

Bishop Nominee Forums – Meet Our Four Bishop Nominees!



The first forum was recorded and is available to view from the synod website:

<https://scsw-elca.org/2020bishopelection/>

In alphabetical order by first name:

- Rev. Joy Mortenson-Wiebe
- Rev. Naomi Garber
- Rev. Ramie Bakken
- Rev. Stacie Fidlur

SUBMIT A QUESTION(S) TO BE ANSWERED BY NOMINEES FOR BISHOP AT OUR FINAL NOMINEE FORUM

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING: JUNE 15TH

The next forum will be available for viewing on Monday, June 29th. You are invited to submit questions to be answered by our four nominees. The deadline for submission is June 15th. There are two ways to submit your questions:

- 1) Using a form on our website:
<https://bit.ly/NomineeForumQuestions>
- 2) Emailing Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, Robyn Zimmerman at robynz@scsw-elca.org



2020 Bishop Election



All documents and videos can be found on the synod website.

<https://scsw-elca.org/2020bishopelection/>



Missio Madison

The Missio Madison program for pastors in and near Madison is taking applications for their fall cohort. Rev. Andy Twiton (Trinity, Madison) took part in their spring cohort this year and found it very valuable. It's led by Dr. Christopher James of Dubuque Theological Seminary who is doing a multi-year study of Dane County Churches. (Similar to the sociological study he did in Seattle and wrote about in his book "Church Planting in Post-Christian Soil.")

It was a very ecumenical group spanning both mainline and evangelical pastors. He reports there is a lot of overlap with both Renewal and Faithful Innovations.

This is a Madison specific opportunity. If you are interested, the application can be found on their website:

<https://www.missiomadison.org/>

Rev. Twiton would be happy to answer questions or make a connection with the originator of the invitation if anyone is interested. 608-249-8527 (office) pastor.tlcmns@gmail.com

Public Health Orders For All Counties

- Dane County - Re-Opening Phase 1 Begins Today



This is the most up-to-date Public Health order for Dane County. Churches in Dane County should pay close attention to sections 2 and 4 of this order.

https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/2020-05-22_Order_3.pdf

Non-Dane County Congregations - Find Your County's Health Department Page - Links Can be Found On Synod Website

Our congregations cover 13 counties in South-Central Wisconsin. Please check your county's public health orders. **For a link to your county's health department, see page 8 of this document posted to the synod website:** <https://scsw-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SCSWCoVID19.pdf>

SYNOD OFFICE AND STAFF UPDATE

Now that some offices and businesses are cautiously opening, Synod staff will be in the office occasionally, as there is need, but will continue to work remotely when that is workable. As has been the case, calls to the synod office are picked up live, and routed to other staff, whether they are in the office or working remotely. Staff is also easily accessible by [email](#). Meetings that were held in the synod office before the pandemic will continue to be held via Zoom, not in the office. Cleaning protocols will be in place for staff and anyone who needs to stop in. The statistics regarding spread of the virus continue to rise, and practicing caution is still advisable. Other in-person synod events are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis (updated May 26, 2020).

JOIN US EACH TUESDAY AT 2:00 PM FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BISHOP, ROSTERED MINISTERS & LAITY

As things are rapidly changing during this time of the pandemic, the bishop is leading conversations with rostered ministers and lay leaders of our synod and creating space for us to share ideas and ask questions of the bishop and of each other. Each week we will continue conversation about re-opening our churches, but we will also invite conversation about topics of interest to you. Next week's topic will be up to you.

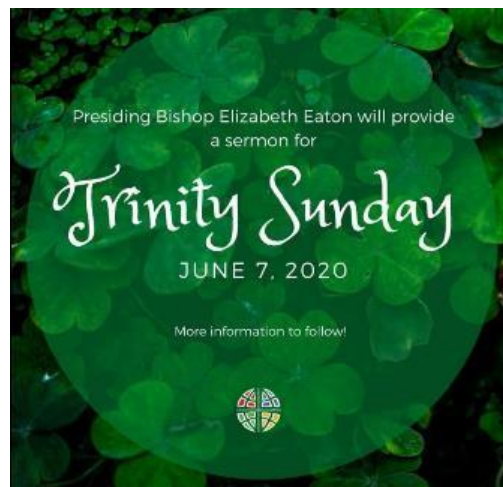


Feel free to send your suggestions for topics or specific questions to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life at vickih@scsw-elca.org

Rostered Ministers will receive the link to the webinar each week from Robyn Zimmerman. Lay leaders should email Robyn for the link: robynz@scsw-elca.org

Webinars Are Recorded: Whether you were on the call and would like to review the information shared, or you were unable to attend today, the recordings are available on the synod website.

<https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/webinars/>



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:

NEW! Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is currently re-recording her message in light of the recent tragedy of the death of George Floyd and all that is happening in our country. **We will send a special alert to all rostered when it becomes available.** We are on the lookout! It can be used for Trinity Sunday although it is a sermon that can be used at other times.

There will be Spanish subtitles, a printed text in English and Spanish, and a You Tube and Vimeo.

Bishop Rogness – Bishop Rogness prepares a weekly message that follows the lectionary. These are posted to the synod website on a weekly basis, except for June 7, when use of Bishop Eaton's sermon is encouraged. Use them as you wish. Some pastors are using them when they need a break and we wholeheartedly encourage this! They can be downloaded with ease from the Connected Community page of our website: <https://scsw-elca.org/community/>

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!



EMANUEL 9 DAY OF REPENTENCE – June 17, 2020 (or the Sunday After)

In 2019, as a result of grassroots organizing, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution to establish June 17 as “**Emanuel 9 Day of Repentance**,” commemorating the martyrdom of Pickney, Graham-Hurd, Jackson, Lance, Middleton-Doctor, Sanders, Simmons, Coleman-Singleton and Thompson. The resolution calls for worship resources and deepening conversations with the African Methodist Episcopal Church on matters of racism and white supremacy. It was adopted alongside another resolution condemning white supremacy and racist rhetoric, and in the context of the ELCA’s public apology articulated in the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent.”

The synod’s racial equity team invites you to use the resources provided by the ELCA in creative ways to raise awareness and to commemorate this day on June 17 (or the weekend after), whether we worship in person or via electronic means.



First, you may wish to become better informed by reading this overview provided by the ELCA, “An Overview of Ecumenical Relations between the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” It provides insight to the journey the ELCA has taken to come to this place in our understanding.

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Ecumenical_Relations_Emanuel_Nine_Commemoration.pdf?_ga=2.114616964.2026109940.1590436226-556277034.1583787802

Also provided are ELCA created resources available for your use. This page on the ELCA website is rich with resources and useful information to share in your settings.

<https://elca.org/EmanuelNine>

The Pandemic and Living on the Margins of Safety June 3 – 6:00 – 7:00 pm Panel Discussion Webinar

[Register Here](#)

THE LUTHERAN OFFICE FOR PUBLIC POLICY IN WISCONSIN

LOPPW.org

Sponsored by the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin and the Women of the ELCA

Join three professionals to learn about how the pandemic is impacting child abuse, sex trafficking, and domestic abuse. Our three panelists will give brief presentations and then open the discussion up for questions.

- Executive Director Sharyl Kato, Child and Family Therapist, The Rainbow Project (Madison) serving children and families who have experienced violence and deep trauma.
- Director Jan Miyasaki, J.D., Project Respect (Madison) serving adult and juvenile victims of prostitution, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.
- Executive Director Sue Sippel, The Family Center (Wisconsin Rapids), guided by survivor voices, working through education and community involvement to eliminate violence and provide safety for all people victimized by abuse.
- Opening Prayer: Women of the ELCA Director for Justice Jen DeLeon

Wednesday Noon Live



Join the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin the first Wed. of each month at noon for updates on legislation and interview with a guest via Facebook Live! Search LOPPW on FB.

Join us at Noon this **Wednesday, June 3 at noon** for updates and a special interview with ELCA Program Director for Domestic Policy John Johnson to discuss the next stimulus package and SNAP. This is a vital time in our history to get the stimulus bill right as many people desperately need healthcare, extended unemployment benefits that are expiring, etc.

