Sunday morning

We began the morning with Morning Prayer led by Rev. Gretchen Wagner

This was followed by a report of the state of the ELCA with churchwide rep. Rev. Kevin Strickland. He thanked Bishop Crist for serving as chair of the Conference of Bishops and for sharing her leadership skills with the ELCA in many ways.

1. We are church
2. We are Lutheran
3. We are church together
4. We are church for the sake of the world.

As a group, because of our numbers, we have given generously to others and we have accompanied our brothers and sisters around the world and we have supported new churches around the country. Thank you for giving.

This summer we will have the ELCA churchwide assembly and Grace Gathering. It will take place Aug 8-13, 2016. Visit ELCA.org/assembly for more information and for actions to be considered this summer.

Aug 7th, 2017 there will be a rostered leader event in Atlanta. There is a facebook page set up and there will be more information available after the churchwide assembly.

ELCA500.org is a site set up to share ideas for celebrating the Reformation anniversary.

ELCA.org/advocacy is a site that speaks to voting.

The ELCA has “Fund for Leaders” a fund which helps support seminarians so they don’t leave seminary with crushing debt. Please make your congregations aware of this fund so we can support more future leaders of the church.

The ELCA also has sent global mission leaders around the country, thank you for supporting this program.

21.9 million dollars were given to ELCA World Hunger in 2015. 6.8 million to Lutheran Disaster response. The malaria campaign has raised over 15 million dollars to help eradicate malaria. Thank you so much for your part in this.

On [www.elca.org/future](http://www.elca.org/future) there is a series of questions for congregations to consider in visioning. This site is part of the “Called Forward Together in Christ” process. Organizations and congregations can discuss these questions and share their answers with churchwide this summer. And congregations/councils are also invited to use these questions in their own visioning.

Thank you and please continue to pray for the work we, as the ELCA, do in the world.

Next the following organizations greeted the assembly:

Luther Seminary – Rich Omland offered greetings from Luther. He thanked Bishop Crist, her staff, and the synod council for this assembly. He was gratified to see the work that we have done together these past days. Our whole system of theological education is in flux. We aren’t quite sure where we are going but we have good leaders coming into the church. God has new good things going and we are going to be a part of it.

PLTS and CLU – Holly Johnson greeted us from both campuses. She said it was encouraging to hear so many people lift up theological education as one of the top priorities for the church. On behalf of all of our seminaries, if you see someone who is a good candidate for seminary, please encourage them and connect them with us.

PLU – John Rosenberg greeted the assembly from the President, faculty, staff and students at PLU in Tacoma. Thank you for your support over the years and your prayers.

Peggy Paugh Leuzinger spoke about a pastor from South Africa who will be spending two months in the Montana Synod this fall. Her presence will be a concrete way of having a deepening relationship with the people of our sister synod. Rev. Leuzinger also asked for donations to help with this visit.

John Lund offered greetings from campus ministry. He spoke to the importance of campus ministry in the lives of young people who are thinking more deeply about faith and wanting to engage in the world. It is the place where there can be interfaith dialogue and discussions about important issues of the day. Campus ministry relies on synod support, ELCA support, congregational giving, individual giving and through grants. Thank you all for your support.

The budget was at this time presented one last time. The floor was opened for discussion and after receiving no further discussion, it was adopted.

Next the assembly considered the resolution on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. This resolution has been on the synod website since Feb. and there was a forum about this resolution on Friday of the assembly. Bishop Crist told the assembly that if the resolution is adopted, it will be sent to the synod assembly in August.

The assembly adopted to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

Before closing, Bishop Crist called forward all the voting members who will be going to the Churchwide assembly. Rev. Strickland and Bishop Crist prayed and blessed these voting members and the work they will do in New Orleans.

At this point the assembly was adjourned and the members were invited to the worship service.