



At the Table Together

Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Reprinted with permission from Living Lutheran Magazine.

Old recipes are precious things. They give instructions about how to prepare a dish, but they are so much more. They are filled with memories. They connect families as they are passed from one generation to the next. They bring events and people from long ago right into the present.

I am looking at a recipe card that has that effect on me. It's my mother's recipe for stuffing for turkey. It's written in her neat hand—a skill I never mastered. It's a basic recipe, just bread and butter and onions and celery and poultry seasoning. I don't even have to read it now when I make stuffing, but I like to look at it because it puts me right back into Thanksgivings past.



Thanksgiving in our family was an *event*. The Eatons have been gathering for Thanksgiving dinner for nearly 70 years. We traded off between our house and my aunt and uncle's home. When it was our turn we got up early and started cooking. Out came the recipes and equipment. There were no food processors in those days. We had a cast iron food grinder that clamped on to the edge of the kitchen table. It was kept in its own special box. It only made an appearance once a year and its emergence signaled that Thanksgiving had arrived. Grinding the celery was no problem. Onions were another story. My brothers and I spelled each other at turning the crank until we were overcome by the fumes.

No matter what, when my mother or my aunt announced, "Supper's ready," we all came to the table together. We were family, we shared our lives, we loved each other.

My parents and my aunt and uncle established this tradition shortly after World War II. We have always had three and sometimes four generations present. A lot has gone on in our family and in the world these past decades. Marriages, children, moves, deaths, war, recession, elections, the '60s. We are a lively bunch and none of us lacks an opinion or the ability to express it. Conversations were spirited and sometimes heated. My father and my uncle served in the army during World War II. My older brother and older male cousins didn't support the Vietnam War. We belong to different political parties. We are Lutheran and Catholic and members of the Unification Church and unchurched. We are liberal and conservative.

But no matter what, when my mother or my aunt announced, "Supper's ready," we all came to the table together. We were family, we shared our lives, we loved each other.

A lot is going on in our church and in the world right now. We are a changing church, which brings its own tension. We live in a wired world where news is instantaneous and continuous. We don't agree on everything. We belong to different political parties. We have varied ethnicities. We're liberal and conservative and everything in between. We're in an "either/or" world. And we are contending with cultural forces that exacerbate division. But by the tender love of God, by this ceaseless pursuit of the Spirit, we are members of the body of Christ. We are family. We share our lives. We love each other.

Here is another simple recipe: flour, water, wine, the body and blood of Jesus. A meal of healing, forgiveness and thanksgiving. No matter what, when our Lord tenderly and urgently invites, "Supper's ready," we all come to the table. There in our common brokenness we meet each other in Christ.

What Matters? What Then?

What's A Synod? - Part 4

By Deacon Vicki Hanrahan

Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life



What Matters is a weekly celebration of everything that we are and everything that we do as a synod. For example, we lift individual milestones such as anniversaries of ordinations, anniversaries of congregations and life endings on earth for saints in our synod. We lift prayers for leaders and congregations in our synod, for bishops and synods and for fellow kingdom workers in the ELCA. We share messages from our bishops that help us keep the main things, the main things. We tell stories of collaborations and examples of walking together. We share invitations from congregations to learning opportunities that equip us for ministry. We share suggestions for books and resources that enlighten, inform and make us better disciples. We celebrate through stories where we are seeing God at work. Reading a story about a creative way to serve and love our neighbor might inspire an idea that can be made to work within your culture in your community. Much emphasis is placed on this sharing because we believe that we bear good fruit when we connect our gifts. We believe this helps cast a wider net of hearts and hands for Jesus to act through to make a difference in the world.



In fact, our mission statement, created by synod council directs our efforts:

"We care for, connect and equip the congregations of our synod to be the heart and hands of Jesus."

My call to synodical life includes the life-giving purpose and privilege of noticing where God is at work in our synod. My cyberspace travels this week started from our synod's web page that houses links to worship services that have been recorded since March from about 50 congregations in our synod. A recent sermon given by **the Rev. Brad Pohlman**, senior pastor of Luther Memorial (Madison) on the twenty third Sunday after Pentecost, November 8, coincidentally fleshes out very nicely the

underlying theme of our weekly synod publication, **What Matters**.

