LIVING THE PROMISE

NWMN Synod Fall Theological Retreat

November 1-2, 2026 | Moorhead, MN

Welcome!

Welcome! We're glad you're here.

These two days offer time to reconnect with colleagues, worship together, and explore how God's baptismal promise shapes our everyday lives.

With Dr. Steve Thomason, we'll consider how faith continues to grow throughout a lifetime—in our relationships, our congregations, our work, and our communities. Romans 12:1 invites us to respond to God's mercy with our whole selves. Together, we'll reflect on what that response looks like in the places God has called us.

Bring your questions, your experiences, and your curiosity. We look forward to learning from one another.

Our Speaker

Dr. Steve Thomason is a pastor, theologian, teacher, and visual artist whose work brings together art, theology, spiritual formation, and discipleship. He helps Christian leaders explore their relationship with God and cultivate communities where others can grow in faith and love for their neighbors.

Two Days. Two Locations.

Sunday:
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
4000 28th St. S., Moorhead

Monday:
Trinity Lutheran Church
213 8th St. S., Moorhead

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
4000 28th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560

2:00–4:00 pm | Registration & Hotel Check-In

Arrive, get settled, and reconnect with colleagues.

3:00 pm | SAMs & First Call Meetings

Conversation & connection for Synod Authorized Ministers & First Call leaders.

4:30 pm | Welcome and Opening Prayer

Welcome from Bishop Bill and an introduction to our retreat.

5:00 pm | Dinner

Time around the table with colleagues.

6:15–7:30 pm | Session One

7:45–10:00 pm | Fellowship at Porter Creek

Appetizers, drinks, and time together!

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING AT PORTER CREEK!

Join us following our evening program, for appetizers, drinks, and some relaxed time together. Catch up with colleagues, get to know someone new, and unwind after our first day. We would love to see you there!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Trinity Lutheran Church
213 8th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560

8:00 am | Morning Prayer

8:30-9:45 am | Session Two

9:45-10:00 am | Break

10:00-11:15 am | Session Three

11:30 am - 12:45 pm | Lunch & Conference Gatherings

1:00-2:00 pm | Bishop's Hour

Reflections on our synod's life, welcoming new colleagues, and looking ahead.

2:30-3:30 pm | Session Four

3:45-4:15 pm | Closing Worship and Sending

Renewal of baptismal promises, blessing, and sending.

SESSION NOTES

Ideas, questions, and connections to your life and ministry

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TAKING THE CONVERSATION

A little space to notice what you want to carry with you

One idea I want to keep exploring

One small thing I want to try

Someone I would like to invite into the conversation

Something that would help nourish my own faith

HELP US PLAN FUTURE GATHERINGS

Please share your feedback on the sessions, meals, and November timing.
Scan the code or use the link below.

forms.cloud.microsoft/r/7JXmEUypS9

UPCOMING SYNOD EVENTS

Check the Northern Lights e-Newsletter & the synod website for additional opportunites and events!

November

1-2 | Fall Theological Retreat, Moorhead
14 | Rethinking Rural Ministry Workshop, Detroit Lakes
19 | Give To The Max Day
21 | NWMN Mental Health First Aid Training

December

1 | Rethinking Rural Ministry Online Book Discussion
3 | Retired Rostered Ministers Holiday Open House
10 | Candidacy Interviews, Dilworth

2027

April 3 | SAM Retreat-Bemidji
April 8 | Joint Theological Day, TBD
May 14-15 | Synod Assembly, Bemidji



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SAVE YOUR CURRENT RMP

Download a PDF by January 10, 2027

The updated Rostered Minister Profile (RMP) and call process portal launch January 11.

Rostered ministers will no longer be able to access their current RMP after January 10.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

1. Log in to ELCA Community.
2. Download a PDF of your current RMP if you want or need a copy.
3. Save the file somewhere you can find it before the new system launches.
4. Send a copy to the synod office

WHAT IS CHANGING?

- Updated RMP questions
- fewer sections
- easier progress tracking
- online form viewing.
- A separate Office of the Bishop form will hold disclosures and pastoral information.
- The Bishop Confidential Recommendation and synod portal are also being updated.

LOG IN TO ELCA COMMUNITY

- community.elca.org
- Questions? sec@elca.org



NW MN Synod

Advent Resources 2026

Advent letter from Bishop Bill
Weekly litanies and sermons
Christmas Eve service
Lessons and Carols service



Coming This Advent

nwmnsynod.org