

Central States Synod 2019 Synod Assembly

Overland Park, Kan. • June 6-8

Daily Summary

June 6, 2019



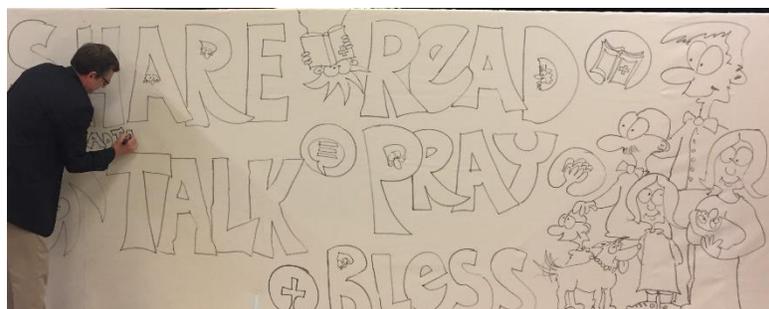
The 2019 Central States Synod Assembly kicked off just before noon, when registrations opened for voting members and visitors. Shortly after, the display tables opened featuring over 30 exhibitors ranging from Synod Mission tables, Ministry partners, Seminaries, and vendors offering everything from worship and educational resources to the popular Bridge, fair trade marketplace.

Synod staff, Rev. Donna Simon, Director for Evangelical Mission, and Rev. Keith Hohly, Bishop's Associate, presented a new voting member orientation workshop to a standing-room-only crowd. Over 75 eager attendees far surpassed last year's attendance of 40. This year's topics included special instructions on the Bishop's election and the use of Qwizdom electronic voting devices that will be used periodically throughout assembly.

Emily Nelson Dixon, Director of Teens and Outreach at Salem Lutheran in Lenexa, KS hosted a preliminary gathering for youth attending this year's assembly. What better way to welcome the youth than a pizza party and games? The group took the time to get to know one-another and prepare for the business of assembly. Once in the main hall, the group sat together and had the opportunity to participate in the opening worship. Dixon reported, "The youth really appreciated the response and acknowledgement of the adults around them. They feel welcome as full participants of during the assembly session."



Throughout the day, Rev. Rich Melheim of Faith Inkubators greeted voting members and visitors to assembly. Although he did not present today, he prepared a creative mural project he will introduce and invite everyone in attendance to help paint. His goal is to have each person make at least one brushstroke in contribution to the collaborative crowd project.



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Bishop Roger Gustafson opened the assembly welcoming over 430 for dinner and opening worship. Rev. Susan Langhauser of Advent, Olathe, KS led worship and Bishop Gustafson preached the opening sermon reminding us of the joy our baptism and the vitality it offers us. Following the worship service attention shifted quickly to the business at hand as Mr. William 'Bill' Horne, ELCA Vice President, introduced the 367 voting members in attendance to the process of an Ecclesiastical Ballot. Mr. Horne took the time to emphasize how the election of a Bishop is a call process and encouraged careful and deliberate consideration. The evening concluded once the first ballot had been cast with the results to be shared first thing Friday morning.