Rev. Pohlman shared:

"We have our daily work. How do we act? What have we done and what have we failed to do? It's far too easy for us to say, well I am one person, what difference could I make in the world anyway? Jesus seems to say you are extremely important. How you live your life is of great consequence. Jesus is saying, he really does need us to do well as his disciples. And he says with his help, we will do well. He has handed over to us the responsibility of his kingdom. He has given us everything he's got. He gave us his very life! When he speaks to us of trees that bear good fruit and houses that have good foundations to withstand the storms of this life, he's saying to us, I need you. I care about what you do. How you live your life reflects upon me. In my kingdom, your performance matters, it makes a difference, because I am acting in the world through you. You are my appointed agents in the kingdom. I promise to hold you accountable for being all that I believe you can be with my grace."



So as we seek to be church together for the sake of the world, we might ask ourselves "What Matters? What Then?" This is an invitation to self-judgment and accountability. Are you living your life in community? Do you hold service to your neighbor as something for which your congregation counts on you to do? Being held accountable as a member of a congregation, member of a synod, and member of the ELCA are three more ways of holding us accountable to God.

So showing up to a synod or churchwide event, volunteering to be a LEAD or Synod Assembly workshop leader, participating as a Faithful Innovation coach, giving generously to your church and your church giving generously to the synod through mission support, serving on a call committee, mentoring an intern, sponsoring a missionary, partnering with a developing congregation, making quilts and hospice kits, leading bible studies, feeding the hungry, advocating for justice, teaching Sunday school and confirmation, volunteering to lead Thursday worship, coming in to stuff a mailing, participating in text study and conference meetings, praying for each other when prayers are needed, living out your vocations in your daily life to the best of your ability are all part of paying attention to what Jesus needs and wants. In fact, striving to be our best together makes a difference is what a synod is and what a synod does.

God loves this church, not because of its numbers or its growth, but because of our servant hearts. We are doing What Matters in Jesus' name!

Synod website with links to congregational worship services: <https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/worship/>

Link to Rev. Pohlman's complete sermon: <https://www.luthermem.org/video/>

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!



With **Veterans' Day** upon us, it's good to remember the 20 million [veterans] who live among us. Some are members of our congregations and worship in our midst. Each one entered the military for a variety of personal reasons. Each one was willing to put their lives at risk for the defense of our country.

Here are some great ways to honor veterans from Living Lutheran magazine. At the end of

the article, you might also wish to check out past issues with additional ideas:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/11/five-ways-to-honor-veterans/>

MISSION MOMENT



Rostered Women of the Caribbean Synod of the ELCA Commemorate the Anniversary of the Reformation With Joyful Hearts!

On September 23, all but three women pastors of the Caribbean Synod of the ELCA, District of Puerto Rico, celebrated 50 years of the ordination of women to the ministry of Word & Sacrament. Seen here with these women on the far right (front row) is Bishop of the Caribbean Synod, the Rev. Idalia Negrón Caamaño who was elected in 2018.

As many of you know, our synod is partnered with the Caribbean synod and we walk together, sharing in their joys and their sufferings. They are still trying to heal from the many natural disasters over the past several years, but this is one of those occasions in which we are delighted to share in their joy.

There are 26 Caribbean Synod, ELCA churches listed on Faith Street. Caribbean Synod, ELCA churches describe themselves with words like traditional liturgy. Popular church music styles include traditional hymns and passionate reverent. Caribbean Synod, ELCA churches often offer youth group and community service programs just as we do here in the states.

