

# WHAT MATTERS . . . . . October 6, 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

*THIS SUNDAY! All are invited to attend via the live stream available to view on our website:  
<https://scsw-elca.org/bishopinstallation/>*



*The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
cordially invites you to attend  
the Festive Worship Celebration  
and Installation Service for*

## BISHOP JOY MORTENSEN-WIEBE

*Sunday, October 11, 2020*

*1:00 pm*

*By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton*

*Livestream Originating from  
New Heights Lutheran Church  
Black Earth, Wisconsin*



*As we continue to practice the guidelines of social distancing,*



*all are invited to join in the celebration  
by viewing the live stream accessed from*

*<https://scsw-elca.org/bishopinstallation/>*

*The live stream will begin at 12:30 pm*

*He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the  
laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest  
to send out laborers into his harvest."*

*Luke 10:2*



*“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you...”  
Romans 1:8*

Dear friends in Christ,

As I prepare to be installed as your bishop this weekend, I have been spending some time reading through the synod constitution and bylaws to familiarize myself with exactly what I have been called to do in your midst. I am struck this morning by this:

*“As the synod’s pastor, the bishop shall: Have primary responsibility for the ministry for providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.”*

October is pastor appreciation month. I want to start my call with you by expressing my appreciation for you. Ministry in 2020, during a pandemic, is extraordinary. It is heartbreaking. It is stressful. In my own 28 years of ministry I have never experienced the intense pressures and professional challenges that this year has brought. The three funerals I conducted at the start of the pandemic were excruciating for me as a pastor. Not being able to gather as the community of the faithful in our sanctuaries to sing and to cling to one another as we have long done leaves grief hanging. The 10 baptisms I celebrated in September were joyful; yet my pastor heart longed to hold those babies and show them off to their new siblings in Christ by walking them around a crowded sanctuary. The decisions about returning to buildings and how and when to do this are not easy and many among you are facing various pressures and concerns.

On the flip side, ministry in 2020 has brought many amazing and good surprises for us. We have found our way into technology. Some of us even like it. Many of us know that we are reaching new people with the love of Jesus and that is exciting! We are experimenting with new ways to be the church that expresses the love that God has for all of us because of the challenges that this year has brought upon us. This has been joyful.

So, pastors and rostered leaders, let me begin by saying thank you. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for answering the call to ministry. Thank you for being right where you are in these days. Thank you for living out your calling in the strange paradox of these days. God is walking with you and the people of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. I am eager to get to know you. I am available to you.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you this day,

Joy Mortensen-Wiebe  
Bishop

### **Contacting the Bishop:**

Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe can be reached via email at: [joymw@scsw-elca.org](mailto:joymw@scsw-elca.org) or by phone: (608) 270-0201.



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

Invitation and News from Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

**Lifting Our Voices During the Pandemic (Zoom Webinar):**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 from 6:30-7:30 PM.

The Event is Free. Co-sponsored by East Central Synod Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin. Join us to discuss some of the pressing issues facing us in our communities, especially during the pandemic. What problems have been exacerbated by the pandemic? How can we use our voices as citizens and as people of God during this time and beyond? Learn more and register [HERE](#). All are welcome!

Link to register:

[https://www.loppw.org/evrplus\\_registration/?action=evrplusegister&event\\_id=5](https://www.loppw.org/evrplus_registration/?action=evrplusegister&event_id=5)

Other LOPPW news:

**Many people eligible for a stimulus check** did not receive one automatically and need to file for one! Learn more from our resource which includes a link to a video from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Please spread the word! [Stimulus Payment Outreach Resource](#)

