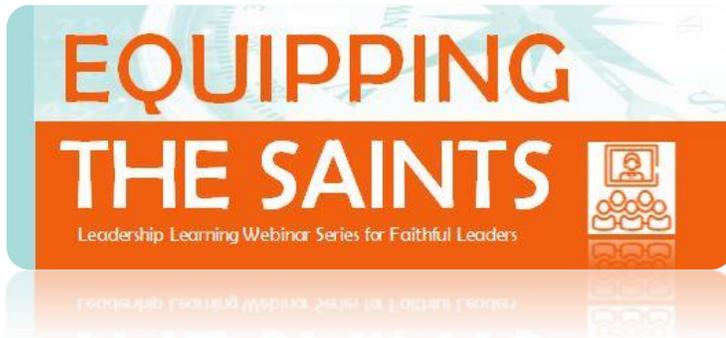


WHAT MATTERS November 17, 2020

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



Conversations with the Bishop

“Bullies Got You Down?”

Tuesday, November 24

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm via Videoconference

Every two weeks, we invite you to join Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe for conversation.

On occasion we will invite special guests to join us to discuss a topic that is timely and relevant and to our shared work. We have invited Barbara Solsaa to help lead us in conversation about a topic that we are hearing needs to be addressed: bullying behaviors within congregations.



This conversation will be a time to name and recognize the compounded stresses facing our laity and our rostered leaders. We will spend time trying to figure out a path to communicate with those who see very differently from us and we'll look at ways to regain some of our strength and energy during this time. This is certainly not a magic bullet, but rather a time to look at our work from a balcony view to get perspective, gain insights, learn and share.

Barbara Solsaa (Owner and Director of Clergy Life Coaching), a former therapist turned life coach, walks alongside rostered leaders, providing a safe space for them to hear their own voice, tap into their own greatness, and connect with the Spirit.

She says, “At Clergy Life Coaching, during the Covid crisis, my clients have been looking for a safe place to have a reality check. Some are doing less, some are doing more, most feel like they are not functioning at full capacity. Congregational members as well are faced with additional stresses.

Laity please email the synod office for the link to the videoconference: robynz@scsw-elca.org

Rostered – Robyn Zimmerman will send out a link the morning of the gathering to all rostered.

We hope you will join us...it is always better with you there.

Note: The next videoconference with the Bishop will be a fun gathering to get to know her better! Save the date! December 8

Message from Bishop Joy About the Emergency Order

Today, Public Health for Madison and Dane County issued Emergency order #10, related to the pandemic. The order begins with a summary of what we know- cases of COVID are rising sharply. Due to the sharp increase new mandates are being ordered. Among these new restrictions is the mandate that no gatherings are to be held indoors; outdoor gatherings are to be limited to 10 persons. The current mask requirement is also in effect. Religious entities are excluded from the order only for the purposes of gathering for worship. They are not excluded for other purposes like staff or council meetings, education meetings, etc. You can read the whole order here: <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/forward-dane/current-order>



Now certainly this is an order specific to only one part of our synod, however it is a topic that is of central concern to all of us. I have been in many conversations in the last two weeks with rostered ministers and laity alike from around the synod who are seeking direction about what to do regarding returning to in person worship, staying online through the end of the year, etc. Some have wanted a clear message from me as Bishop. Others felt like a clear message from me could complicate what they were already doing and put them in a further quandary.

Then, one rostered leader put me on the spot and asked me, “Well, what is your preference?” I do have a clear preference in all of this. I prefer that our congregations refrain from in person worship. It is the safest thing to do to protect one another. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. Right now, we can love one another best by staying away from each other. We can love another by giving up things for the sake of the other. These past 8 months have been long. Many of us have not been in our church buildings at all. We miss each other and the community that we share. Some of us do not have the ability and/or the desire to hook up to virtual worship. Anxiety, grief, and loss are very prevalent, and we grow weary when we don’t know when this will end. However, right now we are being called to love our neighbors, stay the path and stay home. In Galatians chapter 5 Paul writes:

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹

It's that simple ... and it's that complicated. My prayers are with you as we are church together in these difficult days,

Bishop Joy

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

For this update and more curated resources to Help You Faithfully Lead and Stay in Connected Community During this time of the Pandemic

Link to updates: <https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/>.

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

What's A Synod? - Part 5

By Deacon Vicki Hanrahan
Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life



Two weeks ago you learned that our synod which spreads across 12 counties in south-central Wisconsin is divided into 12 smaller geographical regions called "Conferences." Conferences are made up of 10-15 congregations led by "Conference Deans" who are Rostered leaders (ordained pastors or deacons).

