

## ~From the Bishop



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This last month, May 16-18, our Synod assembled voting members and visitors from all eight conferences and all eighty congregations. We gathered for Opening Worship in the beautiful sanctuary of

Bethany, Escanaba and attended to the details of being Church together in the Besse Center of Bay College. We heard our keynote speaker, Dr. Dwight Zscheile from Luther Seminary discuss our new reality and how to meet our current challenges. We were introduced to our ministry partners, checked out the display tables, attended workshops, had conversations, celebrated anniversaries and so much more.



*Opening Worship at Bethany, Escanaba*

It was an uplifting and Spirit filled gathering and I want to thank every congregation for your commitment to identify and support the attendance of people from your community of faith.

Because the Synod Assembly is important.  
That we gather together is important.

Because at this singular event we are reminded of what is just too easy to forget: that together we are the Body of Christ, together as a Synod, together as the ELCA, together as a global church. And the Assembly is what we do to

steward the gift of God's grace to us, among us, and through us.



*The Houston Youth Band with some pastors at Closing Worship at the Besse Center*

Yes, there is the “business” of the church. I prefer to call it “the necessary details”. We elected a new Synod Vice-President, Chuck Thomas who is a member at First, Gladstone, and a new Synod Secretary, Pastor Kay Richter of the New Evangelical Parish at our west end. I am grateful for their willingness to take on a crucial leadership role and I will be working with them and the Synod Council as we do our best to equip congregations and pastors for ministry.



*Workshop time*

There is a saying that “the devil is in the details.” I will say that as people of faith, we claim that it is the Holy Spirit that is in the details. We look for and trust that God is present, even in the smallest decision, the paperwork, the system structures, and constitutional work; all that is the fine minutia that keeps the whole body in good working order.

Next year we meet at Finlandia University from May 14-16, 2020. Mark your calendars! It's your turn to attend Synod Assembly.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan