

WHAT MATTERS November 3, 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

Join Us Today for a Voting Day Prayer Vigil

November 3
7:00 am – 8:15 pm

If you are feeling anxious about this election or need time to prepare your heart before voting or for what is to come after voting, walk with us through prayer.

Throughout the day from 7:00 am until a few minutes after the polls close at 8:00 pm, you can join members of our synod on the hour as they lead us in prayer. Leaders from our synod will either be praying live or will offer recorded devotions for quiet meditation time.

We also invite you to submit prayer requests. Email them to the synod's prayer team any time and they will be lifted throughout the day.

prayerteam@scsw-elca.org

See the schedule and find the link to the prayer vigil on the synod's website.



<https://scsw-elca.org/congregations/#scswvotes>

Please promote this opportunity in your congregations and share the links with friends and colleagues! Everyone is invited!

VIGIL SCHEDULE

- **7am:** Pastor Brenda Lovick, *East Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cambridge, WI*
- **8am:** Pastor Ann Walsvik, *Agrace Hospice Janesville, WI*
- **9am:** Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, *Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, South-Central Synod of WI*
- **10am:** Pastor Naomi Garber, *Interim Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Oregon, WI*
- **11am:** Pastor Peter Heide, *Interim Pastor, United in Christ, Morrisonville, WI*
- **12pm:** Deacon Judy Nolde, *Chaplain of the Central Wisconsin Center, Madison WI*
- **1pm:** Pastor Walter Baires, *Assistant to the Bishop, Director of Evangelical Missions, South-Central Synod of WI*
- **2pm:** Sarah Iverson, *Dir. of Spiritual Programming & Development, Good Shepherd, Madison & Verona, WI*
- **3pm:** Pastor Cindy Crane, *Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin, Madison, WI*
- **4pm:** Pastor Bob Moberg, *Retired Pastor, Columbus, WI*
- **5pm:** Pastor Jerry Folk, *Retired Pastor, Madison, WI*
- **6pm:** Pastor Tina Koenig Ray, *Agrace Hospice & Palliative Care, Fitchburg*
- **7pm:** Pastor Nick Utphall, *Advent Lutheran Church, Madison, WI*
- **8pm:** Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, *Bishop of the South-Central Synod of WI*

What's A Synod?" Part 3

By Deacon Vicki Hanrahan
Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life



Last week we shared there are 138 worshipping communities in our synod. Did you know that 80% of our congregations are spread out in rural areas of the 12 counties we inhabit? To stay connected with one another for ministry, we organize ourselves through 12 smaller communities called “conferences.” Each conference is made up of anywhere between 10-15 congregations that gather monthly for collegiality, to worship together, to share stories and struggles and to nurture each other. Each conference is led by a dean who is a rostered leader (on the roster of the ELCA as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament or Minister of Word and Service) that has volunteered to serve the synod in this way. We are grateful!

Of late, during the pandemic, these conference gatherings are taking place via interactive video meetings. Most recently, these groups took on some heavy lifting as we asked the conferences to bring forward names of candidates for our bishop election. In this way, we were able to get input from throughout the synod. We will continue to look to our conferences to bring forward ideas for our shared ministry, for ways we can equip our laity and rostered, and in the future, to lift up candidates for other leadership roles in our synod. This collaboration is one of the ways we are church together at the synodical level. For a list of our conferences, visit our website: <https://c8t5e9v5.rocketcdn.me/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020SCSWConferenceList.pdf>

That brings us to another story for this series and that is how our bishop was better equipped for a call to ministry by engagement in the regional expression of our church through synod leadership at the youth level.

In a recent interview, **Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe** recounted the seminal moments in her life that led to her answering God’s call to serve God’s church. Some of those moments revolved around participating in the larger synodical expression of the church. Here’s her story:

“I was always very involved in church growing up. My parents would, upon my insistence, cart me across town for everything possible that I could be involved in with my church. We had an amazing youth group and youth pastor at the time. Even though I didn’t know most of the kids in the youth group as my church was in a different part of town than we lived in, I got to know them, and those peers and relationships became very important to me. They became my community. Learning about Jesus with them was a big draw. It was a safe place to learn about Jesus.

I was also one of the primary babysitters for the pastor’s family while I was in middle school. In 7th grade, I asked his wife once if I could be a pastor as a woman and his wife said, “Yes, they’ve just started ordaining women pastors, but I would not recommend it; it’s very hard and it’s probably not a great choice for a career.” So I left the parsonage that day and got in my mother’s car and said, “Mom, I think I’m going to a pastor.” She said, “Honey, you tend to faint at church.” Which was true because in Sunday school, it would get hot and I would tend to faint and keel over. So that’s how my initial call story started.

During that time, I was elected to the (old) Northern Wisconsin District youth board. I had many friendships develop out of that. The youth pastor, lead pastor and laity all had a role in affirming me for that position and encouraged me to stretch my skills.

It was easy to develop leadership skills because the adults allowed us to do a lot of the planning and execution of events. They trusted us to discern what would be best for the leadership of the district at the time.



Another big moment for me was when Rev. Bob Herder was elected bishop of the East Central Synod. I was asked to participate in his installation service. I was so excited. Bishop Herder had been a pastor to my family. He celebrated my parent's marriage as a new pastor himself. Then when they lost a child to AIDS, he ministered to them. He is the first pastor I remember as a child. It was such an honor to be a young person and be involved in his installation procession. I have never forgotten it.

After middle school and after not getting a ringing endorsement for going into ministry, I started thinking about what else I could do and decided I wanted to get a masters in social work and become a social worker. I started the program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to do that. God had different plans though and I found I could not run away from my call to ministry."

When asked what pastors, deacons and laity might look for in leadership qualities of people in the parish that might make them good candidates for leadership in the church, especially with youth and young adults, Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe shared her wisdom:

"I think I would say don't look for one particular thing. Don't be afraid to enter into relationships with all the kids that you encounter. That was true of two people I am thinking about now... two role models in Clem and Grace Stromske who were Sunday school teachers and then followed us all the way as confirmation teachers. They got to know every kid they came across. It didn't matter if you were a kid that loved church or a kid like my brother that needed to be dragged to church. The Stromske's were willing to meet you where you were at and just get to know you.

I don't think there is any one way that God lifts up leaders for the church. There is not one background where leaders of our future church will come from. They can be any person right now walking around because that's how God's Holy Spirit works and the call from God comes. So, I would say to any pastor, deacon, or laity just don't be afraid to enter into a relationship. It could be the quiet kid who's sitting there with a nose in a book that doesn't look up at you. It could be that rebellious kid that you might think is going nowhere good. Don't be afraid to enter into any relationship because God's Holy Spirit might be doing an amazing thing just a few short years from the moment you take the risk of getting to know someone. We have a surprising God!"

The blessing of ELCA congregations and synods working together is that we are able to draw upon a wealth of leaders, resources, networks, support, ideas, experiences, diverse perspectives and diverse communities for doing God's work in the world. All gifts that God has given us for God's purposes. Might God be calling you to use your gifts for the larger church for the glory of the Lord?

Please share these issues of What Matters and invite others to send me an email to receive What Matters directly. Include a link to What Matters on the home page of your website!

Invite New members to Sign up for What Matters today! <https://scsw-elca.org/news/> or to send me an email and put "Add Me to What Matters" in the subject: vickih@scsw-elca.org

Include a sign up sheet in your new member packets! Include a simple yes, no question: Would you like to stay connected to our larger church through the synod's e-newsletter, What Matters? We highly recommend it!

BY THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE CALL OF THE CHURCH

JASON R. POOLE-XIONG

WILL BE ORDAINED INTO THE
MINISTRY OF WORD & SACRAMENT
IN CHRIST'S ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC,
AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

4:00 p.m.

