# UPDATES from the Synod

## SEPTEMBER 2026

This monthly insert is just one way to stay connected with what's going on in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. You'll find highlights of recent news, upcoming events, and ways our synod is walking together in ministry. We hope it helps you see the bigger picture of how God is at work through the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEP 7 — Labor Day
- SEP 24 — Rethinking Rural Ministry Summit
- SEP 25-27 — EaND + NWMN Synod Youth Retreat

## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

**New! Creation in Christ Worship Resources**

This September, congregations are invited to celebrate Creation in Christ, a new ecumenical observance centered on God's work of creation and our place within it. Check out the free worship resources provided by the ELCA.

## SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

**Rethinking Rural Ministry**

Rural and small-town congregations are not problems to be fixed—they are gifts to be celebrated.

Rethinking Rural Ministry is helping congregations discover what God is already doing in their communities and imagine their next faithful step with hope and curiosity. Through gatherings, workshops, practical tools, and shared learning, we'll explore the future of rural ministry together.

**First up:** Join us for the Rethinking Rural Ministry Summit on September 24 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom to share, listen, and connect with others serving rural communities.

# FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

**A New Season**

September brings a new rhythm to our congregations—Sunday school and confirmation begin again, fall ministries take shape, and familiar faces gather back around tables and in pews.

In the midst of all that activity, I hope we remember that ministry isn't measured only by what fills our calendars. It happens in relationships: in the conversations before worship, around kitchen tables, in classrooms and fellowship halls, and whenever we show up for one another.

As this new season begins, may we pay attention to where God is already at work—and have the courage to join in.

Blessings on the season ahead!
— Bishop Bill Tesch

# PRAYER CORNER

God of new beginnings, bless our congregations as fall ministries begin.

Be with students, teachers, leaders, farmers, families, and all entering new seasons.

Give us courage for what is ahead and open our eyes to the ways you are already at work among us.

Amen.

# DID YOU KNOW?

When your congregation gives Mission Support, it doesn't stop at the synod office! Those gifts connect your congregation to ministries across Northwestern Minnesota, the ELCA, and around the world. Together, we can do more than any one congregation could do alone.

# SYNOD STAFF

Pr. Bill Tesch | Bishop
Pr. Genelle Netland | Associate to Bishop for Leadership
Dr. Lisa Sethre-Hofstad | Minister for Generosity
Rachel Haun | Office Administrator
Nick Stanley | Financial & Roster Administrator
Morgan Olson | Communications & Events

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