



God's Work. Our Hands.

Newsletter of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2014
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Message from Bishop Froiland

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

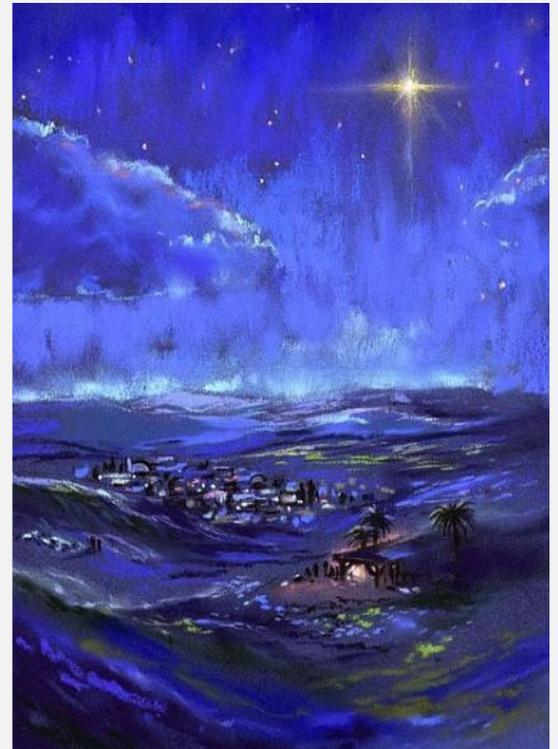
On the second Sunday of Advent, I had the opportunity to preach at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Beloit, and the Narrative Lectionary text for the day was Ezekiel 37:1-14. The dry bones text.

From captivity in Babylon, Ezekiel speaks his oracle:

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

This is a very strange Advent text. In the middle of a season focusing on hope and peace and love and joy, we are given a battlefield image, an image of the defeated Army of Israel's fallen soldiers left unburied, their flesh eaten by carrion birds, nothing left but bleached, white, dry, bones. This is the remains of the house of Israel, the people of God. This is what war has brought to the people of Israel. This is what war always brings.

Then Ezekiel's voice breaks the silence. At God's command he prophesies to the bones and they come together and the bodies are reformed. A second time he prophesies on God's behalf and breath and life fill the fallen soldiers. Ezekiel prophesies. He speaks a word of hope and promise from God, to a captive and



defeated people. And as he prophesies, the carnage of war is undone. The bones come together, breath is restored, the people live.

I don't know if Ezekiel lived to see the release of the Israelite captives, the return to Israel, the rebuilding of the temple, and the restoration of God's people, but I know that he holds up for his captive people this vision of God's peace, this undoing, this reversal, of the effects of war. This text is, after all, an image of peace, a word from God telling us God's intent for the creation, for God's people. War isn't what God desires. Destruction is not what God created God's people for. God uses an exiled priest to remind the people and to call them to a new vision and an expectant hope.

A couple events came together the first week of December. December 7th was

Message from Bishop Froiland continued from page 1

the 72nd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. That event led us into WW2, to the battlefields of the Pacific, Europe, and North Africa, battlefields that left valleys of dry bones. We know war. We still know war. We have not yet fought the war to end all wars even though we pray that each one will be the last.

On December 7, as a nation we remembered. We pray that remembering will lead us to a renewed commitment to peace.

The other event from that week was the death of Nelson Mandela. Again we remembered. We remembered Mandela's life, his resistance to the racist system of Apartheid, his imprisonment for treason, and his emergence as a man of peace following his release in 1990. I remember that. I remember watching the amazing unfolding of events in South Africa: the dismantling of apartheid, the election of Mandela as the first black president, and Mandela's emergence as a man of reconciliation instead of revenge, a prophet of peace, not war. It was good to remember and to hear again Mandela's vision of peace and restoration. Prophecy, Oh Mortal. Speak to us of God's dream of peace. Remind us who we are,

people of God called to speak God's dream to a world that has forgotten it.

God still needs prophets. God knows – we know – we have not yet entered God's promised land and God's dream for creation has not yet been realized, but we are commanded to speak that promised reality, to prophesy that God is a God of life, not death; of reconciliation, not revenge; of restoration, not destruction; of peace not war.