HOSTED BY OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
BELOIT, WI

PRESIDING

REV. MARTHA BUTZIER

&

REV. JOY MORTENSEN-WIEBE

BISHOP, SOUTH-CENTRAL SYNOD OF WISCONSIN-ELCA

PREACHING

REV. ELISABETH PYNN HIMMELMAN

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - KEARNEY, NE

Due to safe practices for COVID-19, this will be a virtual
worship, The livestream will begin at 3:45 p.m. and all are
invited to attend live online via YouTube Live:

https://youtu.be/_LPjnUIEEpE

Link: https://youtu.be/_LPjnUIEEpE



Applications for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program are now being accepted, and you can invite young adults on this journey abroad for the 2021-2022 program year.

If you know young adults ages 21 to 29, this is the time to reach out. Encourage them to apply for YAGM by the deadline of Jan. 15, 2021. Talk to them personally about what this opportunity will mean for their faith, identity, career and understanding of God's work in the world.

YAGM volunteers will begin in August 2021 and will be placed in one of the country programs. As YAGM continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation and we communicate with our global companions, please know that the list of country programs for the 2021-2022 service year may change.

Through YAGM, young adults will learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk alongside global church companions. They'll become immersed in a new community and form deep relationships. And they'll confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith. Learn more at [ELCA.org/YAGM](https://elca.org/YAGM).

Young adults will find relevant opportunities for professional experience, including:

- Health and human rights: health care, HIV and AIDS, homelessness, immigration and refugees
- Education: fine arts, youth education, childhood education, working with people living with disabilities
- Environmental justice: agriculture and farming, development, environment
- Professional support: office work, communication, technology, finance
- Congregational ministry: children's ministry, Christian education, youth ministry, congregational ministry, camp ministry

Around the world, host families, churches, workplaces and communities are ready to welcome YAGM volunteers.

Don't wait — spread the word and forward this news now! The deadline to apply is Jan. 15, 2021.

Farmer Angel Network Virtual Program for Farmers Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1-2:30 pm

The Farmer Angel Network will be hosting "**Shifting Gears -Facing Changing Times**" to be presented by Joy Kirkpatrick, Center for Dairy Profitability, to help farm families explore and plan for their later farming years. This will be held via Zoom video conference. There is no charge but participants must register by **Nov. 6** to receive the Zoom link and digital participant worksheets. Register by email: alana.voss@wisc.edu or call the Sauk Co. Extension office at 608-355-3250.

This presentation will introduce participants to **Shifting Gears**, a program designed to help farmers looking for a change of pace, responsibility, or markets. This program helps farmers determine where they are now, where they want to be, and how do they get there. Even if the owners are not planning on fully retiring from careers as many workers do, it is important to discuss their vision with family and farming partners, and plan on shifting gears, slowing down and finding other activities to enjoy.

Note, this is an introduction to a longer, more in depth program/series.

MISSION MOMENT



Atonement Lutheran Church: When One Door Closes, God Opens Another

By Deacon Vicki Hanrahan

A service of holy closing was held on October 3 for Atonement Lutheran Church in Beloit. Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe, the Rev. Steve Kottke, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership Support, Synod Vice-President, Jane Cahill Wolfgram and Cheryl Ramczyk, Atonement Church Council President led members of the congregation through a bittersweet process of closing the church.

“It’s hard to think of this as a day to celebrate, but you have 115 years to celebrate your ministry in this place and through it all, God has been with you,” said Rev. Kottke in his message. “Through all the ups and downs, through all the joys and sorrows that are part of our life together, God was with you...and God is with you now. God is calling you to new ventures not yet seen.”

Jane Cahill Wolfgram thanked the congregation and assured them that their legacy will continue, “As we look at the church closure, there are many sad moments, but there is also the joy of knowing that all the work and all the effort that has gone into this church will be used to continue to make disciples, to plant new churches, and to carry out God’s great commission.” Money from sold assets including the church building will be used for planting new churches and for supporting seminarians with educational assistance.

Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe punctuated this, “Indeed the assets that you use to support seminarians will be put to good use by bright, energetic, called pastors who will be coming into the search for calls and some who will be starting brand new congregations. So, I hope that can fill your heart with some new joy that is mixed with some sorrow for this closing.”

