

*Please note that What Matters and Connected Community will be on hiatus next week. We will resume publishing on May 26. If you have a pastoral concern over the Memorial Day weekend, please call the synod office for Pastor-on-call contact information.*

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## United in baptism

By Elizabeth A. Eaton

*A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This column originally appeared in Living Lutheran's May issue. Reprinted with permission.*

There is an Irish saying: "It is in the shelter of each other that the people live."

I am writing this at the end of March. I don't know what the world will look like when you read this at the beginning of May. COVID-19 has the world sheltering-in-place. We've learned new concepts such as "social distancing" and "flatten the curve." We have stopped physical contact—no handshakes, hugs or high fives. We even wear gloves. It is a strange new world we live in.

There is fear in this new world. Over a million people have been infected and thousands have died. We can't see the virus. We don't know where or when it will strike next. Our lives have been disrupted—restricted travel and closed churches, schools, businesses, parks and stores. Health care workers, those dedicated to healing, find themselves as soldiers on the front line. Pray and give thanks for them.

In this highly anxious time, some—individuals, communities and countries—are seeking safety and certainty by stockpiling as many provisions as they can and walling off others. Barricaded behind rolls of toilet paper and Clorox wipes, fortified with generators and Spam, some will try to wait this out by themselves. There has been a spike in sales of firearms and alcohol. Not a good combination. Taking precautions is wise. Believing that it is possible to isolate and cut off from neighbors and nations so that one will never be touched either by the virus or the fallout of this pandemic is unreasonable.

For me, one of the cruelest effects of this pandemic is that we cannot gather. Our natural inclination in a time of crisis is to draw together, hold on to each other, support each other. Life passages, births, birthdays, weddings, baptisms, funerals, holy days, holidays, will be remembered as times of isolation and absence.

And yet, in the deepest, truest sense, we are connected to one another. In baptism we are united with Christ and are members one of another. Baptism makes a difference and makes us different. We are no longer lone travelers making our way through this life. We don't have to go it alone. In fact, we cannot, because, in Christ, we are knit into one body. And just as surely as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one—this wildly mysterious community of the Trinity—so are we one.

Jesus clearly stated this and daily fulfills this promise: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one" (John 10:27-30).

Baptism makes us different. The immutable gracious truth that we are God's makes it possible for us to feel the connection with each other, even, and especially, when we are separated. This is a great paradox—the more we are separated from each other, the deeper our connection to each other becomes. I find myself thinking about family and friends more often now that we can't be physically together.

And here is another paradox—when we are alone, when “the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 325), then, in the stillness and solitude, we feel the presence of God.

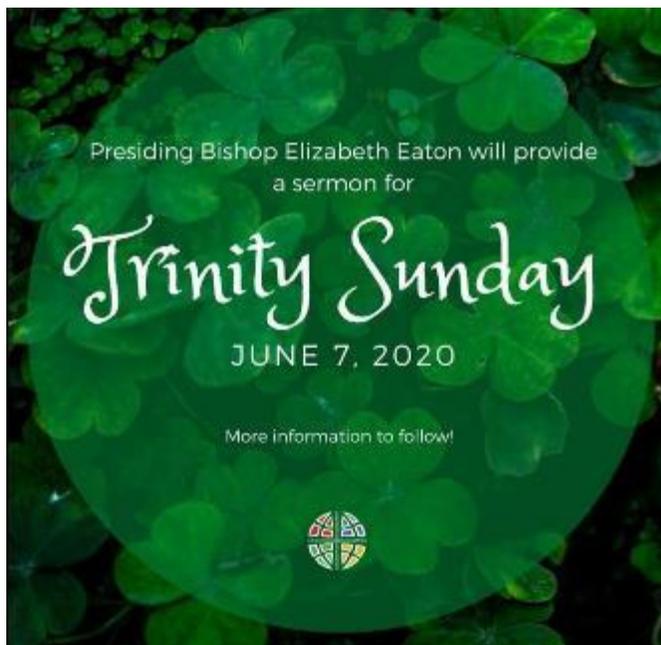
When life gets back to “normal,” I pray that I do not slip back into casual encounters with people and God. We can't think of ourselves as islands. Because we belong to God, we belong to each other.