We need to prophesy. The church needs to prophesy. The world needs prophets who point to a different way, God's way, as we wait expectantly for the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

God's peace,

Bishop Mary Froiland



Call Process Update - Congregation & Rostered Leader Transitions

In study process:

- Albany - Albany
- Burke - Madison
- First-Beaver Dam (Senior)
- Luther Valley - Beloit
- St. Mark's - Madison
- St. Martin's - Cross Plains
- Sugar Creek - Elkhorn

Interviewing Candidates:

- Faith - Cuba City
- Grace - Darlington
- Grace - Monroe (AiM)
- Peace - Waunakee (Associate)

Recommending Candidates:

- Bethel - Madison (Associate for Bethel Horizons - Dodgeville)
- Bethel - Madison (Associate for Latino Ministries)
- Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry

In Transition:

- Blake Rohrer from South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to Midvale Community, Madison (Co-pastor)
- Cindy Crane from synod call to Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

In Transition continued:

- Garrett Strussel from Rocky Mountain Synod to Hope-Milton.
- Jeff Davis from North Dakota Synod to St. Michael's-Hustisford
- Holly Slater from South Dakota Synod to St. Paul Liberty - Deerfield

Brownies with the Bishop!

Come meet Bishop Mary Froiland, receive information on individual congregational data, gather for fellowship and enjoy brownies!

At her first meeting with pastors and other rostered leaders following the election, Bishop Mary asked these questions:

“If it was discovered that your bishop had unlimited magical powers, how could she be most helpful to you in your ministry setting?”

“What are your greatest dreams for your congregation and our church?”

And how can we find cooperative ways to move toward making those dreams a reality?”

Good conversation followed. Afterwards, she even received her own wand from a pastor.

Join us on one of the following dates for an exchange with Bishop Mary Froiland and participate in some guided conversation where you will be able to share stories on what is happening in your particular ministry setting. You will also be asked to bring your completed 2014 Mission Support form to this gathering.

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 from 6:30-8:00PM at Peace Lutheran Church, Belmont
(346 South Mound Avenue, Belmont, WI)

Sunday, January 26, 2014 from 2:30-4:00PM at Hope Lutheran Church, McFarland
(3702 County Road AB, McFarland, WI)

Tuesday, February 4, 2014 from 6:30-8:00PM at St. John's English Lutheran Church, Beaver Dam
(1209 Circle Drive West, Beaver Dam, WI)

Monday, February 10, 2014 from 6:30-8:00PM at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Middleton
(7337 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI)

Tuesday, February 18, 2014 from 6:30-8:00PM at Bethany English Lutheran Church, WI Dells
(620 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells, WI)

Sunday, February 23, 2014 from 2:30-4:00PM at Williams Bay Lutheran Church, Williams Bay *
(11 Collie Street, Williams Bay, WI)
*limited handicap access



NO RSVP Necessary!

Farewell

By: The Rev. Blake Rohrer, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop

I have accepted a call to serve as co-pastor of Midvale Community Lutheran Church-Madison, with my wife, Pastor Katie Baardseth. I will begin my call to Midvale in January and will conclude my office time at the synod in mid-December. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve on the staff of this synod. I am grateful for all the relationships I have formed, and for the opportunity I have received to experience the impact we make together, through congregations, synodical ministry and our ELCA churchwide ministry. We truly are blessed to be a part of a church that does God's work with our hands, locally and across the globe.

I will always give thanks for my colleagues on the synod staff, as they have shown me grace, care, forgiveness, faithfulness, and an unrelenting commitment to make a difference in the world in Jesus' name.

I offer with joy my prayers and support for Bishop Froiland and the synod staff as they continue to lead the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. I am confident in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them as they lead us in God's mission. May the hope, peace and joy of the Advent season be with you now and always.

Peace in Christ,
Blake Rohrer



Please join us for a farewell reception for Blake on Thursday, January 16 from 3:30 - 5:00 at the synod office!