We give thanks for the ministry that has happened in this congregation and for the people who have been fed and nurtured in the Christian faith there. Even as we mark the end of an era in one place, we acknowledge we are all participants in God’s mission that continues beyond this day and beyond the church’s walls.

If you were unable to watch the live stream of the service of holy closing, you can view it here. Please hold the people of Atonement in your prayers as they work through their emotions and find a new place of worship where they can be fed and continue to use their gifts for ministry.

<https://www.facebook.com/AtonementBeloit/videos/1523700571147506/>

Caring for Creation: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Can't Wait: A Call to Action – Nov 10

Bethel Lutheran Church (Madison) Invites You:

Tues, Nov 10, 7:30pm; [Zoom Webinar](#)

Megan Levy will introduce Wisconsin's Office of Energy Innovation, as well as updates on the progress of the Energy Independent Communities program and on state energy security planning efforts. Megan will share some of the climate mitigation and adaptation strategies gleaned from the recent Wisconsin Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters "Climate Fast Forward!" Conference.



Billions of Federal dollars are spent every year on worsening natural disasters. We stand on the precipice of historic decisions in the energy sector. Infrastructure investments must be made to support sustainable, resilient, equitable, and secure systems of the future. The Office of Energy Innovation is preparing to direct Federal dollars to a variety of these investments, like critical infrastructure microgrids and community resilience centers.

As Local Energy Program Manager, Megan Levy has spent more than a decade working on building energy efficiency with the low-income weatherization program and with the Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation. As the state's Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinator, she oversees the Energy Independent Communities program with more than 147 member communities. Megan designed and is the manager of the Municipal Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance Program (MEETAP), which provides expertise to municipalities, tribes, and schools across the state to facilitate successful energy efficiency projects. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she has held both regional and national leadership roles. In 2016-17, she served on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association; in 2017, she was named Co-Chair of the Energy Security Committee of the National Association of State Energy Officials.

Beyond the office, Megan has for 20 years demonstrated a different kind of energy as chanteuse of her four-piece band, Madison Red, performing jazz, jump blues and swing across the state.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cuQqna_6RDS48GIEv6fTOw

Portico Plan Members – Don't Leave these Dollars on the Table!



1. Our **2020 Live Well** invitation rewards two activities: Completing a **biometric screening** (\$100) and **completing a financial task** (\$100). In this year of unexpected twists and turns, we're making it a little easier to receive 2020 wellness dollars. Because of the pandemic, many have had difficulty visiting a clinic to have blood drawn for a biometric screening. We've decided to waive this step and credit wellness dollars to those who've not yet completed it — \$100 to ELCA-Primary members and \$100 to eligible spouses. This credit will show up mid-Oct in your personal wellness account (if you have Platinum+ or Gold+) or health savings account (if you have Silver+ or Bronze+). If you (and/or an eligible spouse) haven't yet completed your **financial wellness task**, there's still time from now until 11/30. Learn more on myPortico.

Equipping the Saints!



More Good Reads

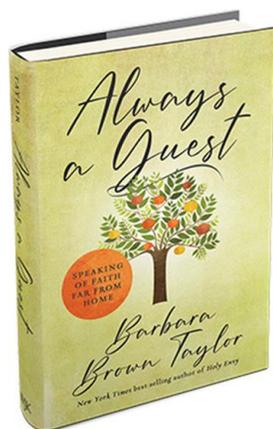
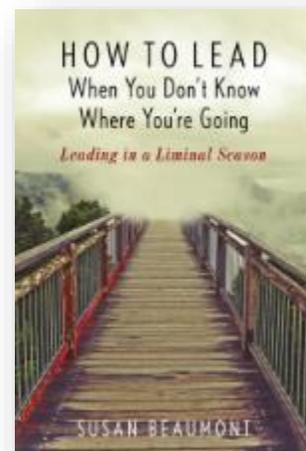
From time to time, we provide resources that help us get our bearings as disciples of Christ in this time and place. It's a perfect time to snuggle up with a good read: Here are some of synod staff picks right now:

How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going

Susan Beaumont
Recommended by: Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe

Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe references this book in her letter to the synod this issue. *How to Lead*

When You Don't Know Where You're Going is a practical book of hope for tired and weary leaders who risk defining this era of ministry in terms of failure or loss. It helps leaders stand firm in a disoriented state, learning from their mistakes and leading despite the confusion. Packed with rich stories and real-world examples, Beaumont guides the reader through practices that connect the soul of the leader with the soul of the institution.



