

WHAT MATTERS April 7, 2020

News from Your Synod and Ministry Partners

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA/6401 Odana Rd./Suite 20/Madison, WI 53719/(608)270-0201/www.scsw-elca.org

Please note: The synod virtual office (deployed staff) will be closed for Good Friday. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the pastor on call, Rev. Walter Baires at (608) 270-0201.

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Of all the days we've been told we can't gather as a church, Easter is the hardest of all. But how might Easter eyes let us see a new gift through all of this?

Bishop Rogness has recorded an Easter Message that will be available for download and viewing Saturday morning from the Synod's website and facebook page. We invite you to make use of this message in whatever ways are helpful to your ministry.

www.scsw-elca.org

Equipping the Saints!



Stewardship In Uncertain Times

By Deacon Vicki Hanrahan

We publicized this webinar, "Stewardship in Uncertain Times" and I attended because I knew Siebert Lutheran Foundation would offer us the best of the best and they did not disappoint! Siebert Lutheran Foundation is partnering with GSB Partner, Rev. Mike Ward, CFRE, for one-hour virtual workshops to explore stewardship in uncertain times. Mike is the author of [*Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity*](#) published (2020) by Fortress Press and a frequent speaker around the country.

In case you missed it, I highly recommend spending the time to listen to the audio recording. An hour of your of day could have life-giving Impact for you and your congregation or faith communities (and maybe especially our camps). If you don't have time to listen to the recording, I took notes for you. Here is what the speaker Mike Ward shared. Most interesting though might be the questions asked at the end of the recording by attendees. The recording will give you more of the good stuff of stewardship which ultimately is how we love each other and walk together.

Link to recording: <https://www.siebertfoundation.org/april1stewardship>

Notes:

1. Stories of abundance are abounding. Generosity is still happening. If you want to be generous today, you will be joining others who are. People want to give to things that are having an impact. People don't want to just give to the survival of an organization. The more opportunity that you open up to give to a meaningful, impactful ministry, the more people will give. So your stories need to start with how your offerings are making a difference. Think of "Mission Moments" in What Matters...these are some of the the ways our congregations are making a difference in Jesus' name. How might you share your own stories or Mission Moments?
2. When writing letters to your congregation or donors about giving during this time, create a "join us culture." We need to send a message of joining others. Move away from telling people what they should do...Invite people to join us in how we are going to model generosity and keep the ministry of God's church going.
3. Lead with the outcome story. What ministries are still able to happen with our generosity?
4. Tell your generosity story. How are you joining in with your congregation/donors in the generosity story.
5. Call top 10 donors. Can you maintain your giving? Can you increase your giving? Should you do a matched gift invitation?
6. Listen to your members. Some may need to lower their giving during this time, but don't assume this.
7. Check in with your council members through a pastoral care conversation. Do you need to invite somebody to increase their giving? Or do you need to invite them to decrease their giving so they don't feel shame if they need to do that until their circumstances change?
8. You can grow in generosity even if you don't increase dollars. Increase from 2% to 4% for example of gross income, even if it means the total dollars don't increase. When their situation changes, they may decide to maintain the higher percentage.
9. Using third party services of tithe.ly, Vanco, paypal, is a viable solution for congregations. While some congregations were concerned about giving up control, those concerns go away when you see that people appreciate this. You might have a donor that will give \$50 to the church for every member

that signs up for electronic giving because donors like it when others join them in generosity. Don't be afraid to utilize challenge gifts. "The message is that other families are signing up for automatic giving, and you should join them." All of this is wrapped up in our communication stories of impact and generosity that our ministry is making a difference even in times like these.

