

Welcome Letter from Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

Luke 24:32 ~ They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2025 South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Assembly. This year we gather in worship, fellowship, and service under the theme of "Partnership for the Sake of the Gospel." I am deeply grateful for the Synod Assembly Planning Team and the many, many volunteers who have made this assembly possible.

At this assembly we will elect leaders to our synod council and to the consultation and discipline committees. We will also have the opportunity to discuss resolutions that have been submitted from rostered and lay leaders from around our synod. Our partnership for the sake of the gospel will be on full display in our time together.

This year we are delighted to welcome the Rev. Keith Fry, who is called to serve the ELCA churchwide organization as Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration. The Rev. Fry will share remarks on behalf of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and offer updates and perspectives on our work as church together.

I am looking forward to seeing you all together again. We are the church together and we are partners in this ministry. I am grateful for the time we will have together in worship, fellowship, learning, electing, and discerning.

In Luke 24, once Jesus is made known to them in the breaking of the bread, the disciples realize that on some level they already sensed his presence, "Were not our hearts burning within us?" May we also sense the presence of Christ in our assembly, in the breaking of bread, in worship, in conversation, and in our work together.

Welcome to the 2025 Assembly: may our Partnership for the Sake of the Gospel continue to flourish!

Alongside you,

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

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