Always a Guest

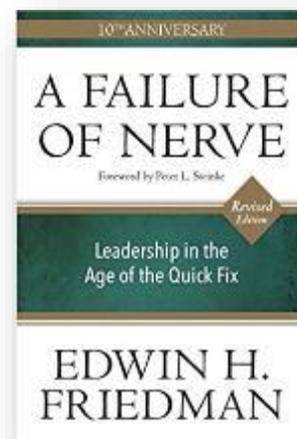
by Barbara Brown Taylor
Recommended by Deacon Vicki Hanrahan

Reviewer Bishop Gene Robinson: "Always a Guest is like a month of Sundays, perfect for just before going to sleep or coffee and quiet time in the morning. Precise words, funny and profound turns of phrase, brilliant illumination of the Gospel, and deep respect for those listening in the pews make this classic Barbara Brown Taylor." "Yup! We agree with all that...she is so easy to read and hard to put down!" (Deacon Vicki Hanrahan)

A Failure of Nerve

Edwin H. Friedman
Recommended by Rev. Steve Kottke

Friedman was the first to tell us that all organizations have personalities, like families, and to apply the insights of family therapy to churches and synagogues, rectors and rabbis, politicians and teachers. His understandings about our regressed, "seatbelt society," oriented toward safety rather than adventure, help explain the sabotage that leaders constantly face today. Suspicious of the "quick fixes" and instant solutions that sweep through our culture only to give way to the next fad, he argued for strength and self-differentiation as the marks of true leadership. His formula for success is more maturity, not more data; stamina, not technique; and personal responsibility, not empathy.





Curated Resources to Help You Faithfully Lead and Stay in Connected Community During this time of the Pandemic

Resources can also be found on the synod's website: <https://scsw-elca.org/community>

Clergy Leadership Group - Register With Dan Feaster

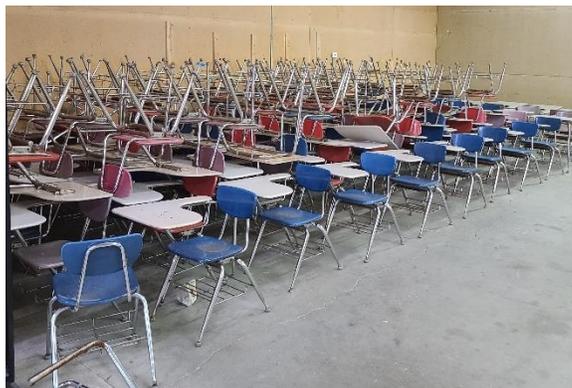
Clergy leadership group will meet monthly for eight months starting October 27. Group will meet the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10 to 1p.m. using zoom. Format will include a devotion, two case studies and focus on leadership readings. Each pastor will have an opportunity to use their case consultation time to focus on a leadership issue or topic that is useful to them.

For more information or to register contact:

Dan Feaster, Samaritan Counseling Center

Phone: 608-663-0763 ext. 200

E-mail: dfeaster@samaritancounselingcenterwi.org



FREE School Desks Available from Habitat for Humanity ReStore

As many of you are now wearing the hat of home-schooling teacher, we thought you might be interested in free school desks for your at home schoolrooms.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore has free school desks available in their warehouse. They've been hearing from the community about the challenges of kids transitioning to school at home. **Are there families in need at your congregations that may benefit from these desks? Or, any student programs that need to be temporarily relocated and could use these mobile desks?** Some of the

desks have a little rust, but are in pretty good shape overall. If you are interested, contact **Sean at the Habitat ReStore at 608.661.2813 x 7**. He'll direct you to the right place depending on how many you want. There are some available at the Habitat ReStore East on Monona Drive to people who might just want one.