Organizing into smaller communities allows the congregations to envision ways in which they might partner together for ministry, learning, fellowship and ministry initiatives.

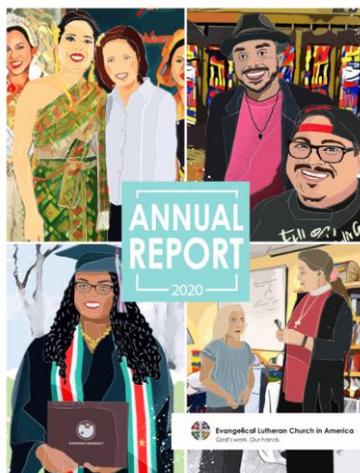
As you can see by the calendar in this issue of What Matters, our conferences meet regularly, some meet weekly for text study and collegiality, others monthly. All are currently meeting via videoconference.

Most recently, our conferences did much of the heavy lifting in the election process of our new bishop. They participated in town hall gatherings and learned about the new process, they lifted names of nominees for bishop in each of their conferences, and each brought several names to the election call committee. We are grateful for their continuing efforts to stay in connected community!

You can see how we are organized and learn which rostered leaders serve as deans and if your pastor or deacon is one of them, feel free to thank them for their good work!: <https://bit.ly/SCSWConferences>

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!



The new 2020 Annual Report Covers are Now Available

Both can be found in the
Stewardship resources here:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Stewardship#Leadership>

Direct links are here:
Pages version:

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2020 Annual Report cover.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2020%20Annual%20Report%20cover.pdf)

Spreads version:

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2020 Annual Report cover spread.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2020%20Annual%20Report%20cover%20spread.pdf)

MISSION MOMENT

ELCA Future Church design affirmed by ELCA Church Council

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has affirmed the proposed Future Church design that is focused on a renewed purpose to activate the entire church so that more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. The council, which serves as the ELCA's board of directors and legislative authority for the church between churchwide assemblies, held its electronic meeting Nov. 12-14.

Future Church is based in the belief that members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization must work together to share the powerful witness of the gospel in the world and to invite more new, young and diverse people to experience God's grace in action. The new design identifies three priority areas: a welcoming church that engages new, young and diverse people; a thriving church rooted in tradition and radically relevant; and a connected, sustainable church that shares in a common purpose and direction.

The Future Church structure will be implemented in the churchwide organization on Feb. 1, 2021. The structure will introduce three new home areas: Christian Community and Leadership, led by the Rev. Philip Hirsch; Innovation, led by Ms. Mikka McCracken; and Service and Justice, led by the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. Approximately 5% of the churchwide organization staff will be separated as a result of the new design.

For more than 30 years the ELCA has experienced a rich history of ministry, but the church has also witnessed a pattern of significant decline with aging members and a membership profile that does not reflect the diversity of God's creation.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton told the council that the COVID-19 pandemic had brought into sharper focus the need to respond more quickly to this rapidly changing world.

"Whether there had been a pandemic or not, we know we need to change. I think the pandemic helped us to see the urgency," Eaton said. "We are presenting this design because we believe that this is the way God will enable us to move more quickly, more faithfully, and reach more people so that more people may know the way of Jesus."

William B. Horne II, ELCA vice president and chair of the Church Council, said he believes the new design provides the opportunity to be church together, bringing about collaboration throughout the broader church.

In response to the continuing trends in membership and diversity and the data from an innovation readiness survey, the following new criteria were affirmed for the ELCA:

1. Prioritize the engagement of new, young and diverse people.
2. Unite all expressions of the church (congregations, synods and the churchwide organization) into one church—together.
3. Align decision-making, accountability and leadership where best suited.
4. Operate in agile, flexible and speedy ways.
5. Act based on data and measurable impact.
6. Eliminate silos and divisions.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a 2021 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$65,847,000; and a 2021 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000.
- Elected Ms. Alyssa J. Cobb and the Rev. Daniel W. Gerrietts to the Church Council for terms ending in 2022.
- Received an update from the Committee on Appeals about drafted updates to the church's *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*. The document describes the grounds for which officers, rostered ministers, candidates for rostered ministry, congregations and members of congregations may be subject to discipline according to the practice of this church.
- Deferred the question of developing a document outlining this church's high aspirations for rostered ministers until after spring 2021 when *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* is further redeveloped.
- Deferred questions of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy, aging, gender identity or gun policy until the spring 2021 Church Council meeting
- Approved reconsideration of the social message on Suicide Prevention (1999) for editorial changes for the sake of accuracy and relevance to the contemporary social context.
- Encouraged the continuation of research and work toward economic justice and the study of reparations and engagement in anti-racism and racial justice work, and requested a report on the naming of an annual Day of Repentance, including a liturgical resource of lamentation and repentance to accompany this annual Day of Repentance, to the spring 2021 Church Council meeting.
- Urged this church to continue its efforts to repent the sin of racism and white supremacy and to raise awareness of the Emanuel 9 commemoration.
- Adopted the Mission Investment Fund Deferred Compensation Plan and the Mission Investment Fund Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.
- Approved additional voting members for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.
- Approved amendments to the Portico Benefit Services Plan and Trust.
- Approved amendments to the articles of incorporation of Luther Seminary. Luther is one of seven ELCA seminaries.
- Adopted amendments to continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- Approved amendments to the corporate social responsibility documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church.
- Elected members to the governing bodies of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, United Lutheran Seminary, Wartburg Theological Seminary, and National Lutheran Campus Ministry Inc.
- Elected members to fill vacancies to the board of trustees of 1517 Media, the publishing house of the ELCA.

The council also received reports from the church's presiding bishop, treasurer, secretary and vice president, and from the ELCA Conference of Bishops. <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8083>

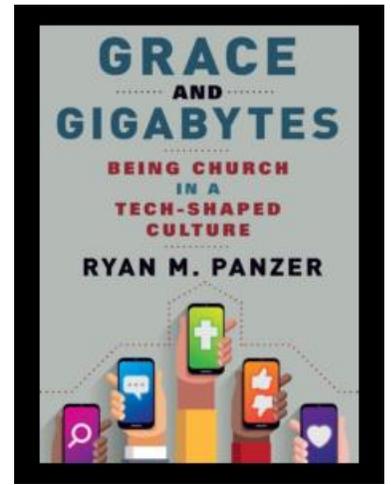


Luther Seminary Faith & LEAD Event

The event is FREE and features many of the digital ministry experts Ryan writes about in his book!

Join the launch event for Ryan Panzer's new book, *Grace & Gigabytes: Being Church in a Tech-Shaped Culture*

Tuesday, December 1, 1:30-4:30 CST
FREE Admission



- Learn the latest trends in church and technology
- Ask questions of leading digital ministry experts
- Have a chance to win autographed copies of *Grace & Gigabytes*
- Receive 30% off the book cover price!

To save your spot: <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/grace-and-gigabyte-book-launch/>

All congregational communications teams should attend this webinar! We highly recommend this webinar and this book published by the ELCA publishing ministry of Augsburg Fortress. Ryan is also a speaker on the SCSW Synod's Speaker's Bureau! We are blessed!

Meet the presenters:



Mary Hess

As Professor of Educational Leadership at Luther Seminary, Mary is an educator straddling the fields of media studies and religious studies, Hess has focused her research on exploring ways in which participatory strategies for knowing and learning are constructed and contested amidst digital cultures.

Shamika Goddard



Shamika studied technology and ethics by developing technowomanism at Union Theological Seminary in the city of New York and created and developed the concept of the Tech Chaplain. On Juneteenth 2020, she launched the Tech Chaplaincy Institute, which uses the best practices of pastoral care and chaplaincy to serve faith communities who are open and affirming, social justice-oriented, progressive as well as mission-driven organizations with their everyday tech needs.



Rev. Jim Keat

Rev. Jim Keat is the Digital Minister at The Riverside Church in New York City and the Director of Online Innovation for Convergence, a diverse collective of faith-based leaders, learners, artists, activists, communities, and congregations. He is also a Digital Consultant to various progressive faith agencies and organizations. He is the producer of original media projects from The Riverside Church, as well as the creator of the Thirty Second Bible project and Thirty Seconds or Less.

To meet the other 3 presenters and to register:

<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/grace-and-gigabyte-book-launch/>



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!

NEW! Executive for Administration – ELCA, Chicago, IL

The ELCA seeks its next Executive for Administration (EA), who will serve as the chief operating officer for the ELCA's churchwide headquarters located in Chicago. The EA will work closely with the presiding bishop and all ELCA staff leaders. Importantly, the EA position presents the unique opportunity to be deeply involved in the redesign of the churchwide leadership structure and to serve as a primary driver of the strategic planning process, including addressing challenges facing congregations such as an aging membership and diversity in membership.

