

WHAT MATTERS September 8, 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

We are repeating this announcement as there were a few edits made. Please use this version for your congregation's communications. Thank you!

2020 Virtual Synod Assembly - August 29, 2020
"We Are Church Together!"

HISTORIC GATHERING

In an historic assembly, The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was elected August 29 to serve a six-year term as the bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Mortensen-Wiebe was elected on the 3rd ballot with 166 votes. The Rev. Stacie Fidler, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church Rock Island, IL received 165 votes.

While the Rev. Mortensen-Wiebe is not the first female to be elected bishop of this synod, the election is historic on another level. This is the first time an election for this synod has taken place in which all the gathered were not assembled in person. While normally held at a venue in Madison or the Wisconsin Dells, this year's assembly due to the pandemic was held virtually via videoconference. Credentials reported 347 voting members connected using Zoom and Lumi interactive technologies to elect new leadership of the synod and vote on important matters pertaining to the future of its ministry.

The bishop elect currently serves as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Slinger. She is also a licensed professional counselor and has been working with Professional Service Group, Inc. She formerly served the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin as interim Director for Evangelical Mission, and as an interim pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mayville and First Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam. From 2004 to 2014, Bishop-Elect Mortensen-Wiebe served as an Associate to the Bishop in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. She received her Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN in 1992, a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion from Carroll College in Waukesha, WI, in 1988 and a Master of Education Degree from Lakeland College, Sheboygan WI, in 2004. She is married to the Rev. Darin Wiebe and they have two daughters.

The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe's installation is set for October 11, 2020. More information about how this will occur will be forthcoming in future issues of What Matters.

Thank you to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Verona Campus, for providing space for synod staff and nominees, ELCA leadership, parliamentarian, credentials staff, website poster, request-for-voice moderator, Studio Gear audio visual support and help desk volunteers who made this event possible. The videos of the assembly and worship services are available to watch here.

Congratulations and blessings to you Bishop-Elect Joy Mortensen Wiebe!



Bishop-Elect
The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

EQUIPPING

THE SAINTS

Leadership Learning Webinar Series for Faithful Leaders



Ministry in the Digital Age!

Thursday, September 17

7:00 – 8:15 pm

Join Ryan Panzer for this conversation about ministry in the digital age! Covid-19 has led countless churches to do digital ministry for the first time. But knowing how to livestream a service is just the beginning. Now we need to make sure we understand the culture of the digital age—and how to reach people who are more and more connected.

Ryan has authored a book that will be published by Augsburg Fortress in December, “Grace and Gigabytes: Being Church in a Tech-Shaped Culture.”

In *Grace and Gigabytes: Being Church in a Tech-Shaped Culture*, Ryan Panzer explores change and ministry at the intersection of technology, culture, and church. Drawing on experiences as a Google employee, an instructional designer in the tech industry, and a lifetime of Christian leadership, Ryan argues that digital technology is not a set of tools but a force for cultural transformation that has profound implications for ministry.

Ryan serves on the synod’s Speaker’s Bureau and was scheduled to serve as a workshop leader at our LEAD event that had to be cancelled due to Covid.

We hope you will join us for this Free Webinar!

Join Zoom Meeting – Click the link on September 17 to join the webinar.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87407440712?pwd=aHZUNGHeejd4cXNpa3g4VGVrdWJuZz09>

No, not now, silly...click the link on the 17th!



“Digital Technology is not a set of tools but a force for cultural transformation that has profound implications for ministry.”

Ryan Panzer, Author and Speaker



JUST LOVE

A virtual preview

Just Love: A virtual preview

September 12 – 1:00 pm

Registration limited to the first 1,000 women.

Join Women of the ELCA for Just Love: A virtual preview where you'll get a taste of what's to come at the 2021 Gathering, Aug. 5-8 (welcatg.org).

While we can't recreate the entire gathering in a two-hour Zoom webinar, we'll explore the Just Love theme through Bible study, a mini-workshop, words of inspiration, music, and much more. And you can participate for free from your comfy armchair, front porch, or home office.

Connect with other women of faith for this two-hour webinar, Saturday, Sept. 12, at 1 p.m. Central Daylight Time. Registration is limited to the first 1,000 women, so complete your simple, online registration now .

