



Thank you to the Northeast and Eastern Conferences, which hosted this year's assembly, offered daily devotions, and provided volunteer support. Thank you to our conference deans, who facilitated our on-going synod discernment in forums and the creation of the butterfly tree. Additional thank yous go to our synod and partner ministries that provided spoken and video reports and informational displays to highlight their work.

Visit [CSIS-ELCA.org/synod-assemblies](https://CSIS-ELCA.org/synod-assemblies) for a complete list of reports and documents and links to assembly videos.



**Central/Southern Illinois Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



## Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land

2022 CENTRAL/SOUTHERN  
ILLINOIS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2022 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly was held both online and in-person with a Zoom session on March 26 and together on June 2-4 in Champaign. The theme for this year's assembly was "Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land," encouraging us to think about how we do ministry in 2022 and beyond amidst the changes in the world around us.

It was great to be back together after last year's Zoom-only assembly due to COVID-19.

While the annual Synod Assembly is an important gathering to conduct the business before it, it is more than a legislative session. It is part of our call for spiritual discernment for the pastors and congregations to get together to explore where the Holy Spirit might be calling us.

***"We are here - in this moment, in this time - to tend to Christ's Church; that is, to tend to the gift that God has given us to be God's own and come together to steward the grace entrusted to us."***

The assembly heard from three ecumenical presenters—Elissa Bailey (Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Great Rivers of the Presbyterian Church), Edward Braxton (Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Belleville of the Catholic Church), and Frank Beard (Bishop, Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church) on the theme of “Singing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land,” how they are experiencing the new reality the church finds itself in, and where God is in all this.



The assembly took part in an creation of a tree on the wall of our meeting room. In devotions, at worship, and in forums, people were asked to write prayers, laments, and hopes on paper shaped to resemble the bark, leaves, drops of water, and butterflies. These reflections and responses engaged our ongoing discernment as a synod.

Our festival worship service on Thursday evening took an offering for our companion synods of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. More than \$8,200 will be sent to support the Lutheran church in Madagascar! The service was livestreamed on the C/SIS YouTube channel, and the recording is available to watch any time.

## **Actions taken:**

- Approved the minutes of the 2021 Synod Assembly
- Elected synod council members: Austin Byer, Eileen Setti
- Elected synod council secretary: Pastor Christine McNeal
- Elected members of the Consultation Committee: Jason Helmers, Pastor Joy Miller, and Mark Scherer
- Adopted the proposed budget for 2023 of \$1,345,227. To learn how your mission support funds synod ministries, visit [CSIS-ELCA.org/mission-support](https://CSIS-ELCA.org/mission-support).

The Assembly also heard the synod council’s recommendation to continue the sister-congregation ministry, and that congregations consider dwelling in the Word practices with their sister congregation over the next year.

We recognized congregational anniversaries and anniversaries of ordination for 2022 as well as for 2021 and 2020, which were missed due to COVID.