10. We need to exude abundance rather than scarcity. Congregations that immediately lay off staff and cut pay are operating from a scarcity mindset. We need to stop that. Before we go to a scarcity mindset, we need to give our people the opportunity to give. This is a social justice issue. If you take this action without giving the congregation the opportunity to step up and pay attention to what we do, you are sending the wrong message. Donors might say, if my church is doing that, I'm going to give money to other organizations that are showing that they are going to step up through these times. People will give more of their income during these times because they see a neighbor in need.
11. Feel free to continue annual fund messaging. You have more time to take care of your building. It's not the time to send out the message that your ship is sinking. Now could be the time where you begin to build the infrastructure for your campaign so you are ready to launch with special gift campaigns when this is all over.
12. Donor Advised Funds – research this. Donations sit in a Donor Advised Fund and the minute they are put in the fund, it is considered a gift to a charitable organization until the donor advises the fund where to send the money. In 2019, there were \$120 billion dollars in donor advised funds. These funds could make a huge difference for charities.
13. Note, our ELCA Regional Gift Planner who would be able to help you set up a donor advised fund is:
Contact: Cynthia Halverson / ELCA Foundation / cynthia.halverson@elca.org / (773) 380-2572
14. Learn about the CARES Act and get your message right about how your church is using it. Make sure you communicate that the funds will help out during the time when some of the donors in your congregation are unable to make their regular offerings due to job layoffs.
15. Improve your thank you game. Call one member a day to say thank you and make sure that everything you do feels more relational and less transactional. Mike has learned through this that is especially important for Pastors to make those calls. Some in the congregation might be comfortable making the calls but those people have to be generous themselves. One of the key elements of congregational vitality is for the leader of the congregation to be close to your donors. If the argument is that you don't want to treat anyone differently, Mike would argue that it is good to treat people differently, but that doesn't mean to treat anyone better than another. There is a difference. Sometimes God's voice comes through our pastors better than others. It's a pastoral care conversation.

There is much to learn from this speaker. If these notes have piqued your interest, here again is the link to the recording:

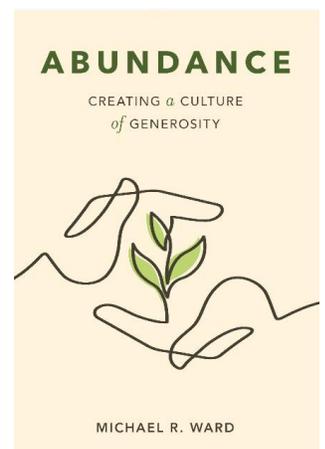
<https://www.siebertfoundation.org/april1stewardship>

To go deeper, you may be interested in ordering Mike's book:

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/1391/Abundance>

Or on Amazon, and those preferring e-readers:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07VCLJ9GJ/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_WrrEEbNZ70JX7



Additional Resources

- Mike Ward's recent [blogs and videos](#) responding to the COVID-19 crisis:
 - [Moving Mission Forward During Coronavirus](#)
 - [Key Ways to Keep Stewardship Strong in Uncertain Times](#)
 - [Fundraising in Uncertain Times](#)
 - [What about Campaigns in Times Like These?](#)



In light of the evolving impact of COVID-19 on our lives and communities, we have made the decision to suspend our educational events. This includes the Plan for Retirement

Seminars on May 7th in Chicago and July 28th in Davenport. Your registration fees will be refunded. Look for an email from Eventbrite within the next three days to confirm your refund has been issued to the card you used when you registered for the event. Please allow five to seven banking days for your refund to be processed.

We invite you to take advantage of other resources on our website. If you are an ELCA Retirement Plan member, we encourage you to talk one-on-one about your retirement questions with a Portico Financial Planner at no out-of-pocket cost. Call 800.922.4896 to speak with a planner directly.



Worship Moments in A Time of Disruption – Video #3 From Bishop Rogness Is posted to the synod website.

Feel free to share in your settings for worship, on your Facebook page, link to it from your e-mail newsletters, use it as your own personal daily meditation time.

<https://scsw-elca.org/community/>

Bishop Rogness Offers Video Messages for Worship & Prayer time in your homes. Transcriptions of his messages are also provided

PLEASE TELL US IF YOU ARE STREAMING OR RECORDING WORSHIP OR DAILY DEVOTIONS!

