



Oregon Synod



January 2nd, 2026

Dear Beloved of Christ in the Oregon Synod,

Blessings as you gather in the name of the Jesus! My prayers are with you as you seek to continue to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God. As you prepare for all the decisions ahead in your 2026 congregational meeting, God bless you and keep you. In these times of major change and disruption across our nation and our world, I am grateful for our oneness in Christ's liberating love. With courage and compassion, may we be for one another and for others the Body of Christ – living reminders that we are never alone, but always awash in God's peace, justice and grace.

Please save the date and prepare for our upcoming Synod Assembly which will be May 30, 2026. In the spirit of the Prophet Isaiah, we will be trying a new thing this year. This year's approach will mean fewer hours in online Zoom business meetings, which many of you have asked for. So, please keep your hearts and minds open and stay tuned for more information soon!

Our focus in the Office of the Bishop this year is on helping cultivate congregational health and vitality, supporting the unfolding church of the future, creating alignment for our spiritual mission across all of our work and ministry, and building up leaders in Christ who are connected, creative, collaborative, courageous and compassionate.

As in years past, there are a couple of things to consider as you prepare for Synod Assembly 2026:

1) **Voting members.** Please elect voting members who are comfortable with technology, including email, Zoom, Word and Google, and who will actively engage their hearts, minds and souls in all pre-session conversations.

2) **Additional voting members.** If possible, we encourage you to elect "additional voting members" as described in the constitution and rules of the assembly (both of which you can find on our website). Additional members can be constituted of: 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).

With your continuing prayers, financial mission support and deepening relationships in the name of Jesus, our synod is becoming a shimmering web of relationship, capable of befriending one another, our planet, our scripture and our diverse neighbors with kindness and grace. In so doing, we can become more than we dare dream or imagine, transformed by the renewing of our lives and minds.

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

Yours in hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie L Caesar". The signature is fluid and personal, with a mix of lowercase and uppercase letters.

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar
Oregon Synod, ELCA