The author of Hebrews puts it this way: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

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### Pastors and Deacons –We Encourage You to Make Use of Sermons and to Share Resources

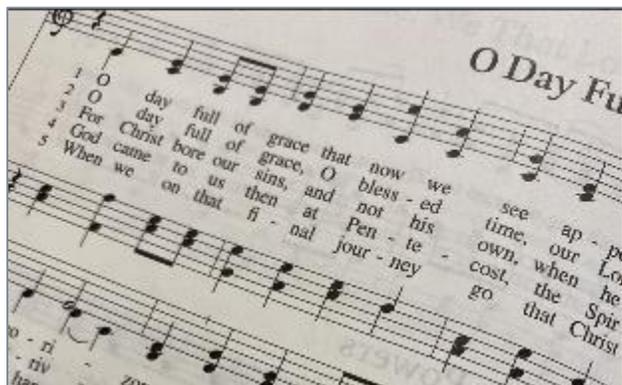
In these chaotic times during the pandemic, we encourage you to take a weekend off by utilizing sermons that have been prepared in advance. Here are a couple excellent choices:



**Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** has recorded a message that will be ready for Trinity Sunday although it is a sermon that can be used at other times. More information to follow when it becomes available!

- **Bishop Rogness** – Bishop Rogness prepares a weekly message that follows the lectionary. These are posted to the synod website on a weekly basis. Use them as you wish. Some pastors are using them when they need a break and we wholeheartedly encourage this!

- **Messages from fellow pastors and deacons in our synod** – some pastors are sharing their taped sermons with congregations who are currently using supply or have a part-time interim. We encourage this type of sharing as well. We are church together!



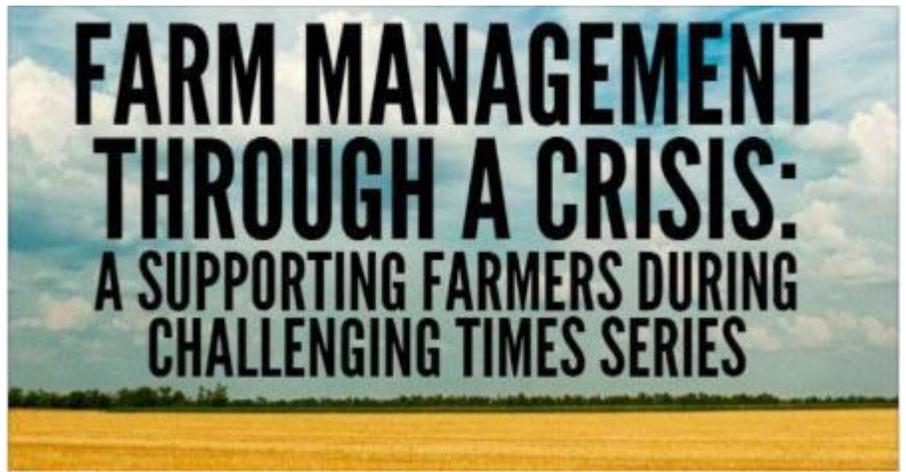
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**Join in the song for Pentecost! No time like now...deadline to submit is this Friday!**

The [Association of Lutheran Church Musicians](http://alcm.org) invites everyone to participate in a virtual choir singing “O Day Full of Grace.” Visit [alcm.org/virtual-hymn/](http://alcm.org/virtual-hymn/) for instructions on how to record your part to submit by Friday, May 15. Instrumentalists are welcome, too! The final product will be freely available by May 28 for use

in worship on the Day of Pentecost, May 31.

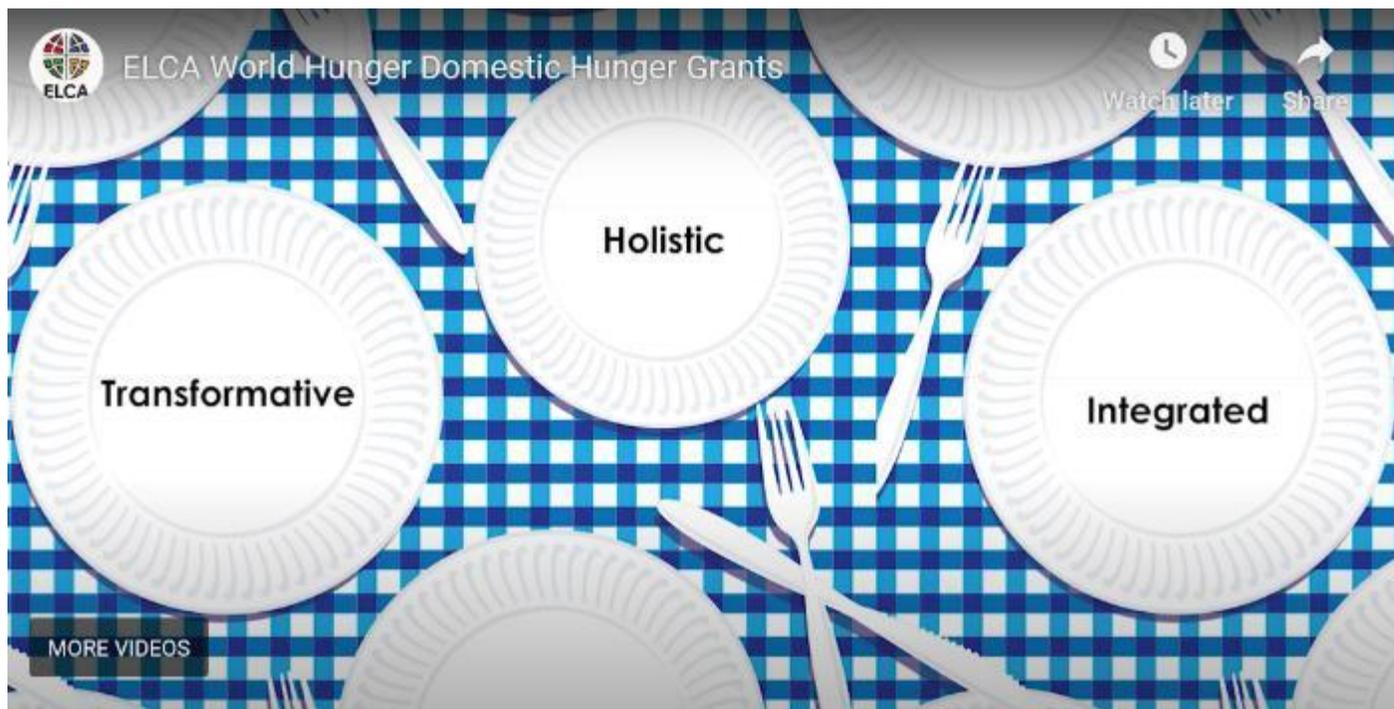
**Heart of the Farm Coffee Chats – Did you know 80% of our synod’s congregations lie in rural areas? Many of them are farming communities too. These webinars may be of interest to your congregation.**



If you can please help share this upcoming series for the Heart of the Farm Coffee Chats with local contacts and social media it would be appreciated. Below are the Facebook events for the South Central “Location” that Amanda Young, Dodge County Agriculture Educator, and Dorothy Harms, are hosting. If you are looking for more details or other times/dates/locations to share be sure to check out the Heart of the Farm website (<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/heartofthefarm/>).

**Facebook event page links (all sessions are from 7-8pm):**

- **May 14<sup>th</sup> – Time Management: Structuring your Day with Purpose:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/242663823811719/>
  - Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CoffeeChatMay14Night>
  - Time is both valuable and limited: it must be protected, used wisely, and budgeted. People who practice good time management techniques often find that they are more productive, have more energy for things they need to accomplish, feel less stressed, and get more things done. This session will help participants understand some of the best practices associated with time management and increase understanding of why and how to use the different strategies to their benefit.
  
- **May 21<sup>st</sup> – Communications: Exploring Perspectives to Improve communication:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/594364707838071/>
  - Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CoffeeChatMay21>
  - Night Join us as we dive into the topic of effective communication skills. During this session, we will explore how to listen for and respond to each other's different perspectives to deepen the understanding of the issues at hand and help guide decision-making.
  
- **May 28<sup>th</sup> – Relationships: Nurturing Healthy Relationships Under Times of Stress: Bidding for Connection:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/586453918744809/>
  - Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CoffeeChatMay28>
  - Night During this session learn what bids for connection are and why they matter in building and maintaining a healthy relationship. Participants will learn how to respond and bid for connections in positive, healthy ways.
  
- **June 4<sup>th</sup> – Financial: Finding Financial Well-Being:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/237546454131094/>
  - Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CoffeeChatJune4Night>
  - 
  - People who feel good about their finances have four things in common. We'll explore what those four factors are and ideas to find your own path to financial well-being. Spoiler alert – you don't need money to get started!



### **ELCA DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS APPLICATION PERIOD EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 1**

Do you have a ministry that draws on the strengths of its community to break the cycle of poverty and hunger—for good? Apply for an ELCA Domestic Hunger grant. The application period has been extended through June 1!

2021 Domestic Hunger Grant Applications - <https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants>

**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.



### **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. Gil Splett for sharing your beautiful message with us last week!*

## An ELCA Draft Social Message on “Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy” – Join This Discussion Opportunity on May 26, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**What does the ELCA teach us about the nature and function of government in relation to God’s purposes?**

**What is a faithful Lutheran response regarding citizenship and civic Engagement?**

A social message is being prepared to help guide our church, and your feedback on the draft is invited. Deadline is on May 27



**May 26, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm –**

ELCA Director for Theological Ethics **Rev. Dr. Roger Willer** will moderate a discussion on the ELCA social message draft for congregations in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Take this opportunity to also **offer input**. Learn more and register with the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin by clicking here: [REGISTRATION](#)

On the registration page is a link to the social message. There, you can also find information about how to offer feedback if you’d like to so apart from the May 26<sup>th</sup> opportunity.

Link to REGISTRATION if above hyperlink does not work:

[https://www.loppw.org/evrplus\\_registration/?action=evrplusegister&event\\_id=3&fbclid=IwAR1\\_Id95HIVPMf\\_MLdNXaClnQJnacrpLuEeKTI0MMRvGvFAVa3ymjtRhNuU](https://www.loppw.org/evrplus_registration/?action=evrplusegister&event_id=3&fbclid=IwAR1_Id95HIVPMf_MLdNXaClnQJnacrpLuEeKTI0MMRvGvFAVa3ymjtRhNuU)

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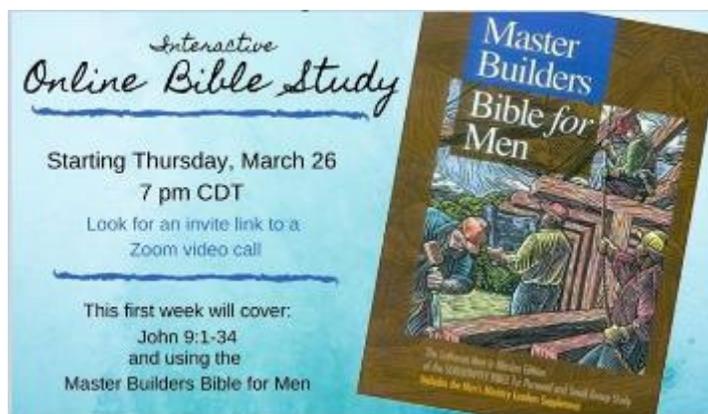
### **NEW!!! Join other Lutheran Men in Mission for An ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY – EVERY THURSDAY**

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.



**Deacon Vicki Hanrahan**  
Assistant to the Bishop for  
Synodical Life  
Synod Communicator

## Telling Your Stories – It’s A Good Stewardship Thing!

There are hundreds of powerful and effective ELCA ministries carrying God’s mission into the world to people who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ through congregations in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. The stories we tell about these ministries remind us how we can make a difference in the lives of others through our time, talents and resources for God’s work. When you tell your story, you are interpreting God’s mission and bringing it to life!

Mission Interpretation is a people-to-people ministry. Real people telling real stories of ministry is the most effective way to bring ministry to life and to dramatize the importance of our work in the world. When you tell your stories, you are a mission interpreter! You become a bridge between the work of the church and the people who support that work. This bridge provides people with a better understanding of how God transforms their prayers, tithes, offerings, volunteer efforts, and special gifts into ministries that bring hope and healing to people in need.

When members of your church understand their identity as partners in a wider church, they become strong advocates, supporting the mission and ministries we share beyond our congregations. Members also are strengthened to evangelize how God is active and at work through God’s people.

We encourage you to share the Mission Moments that we tell in What Matters and in our Narrative Spending Plans and use them as an example of how you might tell your own stories. Mission Moments can be found on the synod’s NEWS page on the website:

<https://scsw-elca.org/communications-and-events/what-matters/>

By doing so, you will:

- \* Bring the good news to light and share it with those who make it all possible.
- \* Remind your listeners that God is actively in our midst, doing new things and transforming lives.
- \* Invite conversation, listening to the voices of those who are faithful supporters of our shared work and helping to make connections.
- \* Find joy in the opportunity to thank people for their gifts of time and talent and tithes.
- \* Invite people to become active participants and supporters of local, national and global ministries.

Congregations who share their faith stories inspire a spirit for ministry that promotes mission-minded thinking. Such congregations have more focus on their ministry rather than on tangential reasons to

exist. Mission-minded thinking develops leaders for congregational ministry and beyond. Telling our stories is at the very heart of what it means to be baptized, walking wet together!