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."

Do you have a link to the synod website on your website?
If you do, thank you for your partnership!

If you don't, please do **add a link to the synod website to your website:** www.scsw-elca.org

Accepting Donations To



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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Does Your Congregation Have Handbells It No Longer Uses?

St. Johns in Sauk Prairie is currently looking for a 3-octave set (preferably Malmark) in good condition. Please contact Ruellene Seymour at ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

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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! Crossways Camping Ministries Has Opportunity for an Internship

Crossways Camping Ministries is seeking an intern for our ELCA camp in Hatley, WI. Please see the link to the employment section of our website for more information: <https://www.crosswayscamps.org/employment>
 (10/27/20)

Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Madison, To Hire One or Several Part-Time A/V technicians

Technicians needed to operate the camera and sound system in the sanctuary for worship and other events. A full position description is available on the church website: <https://www.midvalelutheran.org/welcome-midvale/work-midvale> - to apply, please send a resume and cover letter to info@midvalelutheran.org. The position is open immediately. (10/13/20)

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 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. (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)

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Future Synod Gatherings/Meetings/Events:

- Nov 3** **Prayer Vigil for Voting Day – All Day Synod Zoom Prayer Vigil – see page 2 this issue**
- Nov 11** **South Jefferson/Walworth County Conference Meeting – 10:00 am Zoom**
- Nov 14** **Synod Council Meeting**
- Nov 19** **Retired Rostered Gathering via Zoom - 9:30 - noon.**
- Nov 24** **Equipping the Saints Webinar with Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe**
- Nov 25 & 26** **Synod office closed for Thanksgiving**
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PRAYERS

Last week's correction:

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team:

- Tim Mumm, Luther Memorial, Delavan, WI
- Pastor Lisa Nelson, St. Mark's, Madison, WI

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Pastor Kate Kieckhafer, Pastor and Members of Grace Lutheran, Darlington, WI
- Pastor Mark Williamson, Pastor and Members of Grace Lutheran, Dodgeville, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, the Staff, and the congregations of South Dakota Synod

Churchwide Partners:

- Mr. James Deuhring, Director for Evangelical Mission – Northern Great Lakes Synod
- The Rev. Erin L Nelson, Director for Evangelical Mission – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

We give thanks at this time for the ministry of those who celebrated their anniversary of Ordination last week:

- The Rev. Lisa Nelson, October 31, 1993, Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran, Madison, WI nelsonkosky@gmail.com
- The Rev Richard Collier, October 31, 1982, Interim Pastor of Dekkora Lutheran, Poynette , WI
revcollier@sbcglobal.net
- The Rev. Sande Nelson, November 01, 1974, Retired Pastor living in Banglamung Chonburi, Thailand
sande_n99@yahoo.com

This week:

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team:

- Pastor Pat Siegler, Zion, Madison, WI
- Pastor Andy Twiton, Trinity, Madison, WI

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Pastor John Tabaka & Deacon Elizabeth Faith, Pastor, Deacon and Members of Grace Lutheran, Monroe, WI
- Pastor Nancy Raabe, Pastor and Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Marshall, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Lorna H Halaas, the Staff, and the congregations of Western Iowa Synod

Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. Jeannie DeVoll-Donaldson, Director for Evangelical Mission East-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- The Rev. Matt Short, Director for Evangelical Mission –Greater Milwaukee Synod

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

- The Rev. Peter Sherven, November 04, 1973, Retired Pastor living in Madison, WI psherven@charter.net
- Deacon Judy Nolde, November 04, 2016, Chaplain at Central Wisconsin Center, Madison, WI judynolde@sbcglobal.net

May these leaders continue to be blessed for service.

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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/>

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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.

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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.

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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.