



Allegheny Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# *God is Doing a New Thing!*

**2026 Synod Assembly**

**The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly**

**June 20, 2026**

**Altoona, PA**

**Bulletin of Reports**

# Annual Assembly of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA

June 20, 2026

## God is Doing a New Thing!

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.  
**I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?**

**I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people, the people who I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

Isaiah 43:18-21 (NRSVUE)

### Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the ministries and gatherings of the Allegheny Synod take place on the ancestral and traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples, including the Susquehannock, Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Lenape, Shawnee, and other nations who have stewarded these lands for generations.

We give thanks for their enduring relationship with the earth, their resilience, and the wisdom they continue to share. We lament the history of displacement, violence, and broken promises that accompanied colonization and recognize that the church has at times been complicit in these harms.

As people of faith, we are called not only to acknowledge this history, but also to seek truth, justice, healing, and right relationship with Indigenous communities today. May this acknowledgement move us beyond words into deeper listening, learning, advocacy, and care for all God's people and creation.



## Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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**MISSION:** *Inviting people to love each other.*

**VISION:** *All creation living in harmony with Christ.*

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# *God is Doing a New Thing!*

**SECTION ONE  
INTRODUCTION**

# Proposed Agenda for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Allegheny Synod of the ELCA

Allegheny Synod Assembly

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Proposed Agenda

“God Is Doing a New Thing” (Isaiah 43:18-21)

8:30 Registration

9:00 Worship

10:00 Break

10:15 Morning Plenary

Welcome and Introductions

Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Procedure

Opening Remarks from Bishop

Partner Presentations

Go Tell It IN the Mountains

Director for Evangelical Mission Report

Bible Study with the Rev. Sara Cutter, Senior Director of Operations for Christian Community and Leadership, ELCA

12:15 Break for lunch

1:15 Anniversaries

1:30 Afternoon Plenary

Presentation of Budget

Synod Ministries

Staff Reports

Elections

2:45 Break

3:00 Elections Report

Churchwide Report

Social Statement Update

Partner Presentations

KELC Report

4:15 Closing Prayer

4:30 Adjournment

# Rules of Procedure for the Allegheny Synod Assembly 2026

## General Procedures:

1. The Bishop, chair of the Assembly, shall designate which sections of the auditorium, if any, are reserved for voting members. Microphones will be located in the aisles of these sections for the use of voting members. Visitors shall sit in the sections designated by the chair.
2. The privilege of voice and vote is extended to all Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service on the roster of the Allegheny Synod, Vicars, and Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Word and Service on the roster of the Allegheny Synod, members of Synod Council, and Voting Members from congregations (S7.21., S7.22.01, S7.22.02, S7.27.B25, S7.28.). Additionally, all ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of a church body with which the Churchwide Assembly has declared a relationship of full communion, serving under a Letter of Invitation to Extended Service in a congregation of this synod, shall be given voice and vote as voting members of the Allegheny Synod Assembly (S7.27.A26).
3. The privilege of seat and voice are given to: The Presiding Bishop of the ELCA and any other official representative of the church, recognized lay professional leaders, non-voting members of task forces and committees in connection with their reports, committee chairpersons, representatives of institutions and agencies related to this Synod, and youth of this Synod.
4. Alternate voting members and visitors are welcome to the Assembly. They may be permitted to speak only by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly. They are not permitted to vote.
5. Those addressing the chair should use a microphone and should state their name and home congregation.
6. In all plenary sessions, speeches from the floor shall be limited to three minutes. No person shall speak more than twice on the same questions, except by consent of the Assembly. This rule shall not apply to persons presenting a report nor when direct questions are posed to specific individuals for clarification.
7. All motions, other than routine ones, shall be written in advance by the mover on a form provided for that purpose, signed, and sent to the secretary's desk prior to its presentation. No motion shall be debated on the floor until a written copy is in the hands of the chair.
8. When there is much discussion on any motion for and against, the chair will recognize alternately persons making pro and con statements.
9. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this Assembly, except as otherwise provided in the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws. A parliamentarian will be appointed to rule on procedure. A quick reference to Robert's Rules of Order follows these rules and procedures.

## Election Procedure:

1. In ALL elections, other than for the bishop, a majority of the votes cast is needed for election. The names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of votes cast on the preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot, two in number for each vacancy.