For more ideas on how to tell stories and encourage mission interpretation in your congregation, visit the ELCA website: <https://bit.ly/ELCAMissionInterpretation>

### MISSION MOMENTS

#### *Special Highlights of our Mission Together*

- Drive-In Worship in Johnson Creek
- LEAD Conference Box Lunch Donation
- 2020 Synod Cultural Immersion
- Inclusivity in Outdoor Ministry
- Holy Land Advocacy Group
- WELCA Anti-Human-Trafficking
- LGBTQ+ Affirming Congregations (RIC)
- Goodbye Cairo
- LOPPW Human Trafficking
- Synodical Women’s Organization
- Racial Equity Task Force Next Steps
- God’s Work. Our Hands. 2019
- 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- Young Adults in Global Mission
- God’s Love Lets Us Retire!
- Burke Lutheran Breaks Ground
- Retired Leaders in Our Synod
- Equipping Ministry: S.T.a.R.
- Care for Creation Ministry
- LUAD: Responding to 2018 Flooding
- Refugee Resettlement Ministry Update
- 2018 Young Adults in Global Mission
- Madison Area Urban Ministry

# 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>

Care  
Connect  
Equip

South-Central Synod  
of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.scsw-elca.org)**



**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

May 13, 2020 3:00 PM

May 20, 2020 3:00 PM

May 27, 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 15, 2020 9:30 AM

May 22, 2020 9:30 AM

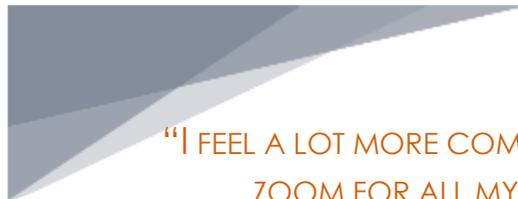
May 29, 2020 9:30 AM

June 5, 2020 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 376 722 052



**"I FEEL A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE USING ZOOM FOR ALL MY MEETINGS AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE SYNOD'S TRAINING. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT!"**

~Zoom training Attendee

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:wkoffice@tds.net) & [mbarth@charter.net](mailto:mbarth@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](mailto: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](http://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 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 and Lay 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

Of sympathy for Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Steve & Jennifer Kottke on the death of their son, Hunter. May the promise of the resurrection bring them peace and comfort in the days ahead. If you would like to send condolences, email Deacon Hanrahan for their address and she will be happy to email it to you.

[vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org)

### Synod Campus Ministry Oversight Team:

- Rev. Emily Tveite, UW Madison Lutheran Campus Ministry
- Rev. Naomi Garber, First English Platteville, WI

### Synod Seminary Student:

- Tom Kreis, Tom is a Collaborative Learning Student at Wartburg Seminary. He is serving Peace Lutheran in Waunakee, WI.

### Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Rev. David Froemming, Contract Pastor and Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Potosi, WI
- Rev. Shelley Nelson, Pastor and Members of Adam's Lutheran Church, Argyle, WI

### Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Jon V Anderson, the Staff, and the congregations of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod

**Churchwide Partners:**

- The Rev. Paul A Baglyos, Candidacy and Leadership Manager - Region 7 & 8 Domestic Mission
- The Rev. Ruth E Hamilton, Candidacy and Leadership Manager - Region 9 Domestic Mission

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

- Deacon Joel Bradtke, May 16, 2009, Retired Pastor, Brookfield, WI. [carpool4ever@gmail.com](mailto:carpool4ever@gmail.com)
- Rev. Peter Kjeseth, May 16, 1954, Retired Pastor, Lynchburg, VA. [peterkjeseth@gmail.com](mailto:peterkjeseth@gmail.com)
- Rev. Daniel Vojta, May 18, 1992, Pastor Zion, Horicon, WI and Contract Pastor St. Michael, Hustisford, WI, [danielvojta@gmail.com](mailto:danielvojta@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](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org).

**Visit our website:** [www.scsw-elca.org](http://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 – [peterr@scsw-elca.org](mailto:peterr@scsw-elca.org)

Pastoral Care, Congregational Care

Rev. Steve Kottke – [stevek@scsw-elca.org](mailto:stevek@scsw-elca.org)

Mobility & Transitions, Care of Congregations

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan – [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org)

What Matters, Events, Pandemic Resources

Robyn Zimmerman – [robynz@scsw-elca.org](mailto:robynz@scsw-elca.org)

Candidacy, Appointments, Zoom Meeting Assistance

Rev. Walter Baires – [walterb@scsw-elca.org](mailto:walterb@scsw-elca.org)

Faithful Innovations, Mission, Stewardship, Latino Ministries

Jason Xiong – [jasonx@scsw-elca.org](mailto:jasonx@scsw-elca.org)

Assistance with Streaming Technologies, Webmaster