A shout out to our leaders as you continue to share the gospel with your communities. You are amazing! Message delivery is as varied as our congregations! If you are including live streaming in your mode of communications with your congregation and would like your schedule of future streamed worship services or devotions linked from the synod website, we've created a quick form on our website to fill out. We

have posted many other links to worship services and future Lenten services being held at congregations in our synod. We would love to post yours as soon as we receive permission from you to share it! When requested, this link is also provided to media in our south-central Wisconsin area who do share it in their news. This is a wonderful way to stay in connected community! **Here's the link:** <https://scsw-elca.org/submit/>



2021 Domestic Hunger Grant Awards

Applications Due May 8, 2020

The final 2020 Domestic Hunger Grant awards list and *new* interactive map are now available on the Domestic Hunger grant website.

2021 Domestic Hunger Grant Applications -

<https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants>

- 2021 ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant applications opened Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Ministries must register to begin their applications by May 8 and submit a completed application by May 22 to be considered for a 2021 award. For a full timeline, criteria, introductory webinar and more, please visit the Domestic Hunger Grant website.

The ELCA World Hunger domestic grant map and application timeline were shared on Jan. 31 on ELCA World Hunger's social media pages – feel free to spread the news!

PREVIEW: THREE types of ELCA World Hunger domestic grants

Historically, there has been one, main grant opportunity for the vast variety of anti-hunger and poverty ministry across this church. Going forward, we look forward to honoring that diversity of ministry models by offering three, distinct granting opportunities for more specialized partnership and learning:

- **Daily Bread Matching Grants:** 96 percent of ELCA congregations have some sort of anti-hunger ministry, many of which center around food (2012 ELCA Form C). These “bread and butter” ministry partners of ELCA World Hunger make a big difference in closing the meal gap locally and are a visible witness and service with our neighbors and communities. Piloted in 2019 with a full launch planned for fall 2020, Daily Bread Grants are \$500, matching grants designed to support congregational feeding ministries while increasing their fundraising capacity for a more sustainable future. Watch this video to learn more, and stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to the launch.
- **Domestic Hunger Grants:** Redesigned in 2018, Domestic Hunger grants are available for up to \$10,000 per year for three years, designed to support transformative, holistic and integrated ministries of congregations and their partners. Successful applicant ministries will address multiple root causes of hunger and poverty, intentionally cultivate leaders with lived experience of hunger and poverty and have strong, demonstrated connections with ELCA congregations and their communities with a commitment to measuring their success.
- **Big Dream Grants:** God creates and inspires abundantly, and across this church, visionary leaders are answering the call to serve by dreaming big dreams. Big Dream grants are \$10,000 to \$75,000, one-time investments in ministries that demonstrate excellence, innovation and best practices in the anti-hunger and poverty space. By invitation only and awarded by a diverse group of hunger leaders, check out the four 2020 Big Dream grant ministry partners in this ELCA World Hunger blog post.

The video announcement for ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving Lenten initiative just went live! It features the hopes of ELCA World Hunger partner ministries in the U.S. and around the globe – what is YOUR hope?

God came in Christ so that all might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10) – may it be so.

Until all are fed,

ELCA World Hunger

<https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants>



2020 Summer Savings

Purchase \$100 or more at augsborgfortress.org and

save \$25
now through July 31, 2020.

Use promo code
SUMMER2020 at checkout.

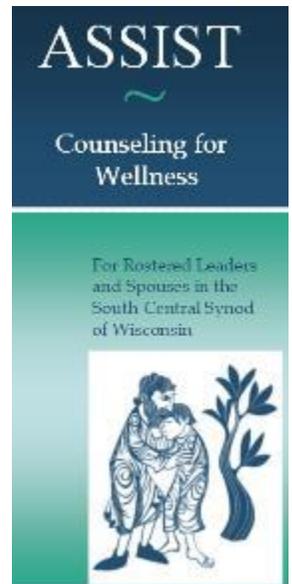
Offer does not apply to website or print subscriptions, and is limited to one use per account.

