

Pre-Synod Assembly Gathering

"For Such A Time As This"

Southwest California Synod – ELCA | May 16, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

All Are Welcome!

Voting Members of the 2021 SWCA Synod Assembly
Lay and Rostered Leaders and Ministers
Any and All Members of the SWCA Congregations,
Including the **Youth and Young Adults**

Why This Gathering?

- We are about to experience **our first virtual Synod Assembly**.
- We are **electing a new Bishop, new Vice President, 16 Synod Council Members, and 15 other positions** that will be chosen at Synod Assembly.
- We will talk about the **role and calling of the Synodical Bishop**.
- We will receive a **State of the Synod Report** about the primary mission and ministry concerns of the SWCA Synod.
- We will offer an **overview of the matters and realities before the SWCA Synod** at this time and a calendar for upcoming synodical events.

Program

Brief Opening Devotion and Prayer

Invoking the Power of the Spirit of God to lead this Synod for *"Such a Time as This"* and into the days and years before us.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

An in-Person conversation with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, who will also speak with us about our missional priorities, ministries, and the needed leadership for the days ahead. She will share with us about her own faith journey as congregation pastor to synodical Bishop to Presiding Bishop, and how the Spirit of God shapes and re-shapes each of us for our baptismal callings as the people of God.

Bishop's Election

Time will be given to specifically address the upcoming election and calling of a new SWCA Bishop

Synodical Officers' Elections

We will receive a report about the nomination and upcoming elections of a significant number of Synodical Officers, including a new Vice President

Updates from Current Synodical Leaders on the State of the Synod

Several of the elected leaders of the SWCA Synod will give overviews of the primary initiatives and decisions which the SWCA Synod is currently addressing in this time of transition.

Being a Voting Member or Guest in our First Virtual Synod Assembly

Helpful information will be shared for the benefit of all who will be attending as Voting Members and Guest the upcoming Zoom Gathering of the SWCA Synod Assembly June 4 - 5, 2021

Closing Comments and Benediction from Interim Bishop Murray D. Finck