



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Congregational Discernment and Decisions
February 2011

Congregations that have Disaffiliated (process finished)

- Faith, Monticello voted on 12.6.09 to disaffiliate and join LCMC 64 to 10 (86%). Congregational consultation with the Bishop was on 2.28.10. Second vote on 3.21.10 passed 66 to 12 to disaffiliate. The Synod Council voted to release Faith on 6.10.10. Process finished.
- Christ the King, Hutchinson (ALC congregation) voted 226 to 99 on 10.28.09 to disaffiliate (67%). Congregational consultation with the Bishop was on 1.17.10. Second vote on 5.23.10 passed: 233 to 112 with 4 abstentions, (exactly 2/3). Joined LCMC; process finished.
- Faith, Hutchinson (ALC congregation) passed first vote on 2.21.10 to disaffiliate 178 to 23 (88.6%). Consultation was on 4.20.10. Second vote on 5.23.10 passed 179 to 7 (96%) to disaffiliate. Joined LCMC; process finished.
- St. John's, Springfield held their first vote to disaffiliate on 1.10.10. The motion failed. 156 voters: 99 (63%) voted to disaffiliate and 57 (37%) voted to stay in the ELCA.
St. John's, Springfield voted on 6.2.10 (second attempt at first vote to disaffiliate). The vote passed 103 (71.5%) to 41 (28.5%) to disaffiliate. Consultation with the Bishop was on 8.25.10. Second vote on 9.1.10 passed 118 to 45 to disaffiliate, 1 ballot was missing. Process finished.
- Singasaas, Hendricks voted to disaffiliate on 10.18.09 (¾ majorities in favor of leaving) 16 to 4. Congregational consultation with the Bishop was on 12.13.09. Second vote passed 20 to 7 (74%) to disaffiliate on 1.17.10. They did not identify a church body they would affiliate with at the time of the second vote. Synod Council action states will be released on the date they inform the synod office that they have affiliated with another Lutheran church body. On 11.14.10 they voted to join the American Free Lutheran Church. Process finished.
- Albion, St. James passed first vote 32 to 16 on 5.23.10 to disaffiliate. Consultation with the Bishop was on 8.30.10. Albion had a meeting with North American Lutheran Church (NALC) on 10.17.10. Second vote on 11.21.10 passed 47 to 7; 54 present (87%). Congregation voted to join both LCMC and NALC. Process finished.
- St. John's, Howard Lake voted to disaffiliate from the ELCA on 9.6.09; 97 to 3 (97%). A second vote needed to be scheduled. They did not respond to our letters or requests. The Synod Council passed a resolution on 11.20.10 releasing the congregation based on the ELCA Constitution of 9.23. Process finished.
- Wang, Maynard passed first vote 22 to 7 on 8.22.10 to disaffiliate. Consultation with the Bishop was on 10.6.10. Second vote on 12.5.10 passed 26 (88%) to 3 to disaffiliate. Joined LCMC. Process finished.
- New Hope, Comfrey passed first vote 83 to 28 on 9.19.10 to disaffiliate. Consultation with the Bishop was on 11.21.10. Second vote on 1.9.11 passed 76 out of 103 people present to disaffiliate. Joined LCMC. Process finished.
- St. Paul, Springfield passed first vote 108 to 26 on 10.10.10 to disaffiliate. Consultation with the Bishop was on 12.12.10. Second vote on 1.16.11 passed 89 to 17 to disaffiliate out of 106 voting members present. Joined LCMC. Process finished.
- Holy Cross, Maple Lake voted on 1.24.10 to disaffiliate. 93 to 8 (92%) passed the first vote. Bishop consultation with the council on 3.14.10. Consultation with the congregation on 4.11.10. Second vote passed 95 to 7 on 5.2.10 to disaffiliate. Synod Council action to release Holy Cross Lutheran upon notification from the ELCA that there has been a satisfactory completion of the covenant regarding the repayment of mission partnership funds from the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission of the ELCA for their formation and redevelopment. Completion of repayment on 1.28.11. Process finished.

Eleven congregations have completed the process to disaffiliate from the ELCA. One congregation, Linden Lutheran Church in Hanska, dissolved after 151 years of worshipping. We continue to give thanks to God for the ministry of all the baptized ones in our synod and the 250 congregations of our synod.