Assist Appointments Are Available Through Tele-Assist During this Time

While the ASSIST program can be used to address any challenge or issue that a pastor, deacon or their spouse are dealing with these are the top four most common issues during the past year.

- 1) Relational issues dealing with spouse or children.
- 2) Tension and challenges within the congregation.
- 3) Discernment issues, looking at what is God calling me to do.
- 4) Issues of anxiety and depression.

Our synod has provided this as a benefit to help support healthy pastor and deacons. The ASSIST program provides three visits to address your issues. If additional sessions are needed, typically your health insurance benefit can then be used. For more information or questions contact Dan Feaster with the Samaritan Counseling Center. To schedule an ASSIST appointment call 608-663-0763 ext. 100 and let them know you are calling to set up an ASSIST appointment.



South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization (W/ELCA)

Apr. 16, 2020

(CANCELLED) Southwest Conference Spring Gathering, First English LC in Platteville

Apr. 18, 2020

(CANCELLED) Monroe Conference Spring Business Meeting, New Hope LC in Hollandale
Rescheduled for Oct. 17, 2020 at Wiota Lutheran Church near South Wayne

Apr. 25, 2020

(CANCELLED) Elkhorn Conference Spring Gathering, St. John's LC in Johnson Creek

Apr. 25, 2020

(CANCELLED) Beloit Conference Spring Gathering, Our Savior's LC in Beloit

Apr. 25, 2020

(CANCELLED) Barneveld Conference Spring Gathering at Grace LC in Dodgeville
Will try to reschedule for fall

July 14-16, 2020

Women of the ELCA Triennial Conference, Convention Center, Phoenix, Arizona

July 16-19, 2020

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering, Convention Center, Phoenix, Arizona

Sept. 18-19, 2020

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization Fall Retreat at Lutherdale Bible
Camp
(with overnight retreat or day retreat options)

Sept. 26, 2020

Railroad pickup in Madison of Lutheran World Relief kits & quilts



Congregational Newsletter Editors - please include this text in your newsletters!

WHAT MATTERS - Stay Connected To Synod Happenings, News, & Events!

Grow in your faith and leadership! Stay connected to exciting events and stories of our faith in action in our synod! To sign up for synod news, please email Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at



vickih@scsw-elca.org to be added to "What Matters."

Please also add a link to the synod website to your website: www.scsw-elca.org

Save the Date!

September 21, 2020

Keeping Faith: Empowering Faith Communities to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse

An Interfaith Workshop with Victor Vieth with Zero Abuse Project in Minnesota and Honorable Rev. Everett Mitchell, Dane County Circuit Judge and Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church



Monday, September 21, 2020

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Madison Christian Community / 7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison WI 53717

Participants will learn:

- best practices to prevent abuse within faith communities;
- how to recognize and respond to physical, emotional and spiritual impact of child abuse;
- spiritual care for both survivors and offenders;
- how to recognize and respond to sexual behaviors of children;
- corporal punishment, the law and the faith community;
- optimal response to allegations of child abuse within a congregation.

Current Sponsors: Madison Christian Community and Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ
Endorsed by: South-Central Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA

Registration information to follow at www.madisonchristiancommunity.org - CEU's for mental health professionals applied for.

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Positions in the Synod

We are happy to help promote your positions. Please submit 100 words or less to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Synod Communicator, email: vickih@scsw-elca.org. Please notify Vicki when the position has been filled so that we can keep this list current. Thanks!