Recently, we sent an offering in excess of \$1,000 that was partially used to finance the televised reformation commemoration and celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Lutheran women. They were able to invite others into the celebration and were very excited about that! Thank you for your generosity! To learn how your congregation might support this partner, contact synod staff liaison and DEM, Rev. Walter Baires at the synod office: walterb@scsw-elca.org

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

This worship will now be held via **Zoom,
please email Jason at jasonx@scsw-elca.org
for link to attend.**

By the Grace of God and the Call of the Church

Sterling Lynk

**Will be ordained into the ministry of
Word & Sacrament**

Saturday, November 14, 2020

2:00 pm

Hosted by:

**Lakeview Lutheran Church
Madison**

Presiding:

**Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe
Bishop, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Following pandemic protocols, the service will be
live-streamed starting at 1:50 pm**

**All are invited to attend live by clicking on
the link below**

<https://youtu.be/Ul5ckML7fbA>

SCSW - Children, Youth & Family Leaders Gathering

Our monthly gathering is this Thursday (10/22) at 10:30am. We will meeting via Zoom (link in below). This is a time to connect and support each other. We will also spend some time in prayer. Hope to "See" you there!

Contacts: Heather - youth_clc@yahoo.com
Jay Kiel - jkiel@stlukes-elca.org

Email Heather or Jay for the link to this webconference:

youth_clc@yahoo.com or jkiel@stlukes-elca.org

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.

Learn more at [ELCA.org/YAGM](https://www.elca.org/YAGM).

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



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.

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



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

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.

More Good Reads



Equipping the Saints!

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:

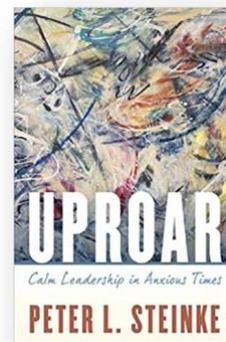
Calm Leadership in Anxious Times

By Peter L. Steinke

Recommended by Rev. Steve Kottke

Uproar: Calm Leadership in Anxious Times helps leaders understand the powerful impact that emotional processes have on the people they lead. In this book, readers will observe

important leadership characteristics such as separating oneself from the surrounding anxiety, making decisions based on principle and not instinct, taking responsibility for one's own emotional being, staying connected to others including those who disagree with you, being a non-anxious presence, focusing on emotional processes rather than the symptoms they produce, knowing people naturally influence one another, and recognizing leader and follower as complements. At the end of each chapter, there is a Leader's Notebook, a short section to illustrate, enrich or engage your thinking about leadership. As Steinke suggests, being anxious causes you to lose perspective, and leaders do their best thinking when they are not overly stressed and can think about options, doing their best work when they work on themselves.

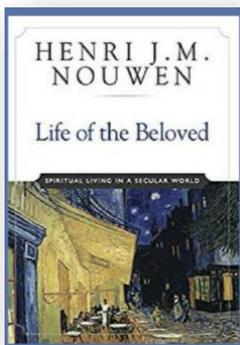


Life of the Beloved

By Henri Nouwen

Recommended by Robyn Zimmerman

Initially written for a Jewish friend, *Life of the Beloved* has become Henri Nouwen's greatest legacy to Christians around the world. This sincere testimony of the power and invitation of Christ is indeed a great guide to a truly uplifting spiritual life in today's world. Anyone who is searching for the Spirit of God in the world today will benefit from reading it.

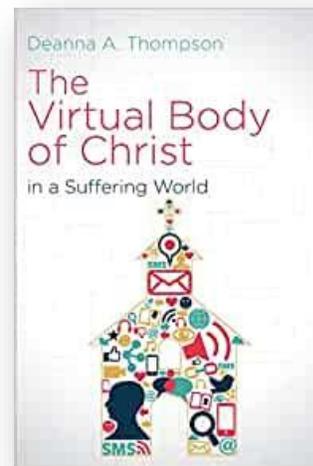


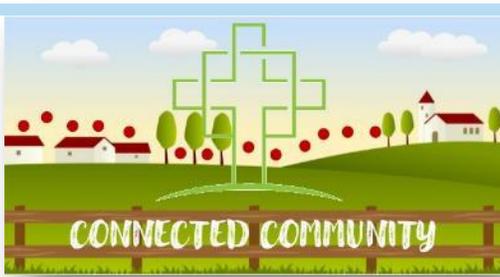
The Virtual Body of Christ in A Suffering World

