2018 Central States Assembly

June 7, 2018

As ELCA Central States Synod’s voting members and guests gathered at Bethany College to register and visit booths, some groups were already busy at work prior to the opening picnic. Those groups included

 Synod Mission Table meeting

 Synod Council meeting

 New Voting member orientation

 Team 500 meeting

 Youth Welcome meeting

The assembly kicked off with a welcome from Bishop Gustafson and a few words from Bethany College President Will Jones followed by a picnic dinner of chicken and hamburgers roasted potatoes, coleslaw, baked bean and watermelon.

 Following dinner, The Global Music Educators engaged us in a conversation about the blurring of boundaries between global and local (Glocal).  Based on a work from LWF, the message centered around the concepts of

Transcultural - Having the same substance for everyone everywhere, beyond culture.

To help understand this concept the group taught us two songs from different cultures - in the song’s original language including movements.

Contextual - Varying according to the local community.   To experience this idea, we learned a Spanish song and a Native American song.

Counter cultural - Challenging what is contrary to the Gospel in a given culture.  We explored this concept by learning a song written by one of the Glocal Music Educators that challenges our present and looks toward God’s Grace.

Cross cultural - Shared elements across culture. We learned a song from our sister synod in Papua New Guinea to highlight the common understandings we share.

An interactive, dynamic, spirit filled worship service was led by Bishop Roger Gustafson, Rev. Odir Flores, Linda Lockhart, Jessie Reilly, and the Global Music Educators, Bishop Gustafson proclaimed the Good News that Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection tore down all barriers that separate us from God. In turn, Jesus destroyed barriers that separate us from each other like race, economic status, generations, and attitude.