Church Administrator – Part-time – West Koshkonong (Stoughton)

West Koshkonong Lutheran Church in rural Stoughton is seeking applications for a 16-20 hour per week administrator. This outgoing, ambitious, and forward-thinking person will report directly to Pastor Eric Bakken. Pay will commensurate with experience and skills. We are seeking a person to coordinate weekly and monthly publications, working with financial statements and budgets, scheduling, handling correspondence, phone calls and more. Knowledge of Microsoft, spreadsheets and basic computer skills. Training on church based software will be available. Please submit resume to both wkoffice@tds.net & mmbarth@charter.net. (03/30/20)

Choir Director – Bethlehem (Portage)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is looking to fill our part-time Choir Director position. The ideal candidate would be able to lead the choir, as well as play the organ for worship services, funerals and weddings, and lead the Praise Band. Previous experience preferred to include the ability to motivate choir members, read music and conduct; knowledge of liturgical flow and connection to worship; piano experience strongly preferred. Part-time September through May. Please send resume to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage. (03/11/20)

Organist – Bethlehem (Portage)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is looking to fill our part-time Organist position. The ideal candidate would be able to play organ and/or piano at worship services, funerals and weddings. Experience in organ and piano playing preferred; knowledge of church music in different styles and genres; good communication and organizational skills, ability to plan for special Sundays in the liturgical year. Please send resume to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage. (03/11/20)

Associate Director of Music & Worship – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Madison/Verona)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA) seeks an Associate Director of Music & Worship to lead the worship life and music programming at Good Shepherd's Verona Campus. This includes leading worship bands, planning music and liturgy for worship, expanding music offerings and looking for opportunities to develop new music groups, and assist with innovative programming across both campuses. This is a salaried position averaging 32 hours a week with eligibility for benefits. To apply, send a cover letter, resumé, and supporting digital files (leading worship bands) to Rick Blum, Director of Administration, at rblum@gslcwi.com. Review of applications will begin April 6. (3/11/20)

Program Director – Preschool - Good Shepherd (Madison)

This position is responsible for our state-licensed locations in both Madison and Verona. The Director is responsible for the school's management, operations, planning and implementation of preschool curriculum. Responsibilities include supervision and hiring of staff, licensing renewal, working with the church accountant, developing balanced budget and ordering supplies. Director will also teach as needed in the classrooms. Salaried position totaling 30 hours a week year-round. Must be at least 21 years of age, familiar with state licensing rules, have a Registry certificate or Educator's license to verify education, meet qualifications outlined in WI Licensing Rules DCF 251, certified in CPR, Child CPR, AED and Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention training and pass a health and fingerprint check. This position will start on June 1, 2020. Please send applications to Director of Administration Rick Blum at rblum@gslcwi.com. (04/04/20)

Licensed Psychotherapist – Samaritan Counseling Center (Madison)

The Samaritan Counseling Center of Southern Wisconsin is expanding our services and seeking a full time licensed psychotherapist. For more information visit our website at: www.samaritancounselingcenterwi.org (11/12/19)

Full-Time Chaplain - Skaalen Retirement Services - Stoughton, WI

Skaalen Retirement Services is a Lutheran retirement community that has been providing care and support of seniors in need since 1900. Skaalen Retirement Services is seeking a full-time Chaplain to provide spiritual care to by promoting a spiritual environment within the campus by leading worship services, providing prayer services, conducting Bible study, leading religious discussions, providing religious education and hymn sings with residents and patients in all levels of care. The successful candidate will need to be ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Ecclesiastical Specialized Care Endorsement status from the ELCA, and is Board Certified Chaplain status from the Association of Professional Chaplains. (09/05/19)

Wisconsin Council of Churches Employment Opportunities

<https://www.wichurches.org/resources/employment-opportunities/>

At-A-Glance Future Synod Events:

March 16 – Synod Office Closed TFN – Staff working remotely – call (608) 270-0201

These events are subject to changes from in person gatherings to virtual gatherings. Please watch What Matters for updates:

The time and nature of the forums is being reassessed by the Bishop Call Committee. These may become “stay-at-home” forums.