To apply, send a current resume and letter of introduction to Kittleman & Associates, LLC at <https://bit.ly/3jHyOuu>. For best consideration, interested parties should submit their resume and cover letter asap.

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 17 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online ***
- 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 Diakonia Class – Church History the First 400 Years – 6:00-9:00 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 19 Columbia/Dodge/N. Jefferson Conference Meeting – 10:00 am - online**
- Nov 21 Diakonia Class – Christian Doctrine – 9:00 – noon - online**
- Nov 24 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Nov 24 Iowa/Richland Grant and W. Green/Grant/Lafayette Conference Meeting –10:30 am online***
- Nov 24 Equipping the Saints Webinar with the Bishop and Special Guest, Barbara Solsaa – 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 1 Iowa/Richland Grant and W. Green/Grant/Lafayette Conference Meeting –10:30 am online***
- Dec 3 East Dane Conference Meeting – 9:00 am online**
- Dec 3 Sauk/Columbia Conference Meeting – 9:30 am online**
- Dec 3 Diakonia Class – Practical Ministry: Biblical Images...Life of the Church – 6:00-9:00 pm online**
- Dec 5 Diakonia Class – Faith in the American Context – 9:00 am – noon – online**
- Dec 8 Iowa/Richland Grant and W. Green/Grant/Lafayette Conference Meeting –10:30 am online***
- Dec 8 Equipping the Saints Conversations with the Bishop – 2:00 – 3:00 pm 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 10 Diakonia Class – Practical Ministry: Biblical Images...Life of the Church – 6:00-9:00 pm online**
- Dec 12 Diakonia Class – Faith in the American Context – 9:00 am – noon - online**
- Dec 15 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Dec 15 Iowa/Richland Grant and W. Green/Grant/Lafayette Conference Meeting –10:30 am online***
- Dec 17 Diakonia Class – Practical Ministry: Biblical Images...Life of the Church – 6:00-9:00 pm online**
- Dec 19 Diakonia Class – Faith in the American Context – 9:00 am – noon – online**
- Dec 22 Iowa/Richland Grant and W. Green/Grant/Lafayette Conference Meeting –10:30 am online***
- Dec 22 N-NE Dane/North Madison Conference Meeting – 1:00 pm online**
- Dec 24 – Jan 1 Synod office closed for Christmas & New Year’s Holidays**

2021

- Jan 9 **Diakonia Class – Faith in the American Context – 9:00 am – noon - online**
- Jan 7 **Sauk/Columbia Conference Meeting – 9:30 am online**
- Jan 7 **Diakonia Class – Practical Ministry: Biblical Images...Life of the Church – 6:00-9:00 pm online**
- Jan 13 **South Jefferson/Walworth County Conference Meeting – 10:00 am online**
- Jan 14 **Diakonia Class – Practical Ministry: Biblical Images...Life of the Church – 6:00-9:00 pm online**
- Jan 16 **Diakonia Class – Faith in the American Context – 9:00 am – noon - online**

* Meets weekly

PRAYERS

Refugee Resettlement Task Force:

- Nancy Anderson, Lake Edge, Madison, WI
- Jean Berg, Lake Edge, Madison, WI

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Pastor Margo Martens, Pastor and Members of Hope Lutheran, Mineral Point, WI
- Pastor Paul VanDeBerg, Pastor Sara VanDeBerg, Pastors and Members of Immanuel Lutheran, Lake Geneva, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop James E. Hazelwood , the Staff, and the congregations of the New England Synod

Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. Sean M. Ewbank, Director for Evangelical Mission, Southeast Michigan Synod
- The Rev. David E. Sprang, Director for Evangelical Mission, North/West Lower Michigan

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

- The Rev. Kristin Rice, November 19, 2019, Chaplain at Attic Angel, Middleton WI coffeepastor83@gmail.com
- The Rev. David Froemming, November 19, 2005, Pastor of Christ Lutheran, Lancaster and Contract Pastor of St. Paul's Potosi, WI pastorfroemming@yahoo.com
- The Rev. Gene Talley, November 22, 1997, Pastor of Shepherd of the Hills in New Glarus, WI revtalley@gmail.com
- Deacon Bonita Vize, November 22, 1985, Retired Deacon living in Middleton, WI bonitavize66@gmail.com
- The Rev. Kelli Schmit, November 25, 2012, Pastor of McFarland Lutheran in McFarland, WI kellischmit@gmail.com
- The Rev. Daniel Anderson, November 25, 1973, Retired Pastor living in Madison, WI danderson5537@charter.net

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/>

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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.

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.