# Rules of Procedure for the Allegheny Synod Assembly 2026

## Report:

1. The results of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the Assembly.
2. When constitutional changes are required provisions from the ELCA, the Synod secretary may change the constitution immediately upon formal certification from the Secretary for the Church.
3. When the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA has amended the model constitution for synods, amendment of the constitution of the Allegheny Synod may reflect such changes by simple majority vote.
4. Other amendments to the Synod Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after movement and presentation in writing, with ten signatures at a prior Assembly.

Officers and committee members elected at the June Assembly will assume legal responsibility for their office on July 1, 2026 following the election.

## Other Procedures:

1. A Committee on Reference and Counsel shall be appointed by the chair at the opening session of the Assembly. The committee:
  - a. Shall receive resolution(s) not germane to matters before the Assembly.
    - i. The committee shall review those resolutions and transmit them to the Assembly with one of the following recommendations:
      1. that the Assembly consider the resolution. If the committee recommends that the Assembly consider the resolution, the committee may also recommend:
        2. that the Assembly pass the resolution;
        3. that the Assembly defeat the resolution;
        4. that the Assembly amend the resolution in a specific manner
        5. that the Assembly refer the resolution to the Synod Council, a committee of the synod, or some other defined group for its consideration;
        6. that the Assembly does not consider the resolution.
      - ii. Shall state its reasons for its recommendations if it recommends anything other than that the Assembly considers the resolution.
      - iii. Shall determine if a resolution submitted after the pre-assembly deadline is of imminent concern.
        1. Resolutions of imminent concern would include any resolutions pertaining to issues which call for attention or action prior to issues which call for attention or action prior to the next regularly scheduled assembly of this synod.
    - b. May edit resolutions and the committee may combine similar resolutions to expedite the work of the assembly, but the committee shall not change the substance of any resolution.
    - c. May consult with the author of a resolution and encourage them to take action that would not bring the resolution to the assembly.

# Rules of Procedure for the Allegheny Synod Assembly 2026

- d. In consultation with the chair, shall recommend the order in which resolutions are transmitted to the assembly. Whenever possible, resolutions of a similar nature should be present consecutively.
  - e. May recommend that a resolution be considered as a special order.
  - f. May grant or deny permission to distribute printed matter not introduced on the floor of the assembly.
  - g. Shall give assistance to the chair as requested by the chair during the assembly.
2. Anyone wishing to distribute printed matter not introduced on the floor as part of a report to the assembly or as part of the business of the assembly must receive the approval of the Committee on Reference and Counsel before distributing the material.

# Quick Reference to Robert's Rules of Order

For Synod Assembly Voting Members

## Purpose

Robert's Rules provide an orderly way for large groups to do business. Knowing a few key motions helps voting members participate fully, share opinions, and make decisions fairly.

## Roles

### The Chair

- Maintains order with advice of the parliamentarian
- Ensures fair discussion of all *germane* motions
- Calls for speakers pro and con
- Clarifies meaning of actions to be voted on
- Determines readiness to vote (unless Assembly votes otherwise)
- Remains neutral; may not debate while presiding

### Voting Members

- Cooperate with the chair in keeping good order
- Introduce yourself when speaking into a microphone with your name and congregation
- Prepare motions/resolutions carefully
- Speak concisely and to the point
- Use rules to promote—not block—discussion

## Common Motions

1. **Adopt Agenda** – Simple majority; sets order of business (2/3 to amend later).
2. **Amend Main Motion** – Simple majority; changes wording of a motion.
3. **Amend the Amendment** – Simple majority; only one allowed at a time.
4. **Substitute** – Simple majority; replaces a paragraph or entire motion.
5. **Commit/Refer to Committee** – Simple majority; for study or action by committee.
6. **Consider by Paragraph/Seriatim** – Simple majority; debate/vote section by section.
7. **Limit or Extend Debate** – 2/3 vote; shortens or lengthens debate time.
8. **Division of the House** – Any member may request a counted or visible vote.
9. **Table** – Simple majority, not debatable; postpones consideration until taken up again.
10. **Close Nominations** – 2/3 vote, not debatable.
11. **Postpone** – Simple majority; delays decision until later.
12. **Previous Question** – 2/3 vote, not debatable; ends debate, moves to vote.
13. **Reconsider** – Simple majority; must be made by someone who voted with the prevailing side.
14. **Point of Order** – No vote; challenges procedure or ruling of the chair.
15. **Point of Information** – No vote; asks a factual question about the business at hand.
16. **Question of Privilege** – No vote; addresses immediate needs (hearing, lighting, comfort).