May 21 – Subject to Change - Bishop Nominee Forum & Retired Pastor's Gathering – Oakwood Village (Prairie Ridge)



May 21 – Pending - Bishop Nominee Forum – Grace Lutheran (Dodgeville)

May 23 – Pending - Bishop Nominee Forum – Trinity English (Fort Atkinson)

June 18 – Pending - Bishop Nominee Forum – Bethlehem (Portage)

June 20 – Pending – Synod Assembly & Bishop Election

Prayers

Social Media Team/Website:

- Marsha Schwanke, Bristol, Sun Prairie, WI
- Trevor Thom, Immanuel Evangelical, Watertown

Synod Seminary Student:

- Halle Siebert, Halle is a student at Luther Seminary to become a Pastor.

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Rev. Jennifer Jelinek, Pastor and Members of Grace Lutheran Church, Cambridge, WI
- Rev. Lucy Wynard, Pastor and members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, the Staff and the congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod.

Churchwide Partners:

- Ms. Sonia Mackenzie, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA at the ELCA Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL
- Ms. Mikka S McCracken, Executive for Innovation and Director, ELCA Leadership Lab at the ELCA Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL

We give thanks at this time for the ministry of those who celebrate their anniversary of Ordination during this coming week:

- Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, April 10, 2016, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Madison, WI.
vickih@scsw-elca.org
- Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke, April 11, 2015, Palliative Care Clinic Chaplain UW Health Madison, WI.
kirstenworzaladumke@gmail.com
-
- Rev. Brenda Lovick, April 11, 2010, Pastor East Koshkonong Lutheran Cambridge, WI.
pastor.brendalovick@gmail.com

May these leaders continue to be blessed for service.



Updates on Congregations in the Call Process and Rostered Leader Updates

Call process and roster changes are updated on the synod website monthly. Please keep these congregations and rostered leaders in your prayers.

Link: <http://scsw-elca.org/resources/callprocess/>

Like Us on Facebook and you'll share in awesome ministry by congregations in your synod, share great ideas and be inspired with selected scripture from your synod staff. **South-Central Synod of Wisconsin**



Remember, when you see this symbol, this is a news item that should be put in your congregational newsletters! Thanks for your partnership.

Congregations can feel free to reprint these pages for your congregational use. Reprint permission provided by: South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA – 6401 Odana Road, Suite 20, Madison, WI 53719. Please reference as seen in Synod e-news, "What Matters" in your reprint. Questions can be directed to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at the synod office: (608) 270-0201.

Share your news. If you have something you would like considered for publication in What Matters, send it to Communications & Event Manager, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, at vickih@scsw-elca.org.

Visit our website: www.scsw-elca.org



Following Jesus, who commanded his followers, 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another,' and believing that all persons are created in the image of God, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA, strives to be fully inclusive for all. This synod welcomes people of every race, background, age, political affiliation, economic and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and mental and physical ability, while striving to enable all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions.

SYNOD STAFF AND OFFICE COVERAGE ADJUSTMENTS

The Synod Staff will for the most part, be working remotely for the next couple of weeks, and our office will be open on a more limited basis. Our main line (608) 270-0201 will be forwarded to Robyn Zimmerman, Executive Administrative Assistant, who will either answer "live" or will retrieve voice mails and forward them to the appropriate staff person. We are reachable via email as well.

Bishop Peter Rogness – peterr@scsw-elca.org

Pastoral Care, Congregational Care

Rev. Steve Kottke – stevek@scsw-elca.org

Mobility & Transitions, Care of Congregations

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan – vickih@scsw-elca.org

What Matters, Events, Giving & Worship Resources

Robyn Zimmerman – robynz@scsw-elca.org

Candidacy, Appointments, Zoom Meeting Assistance

Rev. Walter Baires – walterb@scsw-elca.org

Faithful Innovations, Mission, Stewardship, Latino Ministries

Jason Xiong – jasonx@scsw-elca.org

Assistance with Streaming Technologies, Webmaster