



UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

*United as Christ's disciples, we
Support one another and
Serve God in the world.*

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

*For the Lord loves justice;
he will not forsake his faithful ones. Psalm 37:28*

April 2026

Welcome to our 2026 Synod Assembly at Camp Mount Luther on June 6. A Synod Assembly provides opportunities for us to gather for worship and for learning about the ministries of our congregations and church partners. Through reports, displays, and conversations, we see and hear about the work of the church locally and across the globe.

The Assembly also includes important items of business, such as adoption of a budget and approval of guidelines for compensation of pastors and deacons in the synod. This year, the synod council recommends adoption of several amendments to our Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, many of which include language approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

This year, our representative from the Churchwide organization is the Rev. Amy Reumann, ELCA Director for Advocacy Ministries. Pastor Reumann formerly led the Lutheran Advocacy Ministries in Pennsylvania (LAMPAs). In addition to reporting from the churchwide organization and the office of the Presiding Bishop, she will engage us in a conversation about our Lutheran understanding of the church's role in the world.

When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. And a second is like it: "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." In other words, we cannot love God if we do not also love our neighbor. And with the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus demonstrated that our neighbor can be anyone, especially those who show us mercy. The Samaritan was the least expected to be a neighbor and yet came to the aid of a man greatly in need.

Jesus wants those who follow him to be neighbors to one another to show God's love in mercy and compassion. As you contemplate the theme for our 2026 Assembly, consider the ways in which you and your congregation are neighbor, and imagine how the Holy Spirit might be encouraging to be neighbor in new or expanded ways. Displays at the assembly will include organizations that can help us in our efforts to be neighbor, such as World Hunger, LAMPAs, Seafarers, United Lutheran Seminary, Susquehanna University, as well as some of our synod ministries.

I eagerly anticipate our time together at the 2026 Synod Assembly.