

WHAT MATTERS May 5, 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



Dear Ministry Partners,

I am getting tired of this virus thing – we all are. Weariness is pressing at the door. So, the first (and last) word in this longer-than-usual monthly letter is this: Sabbath. Take care of yourself. Jesus unplugged periodically; the Creator rested after seven days. What is true of ministry generally is also true of ministry in this strange time: we will never be able to get to everything that warrants our attention. So, for your own sake and for the sake of the quality of the work you can get to, unplug. Take care of yourselves.

There are two sections to this letter. The first will deal with unfolding happenings in the days ahead in our synod. The second has to do with looking ahead at the prospect of “return” when the current time of isolation ends.

The Synod – Assembly and Election

This past Saturday, May 2 (when we had planned on being in assembly at Kalahari!), the Synod Council met via Zoom, and reviewed a number of

decisions about moving forward, culminating weeks of preparation work by the Assembly Planning Committee, the Bishop Election Task Force, the Executive Committee, and the Bishop Call Committee. The decisions give an idea of what is in store in the coming months. To summarize:

Assembly -

- The 2020 Synod Assembly will be held in a multi-site fashion, with no more than 50 people at any given site. We will be interconnected through technology. (See “What Matters” 4/28 issue) for what is involved in doing this, and whether your congregation might consider being one of the sites.) Voting Members from each congregation will be given an assigned site to attend, in order to distribute attendance. The sites will have interactivity capability.
- The Agenda will include both the election of a bishop and other necessary business. The origination site will be Good Shepherd in Verona.
- We will hold an assembly when the state’s “Badger Bounce Back” protocol moves us to Phase 2, allowing for gatherings of 50 people. We will still practice distancing and other safe practices. We will send notice 35 days ahead of the planned Saturday Assembly. At that time, registration and other assembly material will be mailed and made available on-line. Note that in the recent questionnaire to congregations we asked about numbers anticipated to come from each congregation – which will help us with our planning. “When will it be?” you may ask? We don’t know. Obviously, by May 15 (35 days ahead) we would need to decide on the previously planned June 20 gathering, but it’s unlikely the state will be in Phase 2 then since we’re not yet in Phase 1. When a window appears to bring us to a point of being able to gather, we will. At this point we know it will be a Saturday, with registration opening at 7:00 a.m. opening worship beginning at 8:30, and a projected adjournment by 4:30.

Bishop Election -

- The Call Committee is now preparing to give a report of its work and announce the 4-6 nominees they have been charged with bringing forward to the congregations. They expect that announcement to go live at 4:00 p.m. on May 15. At the conclusion of that report, several things will be posted to the Synod Website: (1) the text of the report given by the Committee; (2) a five-minute introductory video from each of the nominees; and (3) written material produced by each of the nominees with their education and work history, and their responses to a number of questions posed by the Bishop Candidate Profile they completed for the Call Committee.
- The Bishop Election Task Force will conduct two on-line forums with the nominees. The first will come a week after the announcement, and will be posted at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 22. The Task Force will focus the questions for the first forum on issues raised by the Synod Profile and Bishop Profile that came out of the January-February Town Hall Meetings. People from around the synod will be invited to submit questions for a second forum, to be held a month or so later.

- In the interest of having a fair and even process, the Task Force discourages people from the synod having other communications with all or any of the nominees apart from the public interactions available to all.
- At the Assembly, there will be a series of three ballots, with speeches or Q&A before each. ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer or an appointee will run the election.

A great deal of thought and discussion have gone into these plans and will continue. Please watch for updates as time goes on.

Thoughts in anticipation of "return"

People in every congregation are understandably eager to be back together. We all are – we are eager for the return of our normal lives, patterns, and relationships. "Badge Bounce Back" anticipates that happening in stages – a bit of loosening in Phase 1, though the maximum gathering size of 10 will continue; a gathering size of no more than 50 in phase 2, and a full relaxation of size restrictions in Phase 3. But even though this delineation of "Phases" is helpful, there is no loud toggle switch that moves us from one reality to another. Science tells us that this dangerous virus is going to be with us for quite a while. "Normalcy" will look different, and while there is still much we don't know about the unfolding future, we're quite certain 2020 (and 2021) will not look like 2019.