Facebook: Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

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>

Cultivating Generous Congregations – Thursday, June 11, 3:00 pm

Is your congregation struggling financially? Compared to a year ago, many ELCA congregations have seen a decline in total revenue. While the pandemic does not stop ministry outside the walls of our congregations, for some, it is having an impact on financial contributions. This means both regular giving and fundraising efforts. And yet, there are congregations that have maintained or increased their giving. How do these congregations continue to be generous?

For more than a year, the ELCA has been focusing on cultivating generous congregations. Rev. Larry Strenge and his Lake Institute trained team have worked with more than a hundred ELCA congregations. This has led to three strategies – recognizing the impact of negative influences (i.e., the pandemic, scarcity thinking), cultivating generosity leaders and developing a culture of generosity in your congregation and households.

Join Rev. Larry Strenge for a webinar to talk about these three strategies and how congregations can be proactive in nurturing generosity. This Zoom meeting will be on

Thursday, June 11, at 3:00 PM CDT

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3199415281>

Meeting ID: 319 941 5281

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,3199415281# US (Chicago)

+14702509358,,3199415281# US (Atlanta)

All Roster Leaders and lay leaders are invited. This session will be recorded and made available. If you are unable to attend on June 11, simply notify Neil.Bullock@elca.org and a link will be provided.

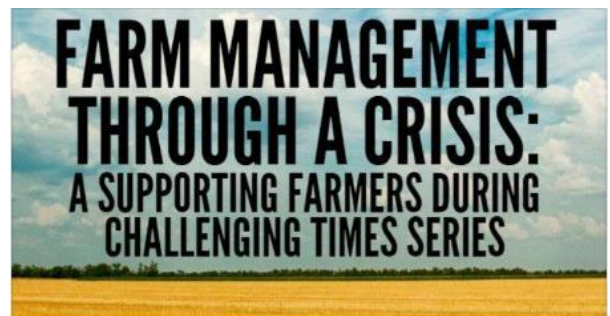
We look forward to you joining us for this conversation. Please bring your questions.

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. There is one webinar remaining and it may be of interest to your congregation.

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 (remaining sessions are from 7-8pm):

- **June 4th – 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!



**ZOOM TRAININGS BY SYNOD STAFF, ROBYN ZIMMERMAN – June 3 & June 5
2 TRAININGS LEFT!**



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, June 3 at 3:00 PM

Topic: ZOOM Training-The Basics



Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 253 253 729

Friday, June 5 at 9:30 AM

Topic: Zoom Training-The Basic's

Time: 9:30 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 376 722 052



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 Deacon Vicki when the position has been filled so that we can keep this list current. Thanks!

Financial Manager – Part-Time – Madison

Lake Edge Lutheran Church is seeking a part-time financial manager responsible for the financial management of the church with an average of 15 hrs/wk, \$20/hr. Position entails interesting work with a chance to be of service to a faith community involved in social justice. Benefits include pro-rated holidays, vacation, sick time and a flexible schedule. No health or retirement benefits are included. A minimum 2 year accounting degree and 2 years accounting experience, including use of accounting software with accounts payable, accounts receivable and financial statement preparation. Please submit cover letter and resume to dalednet@aol.com. (5/26/20)

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)

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)

Wisconsin Council of Churches Employment Opportunities

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

Future Synod Gatherings/Meetings/Events:

- June 3 – LOPPW – “The Pandemic and Living on the Margins of Safety”
- June 3 - Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- June 3 – LOPPW – Wednesday Noon Live
- June 4 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Faith in the North American Context (Will Layton)
- June 5 – Zoom Training – The Basics with Robyn
- June 9 - “Re-Opening Our Churches” Equipping the Saints Webinar with Bishop Rogness, Rostered & Laity
- June 11 – Diakonia Zoom Class – Faith in the North American Context (Will Layton)
- June 15 – Deadline for Submitting Questions for Bishop Nominee Forum
- June 24 – Synod Council Zoom Meeting
- June 29/30 – Bishop Nominee Forum Video Available
- August 1 – Synod Assembly & Bishop Election Videoconference
- September 21 – Keeping the Faith: Empowering Faith Communities to Recognize & Respond to Child Abuse – Madison Christian Community (Madison)



Prayers

Youth and Family Ministry Team:

- Heather Greenley-Co-Convener, Central, Edgerton
- Jay Keil-Co-Convener, St. Luke's Middleton, WI

Synod Seminary Student:

- Micah Sieg, Micah is at the very beginning of the path to become a pastor. He will be attending Luther Seminary.