Mission Support



Your generosity allows us to be partners in God's mission. Thank you!



To give online, go to: <http://scsw-elca.org/donations/mobile/>

or click on the QR code using a barcode reader app on your smart phone.

God's Work. Our Hands. Feature

Reprinted from Beloit Daily News - December 2, 2013

Helping people have a voice in the community, especially when they may not speak or read English can be a significant challenge.

For the Rev. Neddy H. Astudillo, however, it is a part of her everyday world. The bi-lingual pastor arrived in this country from Venezuela 21 years ago. She is married and has three children. And about four years ago, she also became a US citizen, she said.

She and her husband, Thomas Spaulding, came to the Stateline Area about 13 years ago to start an educational center for organic agriculture. Her husband operates the Angelic Organics Learning Center in Caledonia. Passionate about theology and the environment, Astudillo also just completed a doctoral program for pastors on "Greening the Church." She enjoys speaking on environmental issues and faith and she volunteers at the Angelic Organics Learning Center, she said.

As an ordained Presbyterian pastor, she ministers presently to a Latino congregation at the San Jose mission on Bluff Street in Beloit. The church is a joint ministry of the ELCA Lutheran Synod and the Presbyterian Church.

"We all believe in one God but we try to create space for who and what we are," Astudillo said. About 50 people attend services at the site where she preaches in Spanish on Sunday mornings. And it is also one place where she connects with the community and community needs.

She was involved with the development of a non-profit organization called Pueblos Unidos (United People) aimed at empowering new Latino leaders and serving the Latino community.

Astudillo also volunteers for the Latino non-profit organization called the Latino Service Provider Coalition. "We meet once a month and talk about resources in the community," she said.

Another member of the coalition who has worked with her is Cindy Laube. Laube coordinates the Even Start Family Literacy program in Beloit.

"I would have to say that it is a real pleasure working with Neddy on the Latino service providers coalition board. She is a hard worker and always has a smile and a positive word to say," Laube said.



Astudillo also is one of the editors of La Voz De Beloit, or The Voice of Beloit, a monthly publication printed in Brodhead and written in Spanish. The tabloid, published with support of Pueblos Unidos and members of the Latino Service Provider's Coalition, contains news as well as information about the community, health and other issues deemed helpful to the Latino population. It is one form of outreach to people who may not always feel connected to the larger community and its resources.

"I understand the sociology of life and poverty and I realize we need to provide more holistic support for people. We need to teach English, parental education and help people find doctors and services," for example, she said.

"We are trying to increase the quality of life for Latinos to have a better life and to encourage leadership."

Volunteering is one way to do that, Astudillo says. "There's need everywhere. I realize unless I get involved with the community I don't know how to support people and their aspects of life. Volunteering empowers me to know how to help people."

Bishop Froiland Installation



The Rev. Mary Stumme Froiland was installed as the fifth and first female bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Saturday, Dec. 14 at First Lutheran Church in Janesville. Nearly 600 synod bishops, rostered leaders, ministry partners, friends and family members were in attendance.

The ceremony began with a colorful procession festooned with red streamers, and a special banner gifted to Bishop Froiland from members of Luther Valley Church in Beloit. Froiland served as pastor of Luther Valley for 13 years prior to her election in September as bishop. Froiland processed with her husband, the Rev. John Froiland, chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital in Janesville by her side. Mary's parents, the Rev. Wayne Stumme and the Rev. Carol Stumme participated in the ceremony. Special music by area choirs contributed to the celebration and theme, "Flowing Fountain, Well Spring of Life."

Among the invited guests were ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA Secretary, Chris

Boerger, and the Rev. Philip Hougen, who served as interim bishop of the synod prior to Froiland's election. Other guests included other ELCA bishops, former SCSW bishops Rev. Jon Enslin and Rev. George Carlson, the Rev. Scott Anderson, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, executive director of Strategic Partnerships, Presbytery of Milwaukee, the Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, and Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Church.

Dr. Sanchita Kisku, representing the Synod's companion synod, the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church in India and Rev. Ed Anderson representing the sister synod of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, the ELCA Slovak Zion Synod read special greetings.