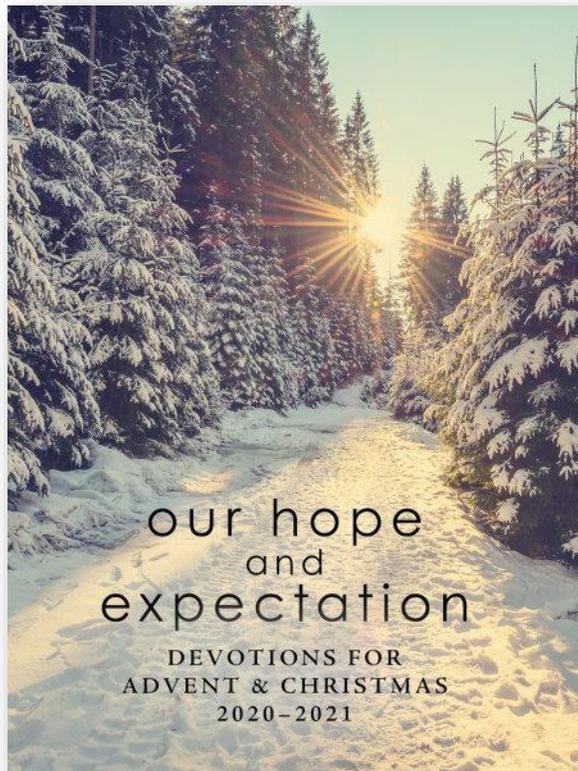


**If you missed the “Ministry in the Digital Age” Webinar with Ryan Panzer, we encourage you to watch the video recording. Ryan gives us a lot to think about as we continue to look for ways to reach out to the unchurched, to stay in connected community, and to find creative ways to engage our Christian faith communities. Link to the webinar held on September 17 can be found on the synod’s website: [www.scsw-elca.org/webinars](http://www.scsw-elca.org/webinars)**

**Augsburg Fortress to Publish Ryan Panzer’s book: “Grace & Gigabytes”**

**You can pre-order this book that will be released December 1. Ryan offered us a discount code of PANZER 30. Use this to receive your discount when ordering.**

<https://www.fortresspress.com/store/productgroup/1899/Grace-and-Gigabytes>



## *Augsburg Fortress Announces Advent Resources*

We want you to be prepared for whatever Advent and Christmas look like this year, including the likelihood that we may need to celebrate this important season at home. Augsburg offers two resources for the Advent and Christmas seasons that are particularly well suited for home use: ***Our Hope and Expectation: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2020-2021***, for adults, and ***Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas cards***, for families with children.

**Devotion Resource - Just \$3.00**

**Families Celebrate Advent Activity Cards – \$9.99**

**To order Devotion:**

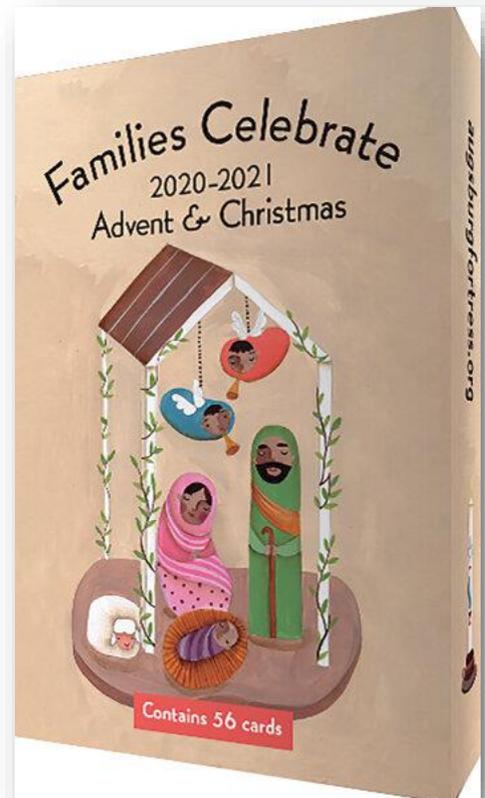
<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506467825/Our-Hope-and-Expectation-Devotions-for-Advent-Christmas-2020-2021>

### **Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas – Activity Cards**

Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany. These make a great gift for families in your congregation!

**Order Advent & Christmas Cards here:**

<http://bit.ly/FamiliesCelebrate>



# 10 for 10

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



## RAISING AWARENESS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

**10 DAYS** | October 2 - 11, 2020

**10 RUNS** | Route details at [stlukes-elca.org/10for10](http://stlukes-elca.org/10for10)

**10 YOUTH** | Sharing their mental health story

**10 CONVERSATIONS** | Daily themes:

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Relationships      | 6 Giving Back / Service       |
| 2 Sharing Your Story | 7 Mindfulness                 |
| 3 Positive Thinking  | 8 Self-Compassion             |
| 4 Physical Wellness  | 9 Challenge Negative Thinking |
| 5 Self-Care          | 10 You Matter                 |

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!  
#stlukes10for10



[stlukes-elca.org/10for10](http://stlukes-elca.org/10for10)



### JOIN US!

- > Watch the **daily video**, posted online at 6:00pm each day featuring a conversation with a community youth sharing their story related to the theme of the day.
- > Participate in the conversation by responding to the **daily question posted online**.
- > Check out the route details and **join a run** or be a **cheering section** along the route.
- > **Create your own** 10 days of 10 things such as 10 minute walks, pray for 10 people, write 10 letters. **Be creative, have fun and let us know** at #stlukes10for10.