Here's who is helping us with our virtual gathering:

The Rev. Jennifer Michael, churchwide president in the 2008-2011 triennium (emcee)

The Rev. Angela Khabeb (Bible study)

Rachel Kurtz (music)

Kelly Glow (artist-in-residence)

The Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni (mini-workshop)

The Rev. Beth Birkholz (stretch break)

Eva James Yeo (quilt challenge)

Valora K Starr (in-kind giving)

You'll also hear greetings and prayers from the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton , presiding bishop of the ELCA; Lisa Plorin , churchwide president of Women of the ELCA; and Myrna Wells-Ulland , president of the Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization, the home of our 2021 triennial gathering in Phoenix, Ariz.

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8515989861647/WN_sBIVSs6MRZCdszAoKz100Q

Learn more about the event here:

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page/a-virtual-preview>

God's Work. Our Hands. This Sunday, September 13



Bishop Eaton has asked congregations to video or take photographs of any of your activities taking place for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. The ELCA will create a video with highlights from across the country. Please send photos and/or video to both your synod and to the ELCA by September 16.

Email to videoteam@elca.org or for larger files, <https://wetransfer.com> sent to videoteam@elca.org

Send photos to Synod Communicator, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at vickih@scsw-elca.org

Blessings on your day of service!

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering Yes! It's Happening!

September 26, 2020

7:00 am – 11:00 am

**Wisconsin Southern Railroad Yard
1890 E. Johnson Street, Madison**

**Contact WI Coordinator: Bob Topel bobtopel@charter.net
if unable to do email by phone at 608-831-4556.**

The heartbreaking news of the Beirut explosion makes this in-gathering more important than ever before. Let's work together toward resupplying items lost that are still desperately needed. If you've never participated in the LWR mission before, visit their website for everything you need to know to get involved. www.lwr.org



SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFSET – We Are Still Receiving and Gratefully Accepting Donations To Offset Expenses for Assembly

As Bishop Rogness explained during assembly, when we were mandated to keep gatherings to 10 participants due to the pandemic, we moved from the 12 site videoconference that we had planned, to the completely virtual videoconference requiring advanced technology. Our costs jumped to \$74/voting member, leaving us short by \$44 per voting member. If you or your congregation is in a position to make a donation to help us offset these additional expenses, we would greatly appreciate it. Checks can be made payable to SCSW and sent to our office at 6401 Odana Road, Suite 20, Madison, WI 53719. Please put “Assembly Offset in the memo.”



You can also **TEXT “GIVE” to 608-571-1576** and choose Assembly Offset.

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Narrative Spending Plan

The narrative spending plan tells our story of how your mission support is used to carry out the mission of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Include this link in your newsletters and on your websites. Cast a very large net with this resource of how we show the love of Jesus to each other and to God’s people. We truly are church together!

https://scsw-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2021-2022-SCSW-Narrative-Spending-Plan_vah.pdf



Update from Portico Benefit Services



PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES

A ministry of the ELCA

Portico Regional Representative:

Your Portico Regional Representative, Jennifer Prinz, is offering virtual coffee dates with individuals, is able to join a staff meeting, facilitate a discussion on benefits and wellness or, workshops. You can reach out to her at 563-650-4122, jprinz@Porticobenefits.org, or follow her on Facebook.

Two ELCA-Recommended Health Plan Options for 2021

https://porticobenefits.org/NewsEvents/News/2020_06_23_RecommendedHealthBenefitOptionsFor2021

Enhancing the ELCA Retirement Fund Line Up

<https://benefitchoices.porticobenefits.org/retirement-plan-choices/>



Time of the Pandemic Resources for Staying in Connected Community can be found on the synod website. Read the latest health orders and learn more about what other congregations in our synod are doing with worship and faith formation.

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

Lutheran Preschool, “Little Blessings” Good Shepherd (Madison Campus) Has Openings

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Madison also operates Little Blessings Preschool, a state licensed school that offers half day programs with smaller class sizes and a very safe environment. Workers have spent the summer doing deep cleaning of classrooms in preparation for the return of students in the fall. There is still availability in classes at our Madison campus. Interested in learning more about Little Blessings? Please call director Devora Ballo at 608-271-6633 ext. 1130 or email her at dballo@gslcwi.com for more information or to schedule a tour of our facilities.



Our Mission:
We care for, connect and equip the congregations of our synod be the heart and hands of Jesus.

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



Thank you to The Rev. Jen Johnson, Renewal Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Portage for sharing your message with the synod.