Everyone in congregational leadership should familiarize themselves with the recent guidance document from the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Its caution and reasoning are well grounded. You can find it here:

<https://www.wichurches.org/2020/04/23/returning-to-church/>

My counsel:

- Don't rush into regathering. Initially I had envisioned the ban being lifted and we all have great packed-church celebrations when we are first allowed back. I am far more guarded now. I recently heard a comment to the effect that if one were to design a social setting to maximize the spread of a virus, it would look a lot like a Sunday morning church service: pack people into pews sitting beside/in front of/behind each other, have them do a lot of singing, pass the peace, pass an offering plate, share communion... and then mingle with each other for coffee conversations afterward. And on top of that is the demographic worry – our church-going population is older, often the most faithful! – the very at-risk demographic that should be most reticent about returning may well be the first through the door.
So how do we care for them? One way –
- When you do begin to gather, it would be good to continue to record and offer online Sunday worship services, and encourage any who for whatever reason should or would prefer to remain home to do so, knowing they can still be part of your worshipping community. Besides, a number of you have made comments about the online worship reaching people you haven't seen in church lately.
- Doing this may also provide an avenue for safely bringing back communion to those most strongly desiring it. I recently heard of one plan that I thought was promising: The pastor plans to continue doing online Sunday Worship, recording ahead and posting on Sunday morning. But on Sunday morning the pastor will be in the sanctuary, vested and prepared to lead a brief 10-12 devotional service with Communion, and people will be invited to sign up for appointments on the half-hour, 7-8 people at a time, who will be gone before the next group comes. Such a plan minimizes risk (there is still risk!), and provides for only a gradual return, while providing communion for those who have most desired it. But remember this: there is really no risk-free way to do communion. Any manner of distribution contains the possibility of contact from one person to another, elimination of six-foot distancing, etc. Creating the circumstance in which anyone might feel any pressure to commune is doing a disfavor to all, especially those in high-risk categories.
- If there are some in your congregation that want to rush a return, ignoring government guidelines, one very significant factor – in addition to the care of people's health – is to check with your church's insurance carrier. If people get sick and you have defied gathering guidelines, your insurance may not cover your liability.
- Whatever the gradual return might look like, I think we need to be robustly supportive of all who do not yet return out of their own concern for health and well-being. We should be fully supportive of those concerns.

These are challenging questions for consideration. Because of that, we are offering two opportunities for live on-line conversations that I'll host next week with our rostered ministers who are currently under call to a congregation.

- Tuesday, May 12, 2:00-3:00 p.m., and
- Thursday, May 14, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- If you are a rostered minister currently serving in a congregation and you'd like to be in on these, email Robyn at robynz@scsw-elca.org and she will send you the link to participate in the Zoom meeting.

Final Words...

... are Thank You and Take Care. Thank you for the faithful work you do in these challenging times. And, please, Take Care of yourselves as you carry out the ministries entrusted to you. The second commandment was to Love your neighbor as yourself. Do so.

Grace and Peace,



Peter Rogness
Interim Bishop



Are you able to help us out with devotion or prayer for our synod weekly worship service?

We have changed our worship every Thursday at noon a little bit during this time of social distancing. We would love to see all the different Pastors, Deacons, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders in Congregations of the synod lead us in a devotion and prayer time. This time is all up to you, you can make it your own. The only requirement is we would like to add some prayers to whatever prayers you would be doing. Robyn Zimmerman on our staff will forward to you the names of people to pray for the

week you are scheduled.

Robyn will set up a zoom meeting to help you record your devotion or you can send her a video that we can access. She would love to fill the next month. You can sign up at the link below. Please call the office with any questions at (608) 270-0201. Thank you for all you do!

<https://signup.com/go/NQMwNNG>

Thank you to Rev. Mike and Lisa Lee for leading us with Word and song last week!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Dear church,

In this time of uncertainty, a fundamental truth gives us hope — that together, through Christ, we can do extraordinary things.

Today is #GivingTuesdayNow, a global day of giving and unity as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. Will you show your support with a gift today?

With congregations and ministries across the country, and a network of companion churches and partners in over 70 countries around the world, we know that this crisis will affect us all. We must continue to minister to each other, to those hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need.

But we can't do it without you.

