

Northern Texas-Northern
Louisiana Synod

Report of the Bishop

April 25, 2025

*JUNTOS EN
MISSION
TOGETHER
IN MISSION*

INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW BISHOP'S ASSOCIATE

**The Rev. Kelsey
Fitting-Snyder**



CELEBRATING FAITH MILESTONES



Confirmation at Shepherd King-
Lubbock



Primeras Comuniones y Confirmaciones
at Santa Maria-Irving



Confirmation at Calvary-San Angelo

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING



NT-NL had over 200 participants in the gathering. Including the second ever “Bishop’s Group” made up of youth from congregations with only 2-3 youth and no adult sponsor. This group was made possible by coordination of Ms. Janelle Miller (Calvary-Richland Hills). Grateful to provide access to this opportunity.

WITNESSING HISTORY: 2024 PILGRIMAGE TO GERMANY

35 NT-NL lay and rostered leaders traveled to Germany in late May/early June 2024. The trip's theme was to focus on how the Reformation informs our faith today. The Briarwood Legacy Endowment enabled 8 NT-NL leaders who had not visited these sites before to do so.



HOSTING OUR REGION 4 ELCA BISHOPS



Cabalgata at San Gabriel-Alvarado



Primeras Comuniones y Confirmaciones
at Adviento-Arlington

WELCOMING NEW LEADERS/GIVING THANKS FOR MENTORS



Bishop Kurt Kussarow:
SW Penn Synod



Rev. Kirsten Wee:
King of Glory-Dallas



Rev. Kyle Symanski: Calvary-Richland Hills

GIVING THANKS FOR MINISTRY TOGETHER

Congregations Ending Word
and Sacrament Ministry:

- Good Shepherd-Marshall
- Peace-Vernon



PARISH LAY MINISTRY ACADEMY, RAISING LEADERS, TOGETHER



The Parish Lay Ministry Academy has existed over 20 years...

- 200+ students have graduated.
- 13 PLMA graduates have become rostered ministers.
- 7 are currently serving on the NTNL Synod Council
 - Including our Synod Council VP
- PLMs serve as Assisting Ministers, Christian Education Leaders, Council Members and a variety of roles in their local congregation.
- 6 Current students are from the Northeast Synod of Iowa

Dean Jeanne Heggen (Calvary-Richland Hills) and Dean Jesus Escamilla (San Gabriel-Alvarado) continue to work together to coordinate this essential part of our work.

NT-NL Synod Assembly

Approved Candidates for Ordination with Congregations of Origin



Connie Ortega
Adviento-Arlington, TX



Brady Fox
Our Saviour's-Durant, OK



Christine Cracchiolo
Abiding Grace-Southlake, TX



Trenton Ormsbee-Hale
Messiah-Weatherford, TX

LOOKING FOR CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO WORK TOGETHER ECUMENICALLY

We see opportunity to work together to strengthen our witness...

- Midland Lutheran Partnering with Grace Presbyterian
- Lu-Min-Denton joining together with the Wesley House
- St. Matthews-Fort Worth hosting St. Christopher Episcopal
- Ecumenical partner clergy serving NT-NL congregations, missions, and institutions and likewise...
 - King of Glory-Dallas
 - Faith Lutheran and Faith Episcopal-Wichita Falls
 - Bethel Lutheran-Avoca
 - Hope-Springtown
 - Grace-Fort Worth and Kyrie Pub Church
 - Advent-Arlington
 - Interim Coverage with Ecumenical Leaders

LOOKING FOR CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO WORK TOGETHER ECUMENICALLY

NT-NL participated in hosting the Leipzig Boys Choir at Incarnation Episcopal Church in Dallas. The Thomanerchor of the St. Thomas Church (the church of J.S. Bach) has been in existence since 1212.



ACCOMPANIMENT: ELCSL



NT-NL Team
Synod VP Don Heller and Spouse Belinda
DEM Rev. Irma Banales
Rev. Ben Dueholm and son Soren
Rev. Nicholas Chove
Bishop Erik Gronberg



Worship at St. Marks-Calabatown



**Rededication of
the Jubilee Center**

ACCOMPANIMENT: ELCSL



**Dedication of Women's
Health Clinic**



Ground breaking on Church Expansion



**Learning
about
Livestock
Sustainability
Program**

BRIARWOOD LEGACY ENDOWMENT

Funds Distributed Directly to NTNL Congregations in 2024/2025

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering: \$116,990
-16 congregations: 166 youth, 50 adults, 8
young adults

2025 Camp Scholarships: \$50,000
2025 Day Camps: \$40,000
2025 Pastor Sabbatical Support: \$10,000



Rev. Adam Stockton has accepted the call to Trinity-Sherman so we will be assessing the youth connector position.