*The Church has the unique ability to offer hope, love and support.*

## Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Training

LMPC works to encourage the nonviolent transformation of conflict in relationships in homes, workplaces, schools, churches, and throughout our world.



The last session of **Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church**

**Leaders** for this year will be November 16-20, 2020. This outstanding 5-day event helps participants deal more effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. The tentative dates for next year are March 1-5, May 3-7, June 21-25, August 2-6, October 4-8, and November 15-19, 2021. No decision has yet been made with regard to returning to an in-person format, so attendees will need access to a device with both a camera and a microphone. Questions? Contact the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center at [Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org](mailto:Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org) or 630-627-0507. To receive a **\$200 tuition discount** for the November 2020 session, register no later than October 16. To register online for any of our events scheduled for this year, please visit:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/720852>.

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### Life as a Transgender Person – Wednesday, October 14

On Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:miriammuellerowens@gmail.com) or call 608-216-0716.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87347202006?pwd=dkc5SWFjeitjNlJlO1jTVpDRlZlZz09>

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

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### 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. Expressions of gratitude, joy and excitement to be walking together are abundantly found in this piece. We hope you will read it and share it in your congregations.

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



## Clergy Leadership Group Will Start October 27 – Register With Dan Feaster



The Samaritan Center of Southern Wisconsin, announces a Pastor Leadership Seminar for all area clergy. The Seminar's goal is to improve leadership skills for today's ministry. Clergy present case studies of challenging situations in their churches, which require their leadership. Participants then receive peer feedback for fresh perspectives. Some readings, specifically focused on pastoral leadership will be discussed.

A Family Systems Theory Model will also be utilized. The agenda for the group includes case leadership presentation and book discussion along with other topics determined by the participants.

The leadership seminar will be led by Dan Feaster, executive director and pastoral counselor and ASSIST provider of the Samaritan Counseling Center. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays once a month, from 10 AM -1 PM (working lunch) for a total of eight sessions. The leadership group will start October 27.

Fee for the leadership group is \$300.

### Some possible topics might include:

- How do I live with COVID?
- What does the future of the church look like?
- Will my congregation survive?
- How do I deal with difficult members?
- What are some effective ways of resolving conflict without being victimized?
- How do I continue to pastor when I am running out of energy or becoming discouraged?
- How can I better accept my limitations as a person?
- How do I deal with my emotions when ministering in tragic situations?
- How do I develop cooperative leadership strategies with my co-pastor?
- What do I do when I am leading but few are following?
- How do I survive in a system, which is consuming me?
- How do I retire from a vocation?

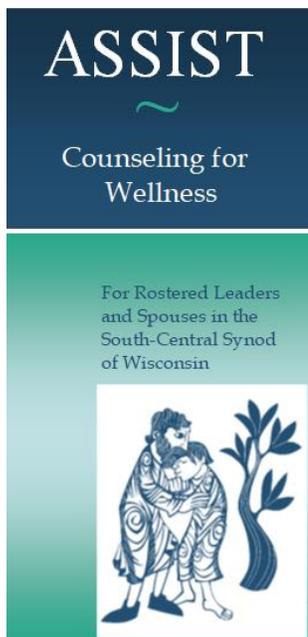
For more information or to register contact:

**Dan Feaster**

Phone: 608-663-0763 ext. 200

E-mail: [dfeaster@samaritancounselingcenterwi.org](mailto:dfeaster@samaritancounselingcenterwi.org)

Samaritan Counseling Center



### ASSIST Counseling for Rostered Leaders and Families

Going through a rough patch? Need someone to talk to? All rostered clergy, deacons and their families are eligible for up to three complementary ASSIST counseling visits. If additional counseling is needed, health insurance will then cover.

To schedule a visit contact [scheduling@samaritancounselingcenterwi.org](mailto:scheduling@samaritancounselingcenterwi.org) or call 608-663-0763 ext. 100 and let them know this is for an ASSIST visit.



