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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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## **Synod is a Strange Word**

Kyle was one of our best ball players that year. Strong at the plate. One of our best two pitchers. Great range at shortstop. A great kid from a hard-working family.

We worked on cut-off throws when balls were hit into gaps in right-center and left-center fields. Ball hit to right field, 2nd baseman goes out for the throw and shortstop covers 2nd base. Ball hit to left field, shortstop goes out for the throw and 2nd baseman covers 2nd base. Simple—well, it should have been.

In one of our early games Kyle is at shortstop. Ball is hit into right field, and a bad hop takes the ball to the fence. Kyle covers 2nd base, right? Not this time. Adrenaline pumping, Kyle is on the move from shortstop to almost beating the right fielder to the ball. Then he decides to be cut off instead. So here stands Kyle... and a few steps away stands our 2nd baseman scratching his head. No one is covering 2nd base. The right fielder stands there with the ball trying to decide which cutoff man to throw to. Meanwhile, runners are circling the bases. We finally got the ball into the pitcher. Time out. "Kyle..." A nice discussion follows.



"Synod" is a strange word. It means "walking together." Jesus walked together with His twelve disciples during His earthly ministry. Easter afternoon Jesus walked together with the two men on the road to Emmaus. Today Jesus walks together with us as we walk together with each other. As we "synod."

Walking together, we agree to love and care for each other in certain ways. Together we agree to be normed by a constitution and bylaws. We are in this together and for each other and cared for by God Himself. We are "same team." Formed by God's holy Word and leaning on our Confessions, we agree on objectives. From our constitution, our first team objective reads: The Synod... shall... conserve and promote the UNITY of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10)... and provide a UNITED DEFENSE against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy. Schism includes any who would talk unity but then do their own thing that disrupts unity. Sectarianism draws others into cliques that disrupt unity. Heresy means "other teaching"—something that distracts or leads away from God's Old Testament and New Testament words with Jesus Christ as the Cornerstone. And soon the enemy is circling the bases and our team stands holding the ball not knowing what to do.

"Synod" is a strange word—and it is a wonderful word. As Jesus walks together with us, we walk together with each other. Walking together strengthens congregations to bring Jesus

and His gifts to others. Walking together helps us to recruit and train pastors and other church workers. Walking together helps us compassionately meet needs of the hurting. Walking together helps us establish Lutheran schools and universities and seminaries. Walking together aids our congregations in developing and receiving resources to unify us in the one true faith. Walking together helps us worship in uniform ways so that we can easily engage during Divine Service in any of our congregations. Walking together provides needed supervision and counsel and care for church workers, which leads to protection and freedom for all God's children whom He gathers into congregations.

“Synod” is a strange and wonderful word. We thank God for His guidance in gathering us together into this Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. May He keep us faithful to His Word and loyal to each other as we walk together.

As angels sing,  
Pastor Paul Egger