<https://www.ntnl.org/nt-nl-synod-youth-connector/>



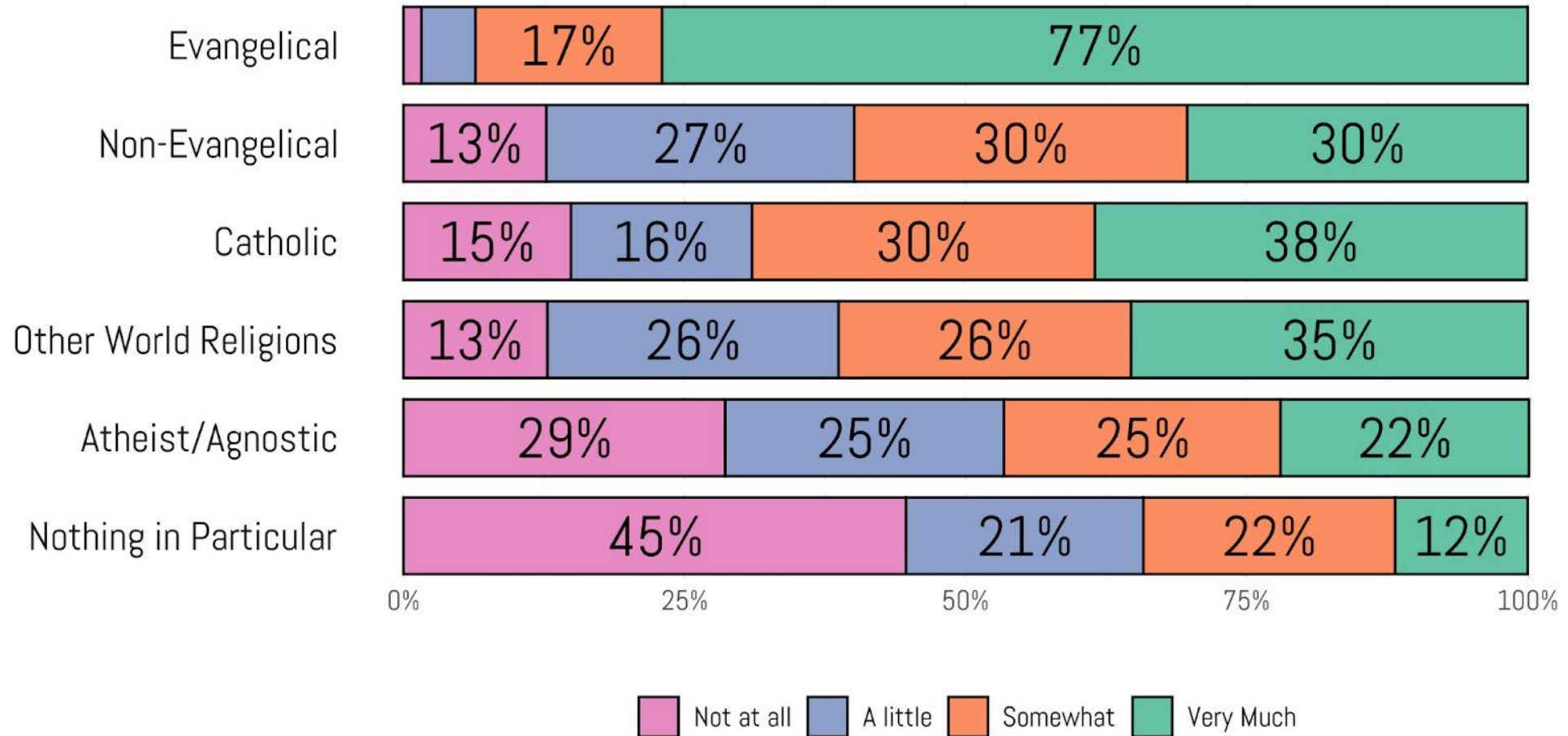
Endowment (along with DLA) is also enabling us to have a contracted Ministry Coach Coordinator the Rev. Nathan Swenson-Reinhold

<https://www.ntnl.org/ministries/coaching/request-a-coach/>



CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING OUR CONTEXT

How important are your views about religion to your identity and how you think of yourself?



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025 AND BEYOND

Continued Areas of Emphasis...

- Raising up leaders (lay and rostered) who are creative and collaborative.
- Openness to new possibilities and partnerships.
- Engaging our communities and sharing the gospel boldly.
- Centering our lives and our actions in the gospel.

Remembering our Unity is in Christ, Given by God through Baptism,
empowered by the Holy Spirit

Juntos en Mision

Together in Mission