

## Workshop Descriptions

This year's Synod Assembly offers a variety of workshops to equip leaders, members, and ministry teams. Topics include congregations in transition, leadership, the synod budget and more. Whether you're experienced or new, these sessions will inspire ideas, build connections, and strengthen your ministry.

**Workshop blocks will be offered twice**—Thursday, May 22, 4:30pm and Friday May 23, 11:15am

*Assembly Workshops include:*

### Thursday, May 22, 4:30pm

Title	Description	Location
<b>Multicultural Ministries and Communities:</b> Reflecting the Richness and Unity of the Body of Christ	<i>Led by Pastor Quirino Cornejo &amp; Vicar Margarita Reyes</i> Explore how ministries and congregations can truly become more Culturally Diverse & Inclusive by engaging in Cross-Cultural & Racial Equity Learning.	<b>Sierra I</b>
<b>2025–2026 Synod Budget Overview</b>	<i>Led by Lisa Guthrie &amp; Jon Johnson</i> Preview and ask questions about the proposed two-year Synod budget ahead of Assembly approval.	<b>Sierra II</b>
<b>Equipping Lay Leaders for Ministry</b>	<i>Led by Pastors Diana Linden-Johnson &amp; Katie Emery</i> Discover tools to strengthen lay leadership with or without a rostered leader—covering pastoral skills, SAM, and leadership programs.	<b>Sierra III</b>
<b>At a Crossroad</b>	<i>Led by Pastor Sara Wirth</i> Explore four pathways for congregations in discernment: revitalization, partnerships/mergers, maintenance, and holy closure.	<b>Ocotillo II</b>

Friday, May 23, 11:15am

Title	Description	Location
<b>Commission for Renewing the Lutheran Church</b>	<i>Led by Ralie Deffenbaugh</i> Hear updates and recommendations from the <a href="#">Commission on renewing the Lutheran Church</a> , from a Rocky Mountain Synod representative.	<b>Sierra I</b>
<b>2025–2026 Synod Budget Overview</b>	<i>Led by Lisa Guthrie &amp; Jon Johnson</i> Preview and ask questions about the proposed two-year Synod budget ahead of Assembly approval.	<b>Sierra II</b>
<b>Congregational Ministries Team</b>	<i>Led by Pastors Travis Norton &amp; Andrea Kragerud</i> Learn how to use the Why Church: Neighborhood Edition and other Congregational Ministry resources to design and conduct Brave Experiments to engage in God's mission with your congregation and your community.	<b>Sierra III</b>
<b>Pastoral Leadership Transitions</b>	<i>Led by Pastors Diana Linden-Johnson, Sara Wirth &amp; Katie Emery</i> Learn about leadership transition options including the call process, TEEM, and Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAM).	<b>Ocotillo II</b>