GIVE NOW

Your gifts to the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund will support local and churchwide ministries of the ELCA, including our congregations, that are most in need and best positioned to help others. These gifts will support:

- Congregations and local ministries serving communities that are disproportionately at risk from the pandemic, especially as it relates to health concerns, exposure risk and/or economic status
- The health, safety and well-being of leaders and church employees who are critical to carrying out the mission of this church
- Ministries around the world that provide people in poverty with health care, sanitation and hygiene supplies, clean water, food and shelter — resources critical to slowing the spread of this virus

No matter how you choose to do God's work with your hands today, every act of love counts. Whether you're helping a neighbor, sharing a skill or giving to your congregation or the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund, your acts of generosity are a way to share your faith during this pandemic. If you've already made a gift in support of these efforts – thank you.

Stay grounded in courage, dear church, and thank you for being part of this movement. Remember that Christ is with us now and always.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To give: <https://community.elca.org/advanced-donation-form/covid-19-response-fund>

Can You Serve as a Hosting Site for the 2020 Synod Assembly Videoconference?

The Synod's Assembly Planning Committee and Executive Committee have authorized Assembly planning for 2020 to proceed with plans to hold our Synod Assembly across **a multi-site**

videoconference, anticipating no more than 50 people gathered at each site. The legal and logistical considerations are in hand, and we know what technical requirements we will have for each site. It will be a one-day, Saturday event, with registration beginning at 7:00 a.m. and the proceedings projected to be done by 4:30 p.m.



- **Date:** We don't yet know what the date will be. This event was projected to be held on June 20; given the states "Badger Bring Back" protocol for returning to group gatherings, it is unlikely that date can be used. Our current planning outline calls for us to make a "go/no-go" decision 35 days in advance of a date that becomes permissible.
- **Registrants:** Every congregation in the synod will be assigned one of the sites to which they are to attend. This allows us to control the numbers at each site.

Now we are looking for 11-12 sites. We are asking congregations and other ministry sites to consider offering their place as one of our sites. Our originating site will still be Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Verona.

Here is what will be needed from the hosting locations.

- One person to serve as the site coordinator, who would work with the assembly planners and oversee the arrangements at each site.
- We would also need one person (could be the same person) who would serve as our communication link during the assembly.
- A place for 50 people to gather, practicing social distancing – a sanctuary would work fine
- Projection capability, so a 12-site videoconference meeting can be seen by all participating.
- A strong sound system.
- The assembly will begin with a 50-minute worship service, most of which will be projected from the main site, but with communion celebrated at each site, with a presiding minister leading that portion of the service.
- A nearby separate room for a group of six to count ballots.
- The lunch will be box lunches, arranged by the Planning Committee. (If you have local caterers, that would be great.)
- The technical needs are critical. The leader of our tech team is Eric Holmer, on the staff at the place that will serve as our main site, Good Shepherd Verona campus. Here is what each site will need to effectively link with the whole:
 - (1) Windows/Mac Laptop, with
 - * Built-in Webcam,
 - * Built-in Microphone,
 - * Ability to send audio out to house audio system,
 - * Ability to send video of display to house projection/display system,
 - * ZOOM Desktop App installed
 - (2) Projector and/or Large Video Screen capable of receiving signal from the laptop
 - (3) Speakers/Audio System capable of receiving signal from the laptop
 - (4) Broadband Internet Connection, minimum of 5.0 Mbps Upload/Download Speed
 - (5) And, of course, a "techie" who can oversee both the technical preparations (which will include at least one dry run beforehand), and be present the day of the assembly.

If you believe your congregation could be one of these sites, we invite you to respond as soon as possible to Vicki Hanrahan at the Synod Office. Please email her at: vickih@scsw-elca.org If you are willing and able but have certain Saturdays that would pose a conflict, let us know that as well.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION EVENTS!



Pastor Ron Waters

ARE YOU REACHED OUT?

The lack of true outreach ministry and the need of it.

Streaming Online
Saturday
May 23rd
11 - 2 CDT
boldgathering.com



Register Now



LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION BOLD GATHERING STREAMED MAY 23

11:00 am – 2:00 pm CT



Gifted speaker, Pastor Ron Waters will be a leader at the Bold Gathering that is originating from South Carolina. He is the Senior Pastor of Freedom of The Met (Non-Denominational Church). It is a ministry

founded on the love and outreach of Christ. He is a proud husband to Co-Pastor Tam Waters and a father of five wonderful children. His mission through Christ is to reach the lost and looked over. Pastor Ron will be presenting on "Are You Reached Out?" The lack of true outreach ministry and the need for it.

