



Oregon Synod



January 11, 2023

Dear Friends and Members of the Oregon Synod,

My prayers are with you as you welcome the new year, dwell in the glow of Epiphany, and gather together to plan for your 2023 congregational meeting.

The life and vitality of your faith community are important. The work we do together as the Oregon Synod is important. And, our unity as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is important.

Our upcoming Synod Assembly is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th online. Please mark the date in your calendar. As in years past, there are a couple of things to consider as you prepare for Synod Assembly 2023:

- 1) voting members. Your elected voting members must be people comfortable with (or willing to learn how to join) an online meeting (and the access to resources to so),
- 2) additional voting members. Since the financial impact on congregations will be much less than an in-person assembly, this is a perfect year, if you've not yet done so, to begin the habit of electing additional voting members (up to 2 people who identify LGBTQIA+, up to 2 people for whom English is not their first language AND, up to 2 Youth/Young Adult voting members).

What a time to be God's church! As the gospel of Matthew tells us, "With God all things are possible." We have learned, grown and changed thanks to the challenges of the past few years. Let's be marked by the transformations Wisdom/Sophia has offered.

With your prayers, financial support and deepening relationships, we are capable of doing more than we dare dream or imagine. Please consider inviting Juan Carlos La

Puente, Pr. Melissa Reed or myself to your congregation in 2023. Many of our creative and phenomenal deacons, mission developers, and ecumenical and interfaith partners would love the opportunity to be with you as well.

I look forward to sharing this work with you throughout the new year. Let us dare to love one another and walk the Way of Christ's courageous love together.

Yours in Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie L. Caesar". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "L" and "C".

Bishop Laurie