



Wednesday may be a slump day for some, but at the La Crosse LuMin Lutheran Campus it's all about grace through free cookie Wednesday. Want a cookie? Take a cookie! They just give out cookies to make folks' day better – no strings attached. As he's giving out the cookies, it's not unusual for Pastor Ben Morris to be asked, "Where do the cookies come from?" The answer is Lutheran grandmas up in the bluffs and hills made them with real butter and real love. Each week congregations throughout the La Crosse Area Synod drop off 500 cookies to be given away. Pastor Ben says, "It's like manna in the wilderness; there always seems to be enough," and these cookies taste better.

LuMin La Crosse is a place to gather in worship, connect to study, grab a cup of coffee, share a family-style meal, sit in prayer, make bread for the women's shelter, take walks together, and explore places afar in service to others. They advocate for others, share space with multicultural student groups, proudly display the pride flag, and mostly reconnect with humanity and each other. Oh, and give out cookies! Like all ELCA LuMin campus ministry sites across our synods, this ministry happens because congregations share food – yes, cookies – and also through Mission Support that is shared with our synods and churchwide organization to support these vital, transformative, grace-filled ministries with students. Mission Support is just one way campus ministry is funded, so learn more, and pray for local campus ministry by checking out luminelca.org/.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?



JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT

*www.godslove.org. We have also set aside more than 90 minutes in the agenda to address resolutions and motions at this meeting – more than any meeting before – with additional time we can make available as needed. **Come as Voting Member from your congregation and make your voice heard.***

The Ministry Share Faire. Over 20 ministry teams and partners are scheduled to be present with interactive displays and lots of opportunities to share ideas and make connections. In addition – you will have a planned area where you can meet other voting members with similar interests and struggles, to work on solutions to common problems and build new networks of support.

The Important Elections, Deliberations, and Voting. At this Assembly meeting, we will be nominating and voting for our Synod's next Secretary and Vice President. The office of Secretary can be filled by a lay person or rostered minister (clergy). The office of Vice President chairs our Synod Council and is the highest office in a synod for a layperson to hold. Find out more about these elections and offices at our Synod website

The Inspiring Worship and Music. Our talented worship team has been 6 months in the planning for all elements of worship and music at this event – with more in store for this Assembly than ever. Music will be led by the celebrated group "Chasing Daylight," with added highlights from David Scherer (known nationally as "AGAPE"). Also featured will be works of art, dance, poetry, lights and colors, and sights, and sounds to move and uplift from floor to ceiling!

The Speakers, Preachers & Presenters. **Never before have we been able to offer such an impressive line-up** for learning and bringing back ideas and inspirations for you and your congregations: A wide range of hands-on workshops led by local and churchwide experts.

- Joe Davis and David Scherer – nationally acclaimed speakers, recording artists and educators; and featured performers at ELCA Youth Gatherings. They plan to power up our workshops AND main sessions (AKA plenaries) – getting us on our feet, interacting, and understanding better some of the biggest challenges we face today: including engaging with young people; finding new energy in worship and ministry; and having conversations around tough topics, especially racism. T
- Bishop Michael Girlinghouse – author of the new book: *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past*. Drawing on more than 30 years of research and experience – Bishop Girlinghouse will show us how we and our congregations can work through our collective grief without forgetting or devaluing our past. He will offer a practical, step-by-step process for engaging and embracing God's future for each congregation.
- AND SO MUCH MORE!