Registration is now open.

This Bold Gathering will be adapted to meet the needs of our communities at this time. All viewing of this streamed event will be online. Register yourself for \$5 and watch from any of your electronic devices. Or, with current CDC guidelines, gather 8 (or less) men together and watch as a group for \$25.

Click the link below or text BGSC to 773-696-2597 and you will be prompted to register.

<https://lutheranmeninmission.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/bold-gathering-so-carolina-may-23-2020>

NEW!!! Join other Lutheran Men in Mission for An ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY – EVERY THURSDAY

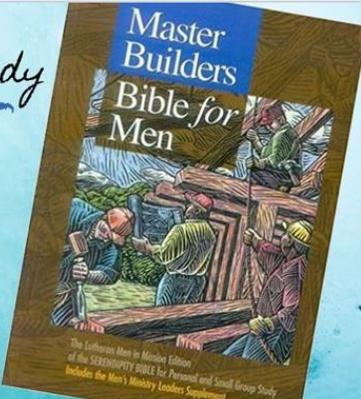
Join other Lutheran Men across the country every Thursday night for an interactive Bible Study via Zoom.

7:00 pm Central at:

<https://zoom.us/j/353022558>

or for audio only, by dialing 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 353 022 558

If you have a Master Builders Bible for Men, use it, but if not, open whatever version you have.



Interactive
Online Bible Study

Starting Thursday, March 26
7 pm CDT

Look for an invite link to a Zoom video call

This first week will cover:
John 9:1-34
and using the
Master Builders Bible for Men

2021 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

boundless **INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS**
GOOD BEYOND MEASURE

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

1:00PM-2:30PM
7:00PM-8:30PM

SIGN-UP ONLINE
WWW.SCSW-ELCA.ORG/ELCAYG2021

2021 ELCA Youth Gathering Informational Webinar - May 7 – Choose 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm CT

Join our Gathering Synod Coordinator, Jason Poole-Xiong, on Thursday, May 7 for an informational webinars to learn more about the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering and how your congregation can begin to plan for this amazing event being held next summer in Minneapolis, MN. We will hold two sessions, one at 1:00 p.m. and again in the evening at 7:00 p.m. To learn more about the Gathering and to sign-up for one of the two webinars visit our website at <https://scsw-elca.org/elcayg2021/>.

75,000 
FACE MASK CHALLENGE!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF LAUNCHES FACE MASK CHALLENGE!



As part of our response to the coronavirus in the countries around the world where we work, Lutheran World Relief has launched the 75,000 Face

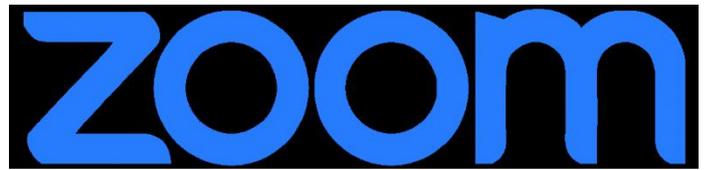
Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth face masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Join the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge! COVID-19 is threatening vulnerable communities, and Lutheran World Relief urgently needs cloth face masks to send to them. The cloth mask you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. How many will you make to help stop the spread? Sign up for more info. www.lwr.org/masks



**ZOOM TRAININGS BY SYNOD
STAFF, ROBYN ZIMMERMAN –
Wednesdays & Fridays**

EXTENDED THROUGH MAY!



We continue to have steady attendance at these Zoom trainings, so Robyn will extend these trainings into May. Anyone who wants to learn how to conduct and set up meetings via Zoom is invited.

This is a basic training to help people feel more comfortable logging into to zoom meetings as well as scheduling zoom meetings. This would be great for council members, lay leaders that want to conduct committee meetings and rostered...essentially everyone who wants to stay in connected community.



