The Process for an Election of a Bishop

At this year's synod assembly, which will be held at the Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL, June 1-3, 2017, voting members will participate in the election of a bishop. The Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, ELCA representative, will preside over the bishop election process.

Only voting members present at the assembly may nominate an individual for the Office of Bishop. Nominees for the Office of Bishop are limited to those ordained persons included on the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The term of the Office of Bishop is for six years. The term for the person elected in 2017 will continue into the year 2023. Per constitution +S9.12, a background check and screening shall be required and completed for the bishop-elect as soon as practical after his/her election.

An ecclesiastical ballot is the process used to elect a bishop. The process is as follows:
1. On the first ballot, voting members may write the name of any ordained pastor currently included on the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. 3/4 legal votes cast are needed for election. If no one is elected, this is the nominating ballot and all eligible nominees are considered.
2. Ballot 2 is limited to those listed on the nominations ballot who did not withdraw their name, plus ties. 3/4 legal votes cast are still needed for election.
3. Ballot 3 is limited to the seven highest nominees, plus ties. 2/3 legal votes cast are needed for election.
4. Ballot 4 is limited to the three highest nominees, plus ties. 60% of legal votes cast are needed for election.
5. Ballot 5 is limited to the two highest nominees. 50% + 1 legal votes are needed for election.

Please note: To facilitate the Nominating Ballot for Bishop, registration will close at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, and will re-start once the first ballot is completed. Voting members are encouraged to come to the assembly early in order to complete the registration process prior to the first ballot.
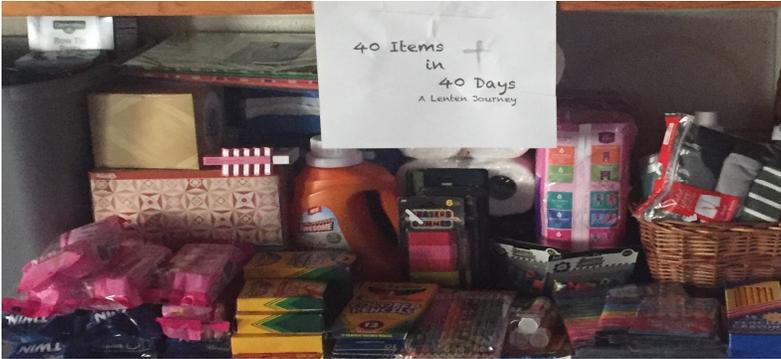
In their own words...

I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church and always surrounded by others who nurtured me in the faith. My experiences as a camper at Lutherdale in Elkhorn, WI and as a campus ministry associate at Illinois State University, Normal, IL were significant in my faith formation.

As an adult, I served in leadership roles at Faith Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, IL and continued to grow in my living as a disciple of Jesus. I was jealous as my younger brother went to seminary twenty years ago. I wanted to be immersed in theological education too. I continued to live out my vocation as wife, mom, stepmom, special education teacher, school counselor, and lay leader.

And yet, I can't remember when I didn't have a sense that I was to follow a different vocational path. As our children began to leave home, it became clear that I was called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. I enrolled in Luther Seminary's Distributed Learning Program and earned a a Master of Divinity degree last summer.

Linda Strader was ordained on February 10, 2017 and serves as the pastor of Three Saints Parish—St. John, Lacon; St. Mark, Chillicothe; and St. Timothy, Wyoming, IL.

TOGETHER IN MISSION

St. John, Cullom and St. Paul, Chatsworth Conduct "40 Items in 40 Days" Campaign

Members of St. John, Cullom and St. Paul, Chatsworth went beyond the usual "giving up something for Lent", as they invited members to embark on a "40 Items in 40 Days" campaign to collect items for the Chatsworth After-School program, the Cullom Food Pantry and the Tri-Point Schools (in which 63% of the student body is at or below the poverty line).

Items were collected during Lent. The bounty that was received was blessed on Easter Sunday and on Easter Monday, donated items were distributed to their respective organizations.

One of the things that contributed to the effectiveness of the in-gathering was that all three organizations were contacted in advance and congregational members could select preferred items from a wish list that had been developed.

ELCA Youth Gathering Info
To help you to prepare for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, to be held in Houston, TX, June 27-July 1, 2018 the following informational events have been scheduled:

- April 23   Mt. Calvary, De Soto, IL, 4-6pm
- May 1   Salem, Peoria, IL, 6-8pm
- May 4   Good Shepherd, Champaign, IL, 6-8pm
- May 15   Christ Community, Columbia, IL, 6–8pm

For more details, contact Jill Goldhammer at 309-688-9212 or by email at jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com

Resources for observing the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

As Lutherans around the world prepare to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, there are several resources that might be helpful to you and your congregation as you begin your preparations.

The website, www.ELCA500.org is one of the premiere sites for those who are involved in planning events. The "Reformation 500 Sourcebook", available from Augsburg Fortress Press and the new "Reformation ideas for Congregations" are also helpful to event planners. Visit elca500.org/Resources/More to see additional resources.

The resource, "Reformation Ideas for Congregations", offers suggestions for promoting events within a congregation and engaging with community partners. A communications guide for media relations is also available.

In working with Roman Catholic parishes, consider using any of the following resources:

- "From Conflict to Communion", a guide for common commemoration of the Reformation;
- "Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion;
- "Declaration on the Way", a unique ecumenical document on unity between Catholics and Lutherans.