Bishop Eaton presided and preached. In her message, she said, "We, as Lutherans, are the least likely to accept grace." She asked the assembly to "stand alongside your new bishop so that all may know this gift of grace."

A reception followed where Bishop Froiland was presented with a gift from the synod which was a framed print of the Matisse artwork that Bishop Froiland chose for the invitation and worship folder.

Froiland was elected to a six-year term as bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin on September 27, 2013 at the Special Meeting of the 2013 Synod Assembly held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison. She assumed the role of bishop on November 1, 2013.

Thank you from Bishop Froiland

Thanks so much to all who made my installation day one of the best ever days of my life (right up there with wedding and arrival of children and grandchildren days)! I am honored and privileged to serve you as your Bishop. I ask for your continuing prayers and friendship as we live out our faith in this time and place, securely held in the grace of God. Thanks also for your offerings of \$2,425.00 in support of our Synod's Latino ministries. Together we can have a greater impact than any of us can alone, as we seek to be God's hands and heart in the lives of our neighbors.

SYNOD CALENDAR



Items appearing in **blue** are events sponsored by your synod.

December/January/February

December 24-25	Synod office closed for Christmas	
December 31	Synod office closed for New Year's Eve	
January 1	Synod Office closed for New Year's Day	
January 18	Synod Council Meeting at location TBD	9:00 am
January 21	Brownies with the Bishop at Peace, Belmont	6:30 pm
January 26	Brownies with the Bishop at McFarland Lutheran, McFarland	2:30 pm
February 4	Brownies with the Bishop at St. John's English Lutheran, Beaver Dam	6:30 pm
February 10	Brownies with the Bishop at St. Luke's Lutheran, Middleton	6:30 pm
February 11	LUAD Council Meeting at Messiah-Madison	6:00 pm
February 18	Brownies with the Bishop at Bethany English Lutheran, Wisconsin Dells	6:30 pm
February 23	Brownies with the Bishop at Williams Bay Lutheran, Williams Bay	2:30 pm
February 27	Campus Ministry Meeting at Synod Office	6:30 pm

Future Dates in 2014

March 8	Leadership Education and Development Day at Evangelical - Mount Horeb	
March 15	Synod Council Meeting at location TBD	9:00 am
March 21	Candidacy at Synod office	8:30 am
May 3-4	Synod Assembly at Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells	
May 9	Candidacy Meeting at Synod Office	8:30 am
April 18	LUAD Council Meeting at Bethel-Madison	6:00 pm
June 12	LUAD Council Meeting at St. John's-Prairie du Sac	6:00 pm
August 1	Candidacy Meeting at Synod Office	8:30 am
August 12	LUAD Council Meeting - Location TBD	6:00 pm
October 10	Candidacy Meeting at Synod Office	8:30 am
October 12-14	Bishop's Convocation at the Grand Geneva, Lake Geneva	

Synod Event - LEAD 2014 - March 8 - Mount Horeb Lutheran

For all rostered and lay leaders in our synod...A day of workshops and networking! Watch "What Matters" for Registration Information in January!

Keynote: "The Millennial Reformation"

Rozella White

Program Director for
Young Adult Ministry

ELCA



For anniversary resources, visit the ELCA website: www.elca.org/anniversary



Worship

Please Join Us for Worship with Communion on Thursdays at the synod office 12:00—12:30 p.m. with brown bag lunch immediately following. Everyone is welcome!

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Online Giving is available 24/7/365 for individuals to make a donation. Our work in mission, care of congregation, leadership development, and global and ecumenical relationships cannot happen without you. To give online, go to: <http://scsw-elca.org/donations/mobile/> or click on the QR code using a barcode reader app on your smart phone.



The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Newsletter "God's Work. Our Hands." is published 10-11 times per year. The deadline for submissions is the first Thursday of the month. Correspondence and articles can be emailed to the synod office to vickih@scsw-elca.org or sent via mail to Vicki Hanrahan, Synod Communicator/Program Assistant, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 2909 Landmark Place, Suite 202, Madison, WI 53713.

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