



**Lower Susquehanna Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Thomas E. McKee  
Secretary of Synod

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## **OFFICIAL NOTICE: CALL OF THE 2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

To: The congregations and the rostered ministers of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

From: Thomas E. McKee, synod secretary

Re: Call of the 2019 Synod Assembly

This is the official notice that the 2019 Synod Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, will be held Thursday, June 6, 2019, beginning at 6:45 p.m. and continuing until Saturday afternoon, June 8, 2019. Sessions will be held in Parmer Hall of the Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and the Performing Arts on the Messiah College Campus, Grantham, Pennsylvania. The theme of this assembly is "Hungry for God's Mission." At this assembly, we will be electing a bishop, vice president and secretary.

All Ministers of Word and Sacrament and all Ministers of Word and Service rostered in the Lower Susquehanna Synod, a lay male and a lay female elected by each congregation of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and lay officers and members of Synod Council constitute the voting membership of this assembly. In addition, based on having more than 500 baptized members, some congregations may send a third voting member. In selecting voting members, all congregations are encouraged to consider electing youth, young adults, and persons of color or of primary language other than English.

In accordance with the Preliminary Identification Process Leading to the Election of a Bishop, a special meeting of each conference will be held in January of 2019. The conferences' January assemblies' schedule can be found online at <https://www.lss-elca.org/synod-assembly/nominations/>. The voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly shall be asked to consider a set of questions developed by the Synod Council designed to recognize the conference's understanding of this synod's mission, the issues deemed important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. **To have full engagement in this process, congregations should identify their 2019 assembly voting members by January 1**. If congregations are unable to identify voting members by January 1, they are encouraged to send their 2018 voting members to the first conference assembly. Please note that our synod office does not need to be notified of your voting members prior to assembly registration which opens on March 1, 2019.

Because electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a key responsibility of the Synod Assembly, **our Synod Council calls us to prayerful deliberation**. As an election, it is a process governed by the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of our synod;

however, it is also a call process. As such, it involves discernment, from the perspective both of individuals and of our synod as a whole. Thus, engaging in prayerful reflection and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit are indispensable aspects of the process of nomination and election. Resources and prayers will be posted on our website (<https://www.lss-elca.org/synod-assembly/>) within the next few weeks to be used by individuals, congregations and gatherings in our synod as we prepare for this year's assembly.

Information about the 2019 Synod Assembly including registration materials will be posted on our synod website as plans are completed. A single registration fee will register voting members for the entire assembly. To meet registration deadlines, congregations may pre-register voting members (as voting member #1, etc.) without providing personal information. Hard copies of assembly materials will be mailed only to those requesting to receive information in this manner.

### **Is God Calling You?**

Our synod celebrates the diverse gifts of its members and asks that members consider sharing those gifts in leadership roles in this church. The Gifts Discernment Committee, a committee of Synod Council, is seeking nominees for synod vice president and synod secretary. The Nominating Committee of this synod, comprised of one member of each conference and three members of Synod Council, is seeking volunteers who are willing to be nominated for election to the Synod Council and Discipline Committee. On our website you will find the nominations handbook, a list of positions, the 2019 Nominee Information Sheet, and contact information for our Nominating Committee. Because we need your help identifying possible nominees, please share this information with members of your congregation by downloading the print-friendly bulletin insert from our website as well. To seek nomination, please complete the nomination form and return it by **January 11, 2019**. Have questions? Contact Pastor Tom McKee at [tmckee@lss-elca.org](mailto:tmckee@lss-elca.org) or 717-652-1852, ext. 111.