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

We love to see 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>

Register Today for this Virtual Event!
**Keeping Faith: Empowering Faith Communities to
Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse**



A Virtual, 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

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 available by clicking on the Events & Announcements page at

www.madisonchristiancommunity.org



CEU's for mental health professionals applied for.

Life As a Transgender Person – Wednesday, October 14

On Wednesday, October 14th from 7-8:30pm St. John's Lutheran in Madison will host a Zoom panel to learn about life as a transgender person. Please join us to virtually meet our panelists and hear them answer questions about their lives and experiences.

If you have any questions, please contact Miriam Mueller-Owens at miriammuellerowens@gmail.com or call 608-216-0716.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87347202006?pwd=dkc5SWFjeitjNIJlL0ljTVpDRlZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 4720 2006

Passcode: 367255

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 873 4720 2006

Passcode: 367255

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!

New! Associate Organist/Pianist - Grace (Dodgeville)

Grace Lutheran Church is looking to fill our part-time (once monthly) Associate Organist/Pianist position. Under the direction of the Director of Music Ministries, the Associate Organist/Pianist gives leadership to the worship services of Grace Lutheran Church by guiding, equipping, and accompanying the congregation in the praise of God. Once monthly, the ideal candidate would play organ (preferably) or piano at the 8:00 AM traditional service and play piano for the 10:30 contemporary service as well as playing for occasional funerals. For a complete job description or to apply with a resume, contact Quinn Christensen at quinn.christensen@valpo.edu. (07/28/20)

Children's Ministry Coordinator - St Luke's (Middleton)

St. Luke's is now hiring a part-time (20 hours a week) Children's Ministry Coordinator. You will work primarily with children from Kindergarten age through 5th grade. The Coordinator's goal is to facilitate Christian Biblical learning with fun and exciting programs such as Sunday School, VBS, family events, etc. that help children grow in their faith. For more contact or send resume to Jay Kiel- Children's, Youth, and Family Minister at jkiel@stlukes-elca.org. (07/20/20)

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)

Future Synod Gatherings/Meetings/Events:

- Sept 12 **Synod Council Meeting**
- Sept 17 **Retired Rostered Gathering at St. John's Lutheran, Oregon. 9:30 - noon.**
- Sept 17 **Equipping the Saints Webinar: "Ministry in the Digital Age" with Ryan Panzer**
- Sept 21 **Keeping the Faith: Empowering Faith Communities to Recognize & Respond to Child Abuse – Webinar - Madison Christian Community (Madison)**
- Oct 1 **Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe First Day in the Synod Office**
- Oct 11 **Installation of Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe**
- Nov 19 **Retired Rostered Gathering at St John's Lutheran, Oregon. 9:30 - noon.**
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Prayers

Racial Equity Ministry Team:

- Mary Nervig, St. Stephen's, Monona, WI
- The Rev. Andy Twiton, Renewal Pastor Trinity, Madison, WI

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Vicar Lily Brellenthin, Intern and Members of Faith Evangelical Lutheran, Walworth, WI
- The Rev. Jim Wendt, Pastor and Members of First Lutheran Church, Beaver Dam, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Katherine A Finegan, the Staff, and the congregations of Northern Great Lakes Synod

Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. Justin A Grimm, Director for Evangelical Mission – Saint Paul Area Synod
- The Rev. Emily A Carson, Director for Evangelical Mission – Southeastern Minnesota Synod

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

- The Rev. Kenneth Smith, September 09, 1973, Retired Pastor living in Madison, WI
- The Rev. John Ruppenthal, September 10, 1972, Retired Pastor living in Waunakee, WI
jerwinrup@gmail.com
- The Rev. Mae Jean Zelle, September 11, 1994, Retired Pastor Living in Madison, WI
maejeanzelle@gmail.com
- The Rev. Margo Martens, September 11, 1994, Interim Pastor of Hope, Mineral Point, WI
margomartens24@gmail.com
- The Rev. Charles Koester, September 12, 1982, Retired Pastor living in Anoka, MN
pastorkoester53@gmail.com
- The Rev. Augusta Jr. Barnes, September 15, 2018, Interim Pastor of Faith Lutheran in Cuba City, WI
pastorgus687@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: <https://scsw-elca.org/transitions/>

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, 53719. Please reference as seen in Synod e-news, "What Matters" in your reprint. Questions can be directed to Deacon Hanrahan at the synod office: (608) 270-0201 or vickih@scsw-elca.org

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.