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Rev. Craig Wolfgram, Pastor and Members of Bethany Lutheran, Wisconsin Dells, WI
- Rev. Mike Brown, Rev. John Swanson, Pastors and Members of Bethel Lutheran, Madison, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Daniel G Beaudoin, the Staff, and the congregations of the Northwestern Ohio Synod

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Churchwide Partners:

- Ruth Hoffman, LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY - NEW MEXICO
- Nick Bates, HUNGER NETWORK IN OHIO

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

- Rev. Durwood Buchheim, June 03, 1956, Retired Pastor, Morrisonville, WI
budbuchheim@charter.net

- Rev. Richard Halom, June 04, 1967, Contract Pastor, First Lutheran, Stoughton, WI ddhalom@charter.net
- Rev. Roger Black, June 04, 1978, Contract Pastor, St. Luke's, Middleton, WI rogerhblack@gmail.com
- Rev. Peter Narum, June 04, 1989, Pastor of St James, Verona, WI, pnarum@stjamesverona.org
- Rev. Karen Locken, June 05, 1994, Pastor of Peace Lutheran, Waunakee, WI, klocken@peaceinwaunakee.org
- Rev. Doug Locken, June 05, 1994, Pastor of Peace Lutheran, Waunakee, WI, dlocken@peaceinwaunakee.org
- Rev. Bruce Loewenhagen, June 5, 1977, Retired Pastor, Waunakee, WI, bruce.loewenhagen@yahoo.com
- Rev. Jeffrey Pedersen, June 05, 1988, Pastor of Lutheran Church of Peace, Platteville, WI, run21_3@hotmail.com
- Rev. Ann Walsvik, June 06, 2015, Agrace, Janesville, WI, Annwalsvik@gmail.com
- Rev. Ronald Mach, June 07, 1964, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI machronald@yahoo.com
- Deacon Gloria Clemens, June 07, 1987, Retired Deacon, Lodi, WI
- Rev. Vern Holtan, June 07, 1959, Retired Pastor, Stoughton, WI
- Rev. Erik Jelinek, June 08, 1997, Pastor of Central Lutheran, Edgerton, WI, pastorerik@sbcglobal.net
- Rev. Jerome Pribbenow, June 08, 1960, Contract Pastor Edgerton, WI, jpribbenow@charter.net
- Rev. Dean Kirst, June 08, 1997, Pastor of Lake View Lutheran, Madison, WI, pastordean@lakeviewlutheranmail.org
- Rev. Richard Michael Brown, June 09, 1991, Pastor of Bethel Lutheran, Madison, WI, pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org
- Rev. David Berggren, June 09, 1974, Retired Pastor, Sun Prairie, WI, djb1148@gmail.com
- Rev. Donald Zelle, June 09, 1957, Retired Pastor, Verona, WI
- Rev. John Finney, June 09, 1965, Retired Pastor, Stoughton, WI jfinney1962@gmail.com
- Rev. David Andert, June 09, 1974, Retired Pastor, Janesville, WI, davidandert@hotmail.com
- Rev. Tim Knipfer, June 09, 2018, Pastor of Bristol, Sun Prairie, WI timmyk65@yahoo.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

Now that some offices and businesses are cautiously opening, Synod staff will be in the office occasionally, as there is need, but will continue to work remotely when that is workable. As has been the case, calls to the synod office are picked up live, and routed to other staff, whether they are in the office or working remotely. Staff is also easily accessible by [email](#). 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, Equipping

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