



Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## North Conference 2022 - 2023 Assembly Report

The members of the North Conference—comprised of Word and Sacrament, Word and Service, seminary interns and lay leaders—meet monthly, for worship, fellowship, and edification.

- *September:* We engaged in conversations with rostered and lay people, around the ELCA'S Social Statement on Abortion. We met in two groups at Katie's Cup in Rockford, guided in the conversation by Pr. Janet Hunt.
- *October:* We met for a conversation with some Funeral directors to discuss how to increase mutuality and communication between churches and funeral homes.
- *December:* We met at Anderson Garden's Fresco at the Garden for a holiday lunch and fellowship.
- *January:* We were visited by Deacon John Weit, Assistant to The Bishop, Executive For Worship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We spent time together in worship and discussing/sampling the newest ELCA Hymnal All Creation Sings.
- *March:* DEM, Josh Ebener, joined us to talk about Congregational Vitality. It's great to have Pr. Josh join us as he relates to the North Conference.
- *April:* This meeting was held at GPS, Machesney Park and gave the conference a chance to see their new facility. We had an informal conversation about sabbaticals.
- *May:* Annual meeting at Christ, Belvidere.

The conference continues to work with our partners at Rockford Lutheran Schools and Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries (RALM), which includes Becca's Closet and Laundry Love. We continue to be blessed by these relationships.

The North Conference has been a place of *change!*

- We welcomed seminary intern Alana Harms (Zion, Rockford). The conference is also home to Wartburg Collaborative Learning Student, Leslie Aska who is serving at First, Rockford.
- We said goodbye to Pastor Twila Schock, (Christ, Belvidere) who now serves as Mosaic's New VP of Church Relations and International Programs. And Christ, Belvidere welcomed Rev. Carol Baumgartner as Transition Minister. Pastor Carol joins the conference from the South-Central Wisconsin Synod
- We also say goodbye and thanks to Pr. Denver Bitner and Dcn. Cheryl Erdmann who both retired from their positions on the synod staff. We are grateful for their work among us and for all the years they faithfully walked with us in the north conference.
- And it was with a heavy heart that we said goodbye to Pr. Joanne Adrian (retired). Joanne passed away on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Her life will be celebrated and remembered at a service on June 11 at Zion, Rockford.

The North Conference is an active, positive, and collegial place to share in ministry in Jesus' name. We are blessed to gather and strengthen one another for service to the Lord.

Servants Together,  
Pastor Julane Nease  
Dean, North Conference