The next series dates are:

Wednesday's at 3:00 PM

Topic: ZOOM Training-The Basic's

Time: 03:00 PM Central Time

Apr 29, 2020 3:00 PM

May 20, 2020 3:00 PM

May 6, 2020 3:00 PM

May 27, 2020 3:00 PM

May 13, 2020 3:00 PM

June 3, 2020 3:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/253253729>

Meeting ID: 253 253 729

Friday's at 9:30 AM

Topic: Zoom Training-The Basic's

Time: 9:30 AM Central Time

May 1, 2020 9:30 AM

May 22, 2020 9:30 AM

May 8, 2020 9:30 AM

May 29, 2020 9:30 AM

May 15, 2020 9:30 AM

June 5, 2020 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/376722052>

Meeting ID: 376 722 052

Bethel Horizons, Crossways Camps, Lutherdale, and Sugar Creek Bible Camp Looking for Summer Staff



We are looking for summer staff. You may know young adults who have changed their summer plans. You may know someone who would be a fantastic cabin leader, or archery instructor, or dishwasher. We need your help connecting with these folks so we can include them in our recruitment process. Please contact the following people if you are interested or if you know someone who may be interested.



Bethel Horizons
Eric Kneuve
EricKneuve@bethelhorizons.org



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

Imago Dei Village,
Pine Lake, Waypost
Sharon Cook
Sharon@CrosswaysCamps.org



Jeff Bluhm
Jeff&Lutherdale.org



Jesse Klosterboer
J.P.Klosterboer@gmail.com

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization Women of the ELCA

(POSTPONED TO AUG. 3-5, 2021) July 14-16, 2020
Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention, Phoenix, Arizona

(POSTPONED TO AUG. 5-8, 2021) July 16-19, 2020
Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering, 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



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)

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@gsclwi.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/>

Future Synod Gatherings/Meetings/Events:



- March 16 – Synod Office Closed TFN – Staff working remotely – call (608) 270-0201
- May 6 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 7 – ELCA Youth Gathering Informational Webinar (2 webinars – see page 1 for details)
- May 7 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Faith in the North American Context (Will Layton)
- May 8 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 9 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Biblical Images Life of the Church (Dan Odden)
- May 12 – “Re-Opening Our Churches” Video Meeting - Bishop Rogness With Rostered Ministers Serving Congregations
- May 13 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 13 – Synod Assembly Planning Meeting
- May 14 – “Re-Opening Our Churches” Video Meeting - Bishop Rogness With Rostered Ministers Serving Congregations
- May 14 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Faith in the North American Context (Will Layton)
- May 15 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 15 – Bishop Nominees Announced
- May 16 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Biblical Images Life of the Church (Dan Odden)
- May 20 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 21 – Bishop Nominee Forum On-Line
- May 22 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 27 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 28 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Faith in the North American Context (Will Layton)
- May 29 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- May 30 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Biblical Images Life of the Church (Dan Odden)
- May - *The time and nature of the Bishop Nominee forums is being reassessed by the Bishop Call Committee. These may become “stay-at-home” forums.*
- June 3 - Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- June 4 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Faith in the North American Context (Will Layton)
- June 5 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- June 11 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Faith in the North American Context (Will Layton)
- June 20 – Pending – Synod Assembly & Bishop Election
- June 24 – Synod Council Zoom Meeting
- September 21 – Keeping the Faith: Empowering Faith Communities to Recognize & Respond to Child Abuse – Madison Christian Community (Madison)
-

Prayers

Synod Campus Ministry Oversight Team:

- Rev. Lisa Nelson, St. Mark's Lutheran, Madison, WI
- Casey Sweeney, Madison, WI

Synod Seminary Student:

- Jim Ranney, Jim will be starting in the Fall in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program at Wartburg Seminary.

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Rev. Rob Kosky, Pastor and Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waterloo, WI
- Rev. Karen Hofstad, Pastor and Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baraboo, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Abraham D Allende, the Staff, and the congregations of the Northeastern Ohio Synod

Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. Cherlyne V Beck, Candidacy and Leadership Manager - Region 4 Domestic Mission
- The Rev. Ramie L Bakken, Candidacy and Leadership Manager - Region 5 Domestic Mission

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

- o Rev. Jerald Folk, May 07, 1967, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI. Jerryfolk55@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 until May 26 or until the stay-at-home order is lifted, 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 – peter@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, Pandemic 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