp. Schneider-Thomas.
- Approved planned Base Pay increases (consistent with the approved [2026 NWLM Synod Compensation Guidelines](#)) for called and “at will” synod staff along with Housing Allowance requests for called staff for the 2026-27 fiscal year.
- Received the Report of the Treasurer, including:
 - Review of financial statements for the first 9 months (through October 2025) of the 2025-26 fiscal year (ending 1/31/26). Income and spending continue to be in line with expectations based on the approved budget and planned grant and ministry support activities.
 - Approved revisions to next year's 2026-27 (FYE 01/31/27) budget with most updates resulting from the staffing and office location changes that took effect on September 1, 2025 due to the change in Synod Bishop.

- Continued planning for the 2026 Synod Assembly which will take place May 15-16, 2026 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, MI.
 - Approved the theme **“Connected”** (aligned to Revelation 5:13) along with the high-level agenda and other initial logistics as presented for the 2026 NWLM Synod Assembly which will take place in-person at Prince of Peace, Portage from May 15-16, 2026.
 - The first “pre-assembly” day on Friday (from approximately 1 PM to 8:30 PM) will include workshops, a keynote speaker, dinner with celebration of synod anniversaries and will conclude with Evening Prayer. Dinner will be provided for voting members and visitors who register.
 - The second “business” day on Saturday (from approximately 9 AM to 3 PM) will serve as the official “Synod Assembly” business meeting to address required business, elections, consideration of memorials and/or resolutions, etc. The day will begin with worship with Eucharist and lunch will be provided for those who register.
 - Approved the following Synod Assembly deadlines and registration fees:
 - February 17, 2026: “Early Bird” Registration Begins - \$50/day for voting members and visitors and \$25/day for each display table leader through March 20, 2025.
 - March 20, 2026: “Early Bird” Registration Ends – registrations continue at a rate of \$75/day for voting members and visitors and \$25/day for display table leaders through April 24, 2025.
 - March 20, 2026: Proposed Resolutions, Memorials, and Nominations Due.
 - March 27, 2026: Materials and Reports for the Assembly Book Due.
 - April 24, 2026: Final Registrations End.
 - Additional Notes:
 - There will be no partial day registrations.
 - Voting members, visitors and display table leaders must register for Synod Assembly in advance using the online registration form. There will be no walk-in registrations at the event.
 - All registrations will include planned meals and refreshments.
- Next Meetings:
 - Executive Committee: Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 at noon via Zoom
 - Synod Council: Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026 at 10 AM via Zoom