By Deanna A. Thompson

Recommended by Deacon Vicki Hanrahan

A review from Krista Tippet describes this book best: "Nothing happens online that doesn't happen offline. Yet we are prone to moral complaint and despair—especially in religious circles—about how the digital age is changing us. In this beautiful, engaging, and original work of twenty-first-century public theology, Deanna Thompson names and explores our digital lives as new spheres that also call us more deeply into community and care and illuminate the very meaning of incarnation. This is a much-needed book for all of us on the new frontier—and for our children, whom we are following and accompanying there as much as guiding. This book accepts digital connectivity as our reality, but presents a vision of how faith communities can utilize technology to better be the body of Christ to those who are hurting while also helping followers of Christ think critically about the limits of our digital attachments.





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>

ELCA COACHING – offers many webinars on topics pertinent to leading in this time.

If you can't make the live webinars, you can view the recordings here at your convenience!

<https://www.elcacoaching.org/podcasts/media>.

You can also find a list of upcoming topics and presenters on the home page of the ELCA coaching site:

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



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

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.

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!

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)

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)

Wisconsin Council of Churches Employment Opportunities

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

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Future Synod Gatherings/Meetings/Events:

- Nov 11 South Jefferson/Walworth County Conference Meeting – 10:00 am online**
- Nov 14 Synod Council Meeting**
- Nov 17 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online (Every Tuesday)**
- Nov 18 North Rock County Conference Meeting – 12:00 – 1:00 pm online**
- Nov 18 Central/West Madison Conference Meeting – 12:00 – 1:30 pm – online**
- Nov 19 Retired Rostered Gathering via Zoom - 9:30 am - noon.**
- Nov 19 East Madison Conference Meeting – 12:00 – 1:00 pm online (3rd Thursday)**
- Nov 24 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Nov 24 Equipping the Saints Webinar with Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe – 2:00 pm**
- Nov 25 & 26 Synod office closed for Thanksgiving**
- Dec 1 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Dec 3 Sauk/Columbia Conference Meeting – 9:30 am online**
- Dec 8 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Dec 8 Equipping the Saints Webinar with Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe – 2:00 pm**
- Dec 15 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Dec 22 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Dec 24 & 25 Synod office closed for Christmas**
- Dec 31 Synod office closed for New Year’s Holiday**
- 2021**
- Jan 1 Synod office closed for New Year’s Holiday**
- Jan 7 Sauk/Columbia Conference Meeting – 9:30 am online**

PRAYERS

Refugee Resettlement Task Force:

- Rev. Dan Odden, Co-Chair, St John’s Prairie du Sac, WI
- Lisa Hansen, Co-Chair, Our Savior’s, Sun Prairie, WI

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Pastor Beth Schultz-Byrnes, Pastor and Members of Hope Lutheran, McFarland, WI
- Pastor Collette Gould, Contract Pastor and Members of Hope Lutheran, Milton, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Regina M Hassanally, the Staff, and the congregations of Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. Walter A Baires, Sr., Director for Evangelical Mission South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- The Rev. Libby Howe, Director for Evangelical Mission – La Crosse Synod

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

- The Rev. Judith Huseth, November 13, 1983, Retired Pastor living in Janesville, WI
jlhuseth1@outlook.com
- The Rev. Anthony Dusso, November 15, 1988, Lead Pastor of Our Savior’s in Beloit, WI
tonydusso@gmail.com
- The Rev. Andrew Twiton, November 15, 2014, Renewal Pastor of Trinity in Madison, WI
atwiton@gmail.com
- The Rev. James Wendt, November 16, 2008, Pastor of First Lutheran in Beaver Dam, WI
jlwendt1@netzero.com
- The Rev. Beth Schultz-Byrnes, November 16, 2008, Pastor of Hope in McFarland, WI
pastorbethschultzbyrnes@gmail.com
- The Rev. David Nelsestuen, November 17, 2012, Pastor of Trinity in Edgerton, WI
pastordaven2010@aol.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 Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, at vickih@scsw-elca.org.

Visit our website: www.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.