## 300+ ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread Matching Grants Available This Fall

Thanks to the generous response to the COVID-19 Appeal, **ELCA World Hunger will be offering 300+ additional Daily Bread Matching Grants this fall.**

**This article is to make sure that all of our congregations with a feeding ministry know about this opportunity and read on for more details:**

**Timeline:** Details for applying via ELCA GrantMaker can be found on [elca.org/dailybread](http://elca.org/dailybread) and ELCA World Hunger’s social media. Approved participants will be notified shortly before the two-week fundraising period, which will take place **November 8-22**. Until then, interested congregations should email [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org) and follow ELCA World Hunger on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for updates.

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

As we 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.

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## 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](mailto: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](https://porticobenefits.org/NewsEvents/News/2020_06_23_RecommendedHealthBenefitOptionsFor2021)

## Enhancing the ELCA Retirement Fund Line Up

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

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## FREE CD/DVD Cases for Your Ministry

250 empty CD/DVD cases available to the first church who asks. Contact Rev. Jennifer Jelinek at Grace Lutheran Church (Cambridge) for pick up. - [pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com)

**Continue Your Vigilance** - Churches are well positioned to take all the steps necessary to contain and mitigate emergencies including COVID-19. This includes the steps outlined above and knowing to contact their local health department at the first indication of illness. See this link to find yours.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties.htm>



**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>

**NOTE: WE WILL NOT HOLD WORSHIP THIS WEEK. We will resume our normal schedule next week.**

**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>



**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](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)

**Does Your Congregation Have Handbells It No Longer Uses?**

St. Johns in Sauk Prairie is currently looking for a 3-octave set (preferably Malmarm) in good condition. Please contact Ruellene Seymour at [ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.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](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org) Please notify Deacon Vicki when the position has been filled so that we can keep this list current. Thanks!**

**NEW! Business Administrator -First Lutheran Church, Janesville, WI**

First Lutheran Church is looking to fill our part time Business Administrator position. This is a part-time, professional administrative position, approximately 25-27 hours per week. The business administrator works with the Lead Pastor, Congregational Council, staff, and various boards in overseeing the day to day administrative operations of the church in financial reporting, planning, and facility requirements. Request full position description and email resumes to [office@flcj.org](mailto:office@flcj.org) by October 9, 2020. (09/29/20)

**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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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)

**Wisconsin Council of Churches Employment Opportunities**

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



**Future Synod Gatherings/Meetings/Events:**

- Oct 1      Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe First Day in the Synod Office**
- Oct 11     Installation of Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe via Live Stream – see invitation page 2 of this issue**
- Oct 13     Lifting Our Voices During the Pandemic – Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI Webinar**
- Oct 27     Clergy Leadership Group with Rev. Dan Feaster**
- Nov 19     Retired Rostered Gathering at St. John’s Lutheran, Oregon. 9:30 - noon.**



**Prayers -**

**Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team:**

- Pastor Nick Utphall, Advent /Madison Christian Community, Madison, WI
- Pastor Peter Beeson, St. John’s, Madison, WI

**Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:**

- Members of First English Lutheran, Platteville, WI
- Pastor Steven Hanson, Pastors and Members of First English Lutheran, Whitewater, WI

**Neighboring Synods:**

- Bishop Bill Gohl, Jr., the Staff, and the congregations of Delaware-Maryland Synod

## Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. Chris Markert, Director for Evangelical Mission – Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
- The Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, Director for Evangelical Mission – Metropolitan Chicago Synod

We give thanks at this time for the ministry of those who celebrate their anniversary of Ordination during this coming week: (Note, if you notice something that needs correcting, please contact Robyn Zimmerman as she manages the prayers and ordination information. [robynz@scsw-elca.org](mailto:robynz@scsw-elca.org))

- The Rev. Suzanne Burke, October 08, 2000, Churchwide Call to Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN [emily.tveite@gmail.com](mailto:emily.tveite@gmail.com)
- The Rev. Karen Kiener, October 11, 1981, Retired Pastor living in Madison, WI [karenkiener@yahoo.com](mailto:karenkiener@yahoo.com)

## Corrections from Last Issue:

- The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, September 26, 1998, Pastor of Brooklyn Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, WI [rebecca.m.ninke@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.m.ninke@gmail.com)
- The Rev. Craig Wolfgram, September 12, 1986, Pastor of Bethany Lutheran in Wisconsin Dells, WI [revcw2009@yahoo.com](mailto:revcw2009@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:** <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](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org)

Share your news. If you have something you would like considered for publication in What Matters, send it to Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, 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.*